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[Richmond Dispatch: Huge Lines, Rain](#)

Posted by [Jason Cherkis](#) on Nov. 4, 2008, at 12:02 pm

Our [poll watcher](#), **Doug Sparks**, reports in from **Richmond** at 11:50 a.m.

This morning, Sparks says, there was a three-hour wait to vote at his precinct.

There were only slight problems. The most recent thing—the [Henrico County Sheriff](#) drove by and planted **McCain/Palin** signs along a traffic median. “Once those went up, we called it in,” Sparks says. “The **Obama** folks placed signs on either side of the McCain/Palin signs. Problem solved.”

Earlier in the day, there was an issue with handicapped voters. “They are supposed to bring ballots to the curb, bring a machine outside or do paper ballot,” Sparks says. Poll workers were cool “as long as the handicapped person waited in three hours of rain.”

Sparks goes on: “This is an overwhelmingly dedicated **Obama** emancipation group that absolutely wouldn’t have missed it for

the world. It's going to exceed 90 percent in our precinct. I wouldn't be surprised if it didn't exceed 95 percent."

I ask Sparks if there were any problems. He mentions there was at least one instance of a touch screening screwing up—it went to the page for the presidential race and then just showed a blank screen. One voter said that he didn't get a chance to vote—the screen promptly said he had already voted.

In more **McCain**-friendly precincts, Sparks reports, the turnout was way low.

"I can tell you I feel very very good about what I saw," Sparks says. "This is one of those rare elections where really, really nasty weather benefits the Democrats...."

"I'm totally dead tired," Sparks adds.