

Long lines await patient voters

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While they stood in line, Nancy Pierson, a worker at the polls, was rejoicing that she had her chance to sit down and work.

Mrs. Pierson was among the 190 workers in Farmington Hills and 42 in Farmington who were employed at the polls.

"I'VE BEEN here since 6 a.m. and this line hasn't let up all day," she said.

By late Tuesday afternoon, Mrs. Pierson was expecting a busy evening at the polls. Her prediction was accurate since the 20th precinct reported its balloting to the Farmington Hills City Clerk office at 2:15 a.m. It was the last precinct to call into the office which finished its citywide tabulation at 3:10 a.m., according to clerk's office employee Doris Fleming.

The punch card system of voting posed few problems for the precinct workers and voters. Precinct workers around the city estimated that there were fewer than a dozen botched punch card ballots for each polling place.

"Most seem to be doing pretty well," said Mrs. Pierson.

Another poll worker, Dorothy Korpi of Farmington Hills, termed the turnout "fantastic."

"It was amazing," she said.

"They were lined up all the way to the 12 Mile entrance (of Dunckel Middle School)."

Girl Scout Troop 219, headed by Jeanette Goodenow, operated a child care center in the school cafeteria.

By late afternoon on election day, an estimated 100 children had stayed to play games while their parents voted.

"WE WERE averaging 35 children to a group," said Doris Malchic, mother of one of the scouts.

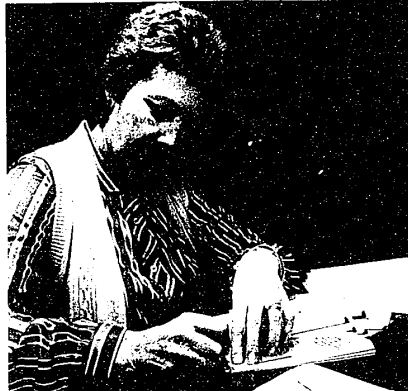
The girls were taking three-hour shifts each from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. to play games and color pictures with the children who ranged in age from 2-7.

Outside of the polls, in the nippy election day weather, workers for third party presidential candidate John Anderson handed out material to voters as they entered the building.

"A lot of people are taking them," said a still hopeful Paula Rupnik of Farmington Hills.



Lines marked the election for many voters. Persons who voted in the 20th precinct at Dunckel Middle School resorted to reading newspapers and friendly conversation to pass the time. Others preferred to contemplate the coming vote.



Absentee ballots are counted by Farmington City Hall employee Pat Gilin on Tuesday evening. She was among 42 workers who helped tabulate election results in the city.



Waiting in line made grown-ups impatient but at least they had a definite goal at the end of the wait. Lisa Anderson, 7, discovered that after all the waiting in line with her mother at North Farmington High School, she had just another patient wait to endure.

Staff photos by
Randy Borst



The end of the line finally arrived for voters after about an 1½ hour wait. At Dunckel Middle School, voter Martha Ehlers hands her ballot to poll worker Mary Lou Landry (right) while another poll worker, Charlotte Muller watches.



Counting the absentee ballots was another chore of the evening as Inez Lutz (left) and William Mikulas (right) work their way through the election at Farmington City Hall.



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