

Republicans on Defense After Voters Reject Their Extreme Agenda in Swing-Seat Special Election

TO: Interested Parties

FR: Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee

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Republicans are on defense following the victory of Congressman-elect Pat Ryan in the NY-19 Special Election. NY-19 is a true swing district – the current iteration voted for President Biden with 50.7% of the vote in 2020, while President Trump won the seat by nearly 8 points in 2016. In addition, the Republican nominee, Marcus Molinaro, crushed Andrew Cuomo in this district in 2018 by 12 points. But this Tuesday, Democrats' message to voters prevailed, beating one of the GOP's "top recruits" who has been running in the district for nearly a year.

Now, the prognosticators and pundits know what we've known all cycle long: House Democrats can defy the odds and hold our House Majority.

- *Washington Post*: [GOP prospects narrow in House as Democrats overperform in early contests](#)
- *New York Times*: [N.Y. Special Election Shows Power of Abortion Debate to Move Democrats](#)
- *Washington Post*: [Democrats show momentum coming out of special elections](#)
- *Cook Political Report*: [Red Wave Looks More Like a Ripple](#)
- 538: [Yes, Special Elections Really Are Signaling A Better-Than-Expected Midterm For Democrats](#)

Following the results of the NY-19 special election UVA [Center for Politics](#) and [Cook Political](#) immediately shifted predictions for November in our direction.

Democrats Over-Perform In Post Dobbs Elections

In five elections post *Dobbs* — the Kansas ballot referendum, and special elections in NY-19, MN-01, NE-01, and NY-23 — voters have rejected MAGA Republicans' campaign to rip away women's freedoms as evidenced by higher than usual performance by Democrats or outright victories. These results discredit the GOP's spin that we're facing a 'Red Wave' in November and show a party in full denial because its decades-old anti-freedom agenda has met the ultimate test – voters at the ballot box.

Democrats Victorious In NY-19 Despite Late Start, Being Outspent

Republicans outspent Democrats 3 to 1 in the NY-19 special election, but with record voter turnout, Democrats still won.

- Republican groups like NRCC and CLF spent more than \$1.8 million to defeat Pat Ryan. Outspent on the airwaves by a candidate with a year-long head start, Democrat Pat Ryan ran on protecting reproductive freedom, his

commitment to fighting for Hudson Valley families, and against Republican extremism— and he won.

- Republicans' deployed "Defund" attacks that fell flat because voters don't believe their lies. Ryan and Democrats writ large have learned to respond to these baseless attacks and strongly state our true position: building safe communities through funding police and fighting for just policing.
- Marc Molinaro ran like many other Republicans, with no plan to address the challenges New York families face and demonstrated his desire to join a MAGA Republican party that seeks to rip away women's freedoms.
- Voter turnout shattered expectations despite state and federal primaries being split between two primary dates. Voters turned out in record numbers to support Pat Ryan.

The latest special elections and the vote in Kansas shows us that voters are eager to send a clear message to Republicans wanting to rip away reproductive freedom and institute a national abortion ban: we will vote you down.

Kansas Ballot Referendum, Special Elections In Minnesota, New York, And Nebraska Proof Points Voters Reject MAGA Republicans' Agenda Everywhere

NRCC spinmasters want you to believe a primary in a Democratic state is to blame for being unexpectedly beaten in NY-19 and under-performing in NY-23, but election results don't lie. Democrats massively over-performed in ruby red Kansas, Nebraska, and in Minnesota as voters rejected Republicans' extremist agenda post *Dobbs*.

- **Kansas:** In Kansas' [high turnout election](#), in a state Donald Trump won by 15 points, nearly 6 in 10 voters voted against Republicans' attempt to rip away women's freedom. Of the 19 counties that voted "NO" on the abortion amendment, Biden won 5; Trump won the other 14.
 - In Kansas' Third Congressional District, where Rep. Sharice Davids faces MAGA Extremist Amanda Adkins, voters rejected Republicans' draconian effort to rip away women's rights with 7 in 10 voters saying "NO" on the constitutional amendment question.
- **MN-01:** In the MN-01 special election, Democrat Jeff Ettinger lost his election by 4 points to Republican Brad Finstad (51/47). That's a 7-point over performance from 2020 where Trump was +10 in a 2-way match-up.
- **NE-01:** In the NE-01 special election, Democrat Patty Pansing Brooks lost her election to Republican Mike Flood by just six points (53/47) in a Trump +11. The greatest over-performance was in Lincoln, where turnout was very high.

- **NY-23:** In the NY-23 special election, Democrat Max Della Pia lost his election to Republican Joseph Sempolinski by (53/47) in a Trump +12. The greatest over-performance was in Tompkins County where turnout was very high.

Post *Dobbs* Environment Is Animating The Electorate Across House Map, Generic Ballot Shift Toward Democrats Continues

Animated Electorate Across The Battlefield

According to reports from the [New York Times](#) and [TargetSmart](#), voter registration in key battleground states surged in the weeks following the *Dobbs* decision. Per [Targetsmart](#), Democrats hold an 8-point advantage among Kansans who registered after the *Dobbs* decision. Moreover, nearly three quarters of the post-*Dobbs* registration in Kansas were women. According to an [Upshot analysis](#) of 10 states with available voter registration data, "the total number of women registering to vote in those states rose by about 35 percent after the decision, compared with the month before the leak. Men had an uptick of 9 percent." The latest special elections results and this data shows MAGA Republican extremism is activating the Democratic base.

Post *Dobbs* Environment Continues to Show Shift Toward Democrats

Following the Republican-appointed Supreme Court's devastating decision to rip away a woman's right to access an abortion, multiple public polls of the generic ballot have shown a shift towards Democrats. An average of 38 polls of the congressional generic ballot taken since *Dobbs* shows a 4-5 point swing towards Democrats, leading by 2.2 points, according to NDN data.

BOTTOM LINE: Voters want elected leaders who will fight for them on pocketbook issues and protect their freedom to make decisions about their bodies and families. Republican attacks have only mobilized voters and will ensure we keep a pro-choice majority in Congress. Our strategy is simple: Democrats should campaign on delivering for American families and defending American freedom across our House battlefield to earn voters' confidence and retain our House Majority.