

# The NATIONAL INTEREST FOUNDATION

## [Congresswoman Ilhan Omar Defeats an Opponent with Millions of Dollars from Questionable PACs as 5 More States Hold Primaries](#)

Freshman Congresswoman Ilhan Omar defeated challenger and political novice Antone Melton-Meaux, an opponent with millions of dollars from questionable political action committees (PACs), in Minnesota's 5th district, as five more states held primaries on Tuesday. Melton-Meaux drew criticism over large campaign donations from out of state, in addition to dark money from various anonymous donors and PACs, raising questions about why he was being supported and by whom. He drew over 65% of his campaign funds from anonymous corporations, and was heavily backed by various pro-Israel groups like NORPAC and Pro-Israel America PAC. Melton-Meaux raised nearly seven times what incumbent Omar did in the second quarter of 2020, bringing in \$3.2 million compared to the \$471,000 she raised in the same time period. Furthermore, adding to the suspicious nature of his financing, is the fact that about 75% of Melton-Meaux's donations were large contributions over \$200 in relation to less than 1% for Omar. Melton-Meaux is a political newcomer with no legislative track record, leading observers to note that his campaign fundraising was more to do with vitriol toward Omar and her criticism of Israeli government policies and the pro-Israel lobby, than any prowess of his. Despite the fundraising, voters overwhelmingly elected to re-nominate Omar, with her receiving over 30,000 more votes than her primary challenger. Omar is now expected to return to Congress during the 2020 general election, with her district being heavily Democratic. Elsewhere, retiring Georgia Republican Rep. Tom Graves will be replaced as the GOP nominee for Georgia's 14th district by conspiracy theorist Marjorie Taylor Greene. Greene has trumpeted bigoted and debunked conspiracy theories, and has made outrageous statements about Jews, Muslims, and African-Americans.

Georgia held two important primaries on Tuesday, in the 9th and 14th congressional districts. In the 14th district, QAnon conspiracy theorist Marjorie Greene defeated John Cowan to win the nomination to succeed retiring Rep. Tom Graves. Greene has frequently touted nonsensical and debunked conspiracy theories, and has made outrageous comments about Jews, African-Americans, and Muslims. The conspiracy theories she espouses have been categorized as a domestic terrorism threat by the FBI. The top three Republican representatives in the House have condemned Greene and sought to distance her from the rest of the party, however President Trump congratulated her via Twitter when it became clear she would become the party's nominee. Greene handily secured the nomination and will likely win in November due to the district being heavily Republican.

Georgia's 9th district was represented by Republican stalwart Rep. Doug Collins, but he has elected to vacate his seat in favor of a Senate run. Competing to replace him were Georgia State Rep. Matt Gurtler, who has earned a reputation for being notoriously difficult to handle for the Georgia Republican Party. Gurtler fancied himself as "the most hated man in Georgia by the Republican establishment" because of his constant rejection of any legislation that would have expanded Georgia's state government. Contesting him was the Georgia GOP's favored candidate, Navy veteran Andrew Clyde. Clyde boasts no legislative experience, but won over prominent Georgia Republicans by pledging to bring additional federal funding into the district. Clyde defeated Gurtler by over 12,000 votes, and he is expected to secure the 9th district's seat in November.

Finally, Wisconsin State Senate Majority Leader Scott Fitzgerald secured the nomination to replace retiring Republican Rep. Jim Sensenbrenner, who held Wisconsin's 5th congressional district for over forty years. Sensenbrenner has represented the suburbs surrounding Milwaukee since 1979, and he endorsed Fitzgerald as his hand-picked replacement. The district is considered heavily Republican and observers predict that Fitzgerald will win handily in the general election.