



**To:** Interested Parties  
**From:** Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee  
**Date:** November 2023  
**RE:** **Off-Year Election Results Show Continued Democratic Momentum  
Heading into 2024**

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Another election day, another slew of devastating Republican losses across the country. The results in key states like Ohio, Virginia, Iowa, Pennsylvania, and New York, including historic overperformance in GOP strongholds, show that [the American people remain fed up with the extremism, chaos, and total lack of results](#) from the Republican Party.

Tuesday's victories across the country – from red states to blue – gave further proof that House Democrats are extremely well-positioned to take back the House Majority in 2024.

## **DEMOCRATS OVERPERFORMED IN COMPETITIVE CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS**

### **Virginia:**

In the Commonwealth of Virginia, where Gov. Glenn Youngkin spent millions campaigning on a so-called 'moderate' abortion ban, Democrats **flipped** the House of Delegates and **retained control** of the State Senate. Tuesday night was not only historic for Virginia Democrats – it made clear that Democrats running in federal House districts are on the road to victory.

- **VA-02, Jen Kiggans (R):** The historic night was powered by Coastal Virginia state House districts that sit within the confines of VA-02 – where Delegate-elect Michael Feggans in HD-97 flipped a seat Gov. Glenn Youngkin won in 2021 by 3 points. Feggans even outperformed former U.S. Rep. Elaine Luria. Additionally, HD-84, an open seat, went Democratic by 5 points.
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- **VA-07, Open (D):** House District 65 – in the Fredericksburg area – went Democratic by 6 points. While the Democratic candidate in Senate District 27 ultimately lost, Joel Griffin did outperform Terry McAuliffe in a district Youngkin carried in 2021. Democrats flipped a seat on the Prince William County Board of Supervisors in the Northern part of the district. There, Brentsville District Supervisor Jeanine Lawson, a far-right Republican and Chair of the Board of Supervisors, lost to Democrat Deshundra Jefferson by 3 points in a district that overlaps with VA-07.

### **Pennsylvania:**

In Pennsylvania, Democrats trounced Republicans, despite outside organizations spending millions boosting the GOP's anti-abortion, election denying Supreme Court nominee. In total, 251,884 more people voted for the Democratic Supreme Court candidate in 2023 than voted at all in 2021. Allegheny County – home to PA-17 – was particularly impressive with voters siding with the Democrat over the Republican by a 25-point margin.

Of the 251,884 additional votes Democrats received statewide compared to 2021, a disproportionate share (106,522) came from our 15 targeted counties: Bucks in PA-01 (+16,267); Lehigh, Northampton, and Carbon in PA-07 (+6,071); Luzerne, Lackawanna, Monroe, Wayne, and Pike in PA-08 (+22,367); Cumberland, Dauphin, and York in PA-10 (+16,675); Allegheny and Beaver in PA-17 (+44,872).

- **PA-01, Brian Fitzpatrick (R):** In local school board, county commissioner, and PA Supreme Court elections, Bucks County – a bellwether for the country and home to the commonwealth's 1st Congressional District – [elected Democrats up and down the ballot. Anti-abortion, anti-Democracy, and anti-LGBTQ organizations](#) spent gobs of money in the district only to be rejected by voters in a clean sweep that spells disaster for Brian Fitzpatrick next November. Compared to the last off-year election, in PA-01 a notably greater share of voters chose Democrats over Republicans. The district saw a 6.5-point (48.9% to 55.4%) shift towards Democrats.





- **PA-10, Scott Perry (R):** Democrats flipped control of the [Dauphin County Board of Commissioners](#) and swept competitive school board races, [including in York County](#) which went for Trump by 24 points in 2020. Compared to the last off-year election, a notably greater share of voters in PA-10 chose Democrats over Republicans and the district saw 4.9-point (44.2% to 49.1%) shift towards Democrats, an ominous swing for ultra-MAGA extremist Scott Perry.

### New York:

New York's local elections proved that Democrats are in a strong position to flip critical congressional swing seats across the state next November. These results serve as a roadmap for Democrats across the state heading into the on-year.

- **NY-03, George Santos (R):** Democrat Christine Liu won a critical Democratic seat on the North Hempstead Town Council, giving a fresh voice to the growing Asian American community.
- **NY-17, Mike Lawler (R):** Democrats picked up two critical seats in the Rockland County Legislature, giving Democrats a super-majority. Democrats Colin Smith and Vedat Gashi held two legislative seats in northern Westchester County, denying Republicans critical pick-up opportunities and maintaining a supermajority in the Westchester County legislature.
- **NY-18, Pat Ryan (D):** The Dutchess County District Attorney, City of Poughkeepsie Mayor, Town of Poughkeepsie Supervisor, and Chester Supervisor **all flipped blue** while Democrats held key seats for the Ulster County District Attorney and Cornwall Supervisor. Yvonne Flowers will make history as the first Black woman to serve as Mayor of Poughkeepsie, flipping the seat from red to blue, having been held by a Republican for the previous 8 years.
- **NY-19, Marc Molinaro (R):** Democrats flipped control of the Columbia County District Attorney, Binghamton City Council, and Sullivan County Legislature, while picking up a contested county legislative seat in Cortland County. The Columbia County District Attorney seat hasn't been held by a Democrat in 35 years, making this a **history-making pick-up for Democrats** heading into





November 2024. Raw votes by Democratic voters in the Columbia County District Attorney race increased by over 10% since 2019.

