

Last Push To The Polls

Only days remain before general election on Tuesday

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There's a mayor to decide on and City Council seats up for grabs next Tuesday in Omaha. With a only a small turnout during the April primary, voter turnout this time could be key in deciding the winners.

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Allison Latenser was canvassing the neighborhood around 37th and Birch Saturday, knocking on doors. "Because democracy is not a spectator sport."

She's a member of OTOC, Omaha Together, One Community, a coalition of religious groups and community organizations encouraging people to get out and vote. "We do not endorse any candidate, we do endorse the issues, so we're just informing the voters where the candidates stand." □

While OTOC has concerns, voters have some, too. "If you see a car coming down that hill, try to get out of the driveway, you can't get out of the driveway," said Josephine Volk.

Allison wasn't the only one trying encourage people to vote. The two mayoral candidates, Hal Daub and Jim Suttle, were both at Florence Days to make their last push to get voters to the polls.

"My barber had something yesterday that I want to use today and he said this country is controlled by one party and I said, what are you talking about and he said it's the apathy party and we have to do something about that," said Suttle.

"If we can it into the 30-35 percent range we'll be starting to make a difference in our city and involve people," said Daub. "It's all about empowerment and that comes from involving people and it starts with the voter."

Volk already voted, but wouldn't mind seeing more people get the message. "I think it's a good idea. If we can get 'em out and vote, fine."

The primary had a voter turnout of only 18 percent. Douglas County Election Commissioner Dave Phipps recently predicted voter turnout for Tuesday's general election to be around 31 percent.