

9/9 Rally Recap

AJustQuincy organized the 9/9 rally, and it was a huge success! WeVoters helped by spreading the word and helping to organize. Over 100 people attended, with more than thirty “make-your-own” signs created on the spot. Six or seven people gave speeches and interviews. Reporters from the *Boston Globe*, *Quincy Sun*, and *Patriot Ledger* were present to cover the event.

While much of the rally received media coverage, I want to highlight one key part: the chanting! Around 30 people stood outside City Hall, chanting loudly toward the council chambers for over an hour. The chants were so powerful they echoed through the stone walls and closed windows, with councilors inside clearly hearing, “Stop the steal!” “Repeal the raises!” “The raises are so high, we wonder why!” and “Vote them out!” among others. Many thanks to everyone who attended the rally. They used their presence and voices to deliver a message to councilors who have yet to address the public’s demand for a meeting.

9/16 Sit-In Recap

WeVoters organized the 9/16 sit-in, with support from AJustQuincy. It came together with less than 24 hours’ notice, as the council held a meeting just one week after the 9/9 rally. Initially, we wondered if we should hold another event so soon, but on Sunday, 9/15, we decided to move forward. We decided that the October meeting might be too long a time to maintain momentum.

The sit-in had a different format. People brought beach or folding chairs and signs, and we sat in a circle at the center of City Hall Plaza. While discussing strategies and next steps, our signs spoke loud for us. The sit-in attracted attention—people walking out of the T station and passing by stopped to ask questions. Some even joined our group on the spot! Around 27 people attended, a bigger turnout than expected for such short notice.

We do need to remain focused on our cause. Our most visible objective is to repeal the raises. Our larger objective is to make the Quincy government accountable and transparent. Other cities engage their public – Quincy severely limits public discourse. Recently, the school committee voted to reduce the amount of time for a public forum. At the 9/16 council meeting, once again, people were not allowed to bring their signs in. It is clear that Quincy politicians want to shut us up, by any means possible. It is our 1st Amendment right to speak out.

We also need to be civil. There will be times when emotions flair up. We all have a responsibility to de-escalate those situations. We need to speak to the Mayor and City

Council in a clear and united voice – telling them to repeal the raises and to engage in public discourse.

The passion is still strong—many attendees want to continue this at every council meeting. Some have even offered to bring baked goods for the next sit-in! The next rally is at October 15th council meeting. And don't forget our Halloween sign-holding event, with prizes for best costumes and signs, hosted by WeVoters.org.

Susan and Kathy

WeVoters.org