- **NY-22, Brandon Williams (R):** In Onondaga County, Democratic candidates won two Family Court Judge seats and are on track to win a County Clerk seat while maintaining control of the County Comptroller's office.

### **Iowa:**

In Iowa, Democratic-backed gains in local school board elections could spell trouble for freshman Republican Zach Nunn. These local races further prove that Republicans are set to face a backlash in 2024 – in Iowa and across the country – for their abject extremism.

- **IA-03, Zach Nunn (R):** Democratic-backed candidates won school board races in [Ankeny](#), [Johnston](#), and [West Des Moines](#), in many cases beating out candidates backed by the conservative group, Moms for Liberty. The Des Moines Register went so far as to call the night [“an unambiguous win for Democrats.”](#)

## **VOTERS CONTINUE TO REJECT REPUBLICAN EXTREMISM ON ABORTION**

### **Ohio:**

In Ohio, with Issue 1 on the ballot, voters turned out in historic numbers for an off-year election, leading Ohioans to codify reproductive rights in the state's constitution by a 14-point margin:

- **OH-01, Greg Landsman (D):** Issue 1 passed by a 26-point margin. While Cincinnati-anchored Hamilton County performed exceptionally well, the real story was in more competitive Warren County, which saw a 13-point swing towards “Yes” when compared to President Biden's performance in 2020. Additionally, more people voted "Yes" in 2023 in Warren County (42,942) than voted in the 2021 election (41,909).
- **OH-09, Marcy Kaptur (D):** Issue 1 passed with 55.9% of the vote (45.6% turnout). While victories in this district usually run through high performances in





Lucas County and softening losses in neighboring Republican counties, “Yes”'s victory in this district relied on winning Erie (56.9%) Ottawa (52.9%), and Wood (56.4%) outright, **proving that reproductive rights is a winning message with rural voters.**

- **OH-13, Emilia Sykes (D):** With turnout at 51.8%, “Yes” won with 62.2% of the vote district-wide. Even in OH-13's portion of Stark County, which voted for Trump in both 2016 and 2020, “Yes” won with 54.9% of the vote. Additionally, despite far lower turnout in 2023, “Yes” votes in Summit County (124,617) nearly reached Trump's total votes in 2020 (124,834).

### **Virginia:**

Virginia remains the final safehaven for reproductive freedom in the South, with Gov. Glenn Youngkin failing in his attempt to gain a governing trifecta and ban abortion. Throughout the campaign, Youngkin argued voters would be motivated by a so-called ‘moderate’ abortion ban – explaining this ban was popular and not an electoral headache for Republicans. The strategy proved widely unsuccessful. Access to reproductive freedom was on the ballot, and Virginians sent a loud signal that the government has no right to involve itself in a decision between a woman and her doctor.

In VA-02, Jen Kiggans had the benefit last cycle of running without a federal voting record. But since entering Congress, Kiggans has voted with her extreme colleagues to [restrict abortion care](#) for servicemembers and their families and now has an anti-abortion record that she can't run away from – a record that Tuesday's results prove clear are antithetical to voters in her district

[Battleground polling](#) conducted for the DCCC earlier this year highlights that, by more than a two-to-one margin, voters continue to trust Democrats to protect abortion rights. **Tuesday's results reaffirm this trend: voters are fed up with Republicans' incessant, extreme attacks on their freedoms.**





## DEMOCRAT MOMENTUM ISN'T NEW, IT'S THE DEFINING TREND OF THE CYCLE

Leading up to Tuesday's victories, there was a clear trend in special elections nationwide:

- In the VA-04 February special election, Rep. Jennifer McClellan — who made abortion a top issue — [overperformed the 2022 House results](#) by 9 points, including in rural counties.
- Before last week's election, voters had already rejected Ohio Republicans' war on women's rights with [a clear and resounding rejection of Issue 1](#) – the measure that sought to end majority rule and obstruct voters from protecting reproductive freedoms.
- In the Wisconsin Supreme Court Race this spring, the liberal candidate running to protect reproductive rights won by 11 points — Democrats won the midterm gubernatorial race by 3.4 points.

### PATH TO VICTORY

As we head into the on-year, Democrats will continue to define the stark contrast between themselves and the MAGA extremism that has a vice grip on congressional Republicans – and the 2023 election results show that voters can see the difference. House Republicans have squandered every minute of their majority attacking reproductive freedoms, undermining democracy, defunding federal law enforcement, and with petty infighting. By contrasting Democrats' record of growing the middle class with Republican extremism, House Democrats are well-positioned to take back the majority. Tuesday's successes proved that Democrats have a strong path forward for 2024 and that voters stand with them over GOP chaos.

