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DORCHESTER, JAMAICA PLAIN

Holmes' primary win locks in 6th Suffolk state House seat

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(Courtesy Russell Holmes' campaign Flickr)

Russell Holmes visiting the State House recently during his campaign. With no Republican challenger on the November ballot, it looks like Holmes won't need to merely 'visit' the State House any more.

By Matt Rocheleau, Town Correspondent

Financial planner and community activist **Russell E. Holmes**, 41, of Mattapan received about **one-third of the total vote** in the Democratic primary for the 6th Suffolk District state House seat to defeat his four challengers – Karen L. Payne, Darrin D'Wayne Howell, Kathy Gabriel, and Divo Rodrigues Monteiro.

The district, which includes parts of Dorchester, Mattapan and Hyde Park and small sections of Jamaica Plain and Roslindale, has no Republican candidates running, meaning with his victory Tuesday, Holmes has locked in the seat left vacant by Democrat Willie Mae Allen of Roxbury, who is not seeking reelection.

Turnout at the Frederick Pilot Middle School in Dorchester – one of the district's busiest polling locations – was low as of midday Tuesday, even for a primary election, according to election officials there.

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But, for some, like 53-year-old Victor Peña of Dorchester, going to the polls was a must.

"Anytime there's an election, I vote," he said. "I think everybody has to vote. It's a right everybody has to use."

Payne had the second-highest vote total at 22.5 percent of the 2,465 votes cast across 18 precincts, followed by Howell with 16 percent, Gabriel with just under 15 percent, and Monteiro had around 3 percent, according to **unofficial results** from the city's election website.

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