



"Of course I'm disappointed. We worked really hard, so it's too bad," Ryan said. "I thought it was a very good, clean, substantive campaign. I hope we can continue to discuss the important issues like the schools and public safety."

Ryan, 30, a former music teacher who grew up in Jamaica Plain, immediately endorsed Hennigan when asked whom he would support in the Nov. 16 election.

"I admire Jim's commitment to his community and his activism, especially his involvement in charitable organizations," Ryan said. "I really respect that."

Ryan was the maverick in the campaign. In addition to calling for the legalization of marijuana, he was the only candidate who said he planned to vote yes Nov. 2 on Question 2 on the state ballot. The proposal would repeal the state's affordable housing law.

While just 15 percent of the district's 40,000 registered voters went to the polls yesterday, the turnout was surprisingly high for a preliminary election with a single ballot item.

O'Malley said he expects turnout to be high on Nov. 16.

"Jamaica Plain and West Roxbury are two of the most politically active neighborhoods," he said. "And it's always incumbent upon candidates to turn out the votes."

At the Louis Agassiz Elementary School in Jamaica Plain yesterday, a voter who asked to be identified as Jim expressed his support for O'Malley.

"He's a young politician with a bright future," Jim said. "He knows the community, and he's been on the right side of" progressive city issues.

A Forest Hills resident who voted at the Woodbourne Apartments polling location, and also declined to identify herself, said she voted for Demos.

"I really liked what he had to say about bringing the community into city decisions," said the voter, who is new to the city and felt that voting in the preliminary would help acquaint her with local issues.

Both O'Malley and Hennigan said last night that education and public safety are among their top issues going into November.

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