



The NATIONAL INTEREST

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Primary Elections Held in Arizona, Kansas, Michigan, Missouri, and Washington

Voters in Arizona, Kansas, Michigan, Missouri, and Washington cast their ballots earlier this week in several key statewide elections. Some of the main election result takeaways include: primary wins for incumbent Senator Martha McSally and Democratic challenger Mark Kelly in Arizona, a Republican primary victory for Representative Roger Marshall in Kansas, and Democratic primary wins for incumbent Congresswoman Rashida Tlaib in Michigan and political activist Cori Bush in Missouri. Tlaib – one of the first two Muslim women in Congress – won a challenge for her House seat in a rematch with Detroit City Council President Brenda Jones, while Bush unseated 10-term Representative William Lacy Clay. Tuesday night’s results also saw Missouri become the 38th state to approve the expansion of Medicaid.

Republican Senator Martha McSally is now set to face off against Democratic nominee and former astronaut Mark Kelly later this year, after the two candidates secured their respective parties’ nominations in the Arizona race to finish the late John McCain’s U.S. Senate term. McSally and Kelly are both former combat pilots, and analysts project that this will be an interesting election to keep an eye on. Senator McSally is believed to be one of the most vulnerable incumbent candidates of the 2020 election cycle, with nearly every recent public poll showing Kelly with the early advantage in the head-to-head race. Kelly’s campaign has also raised a substantial amount of more money than his opponent, as Democrats look to this seat in Arizona as one of their best chances to help flip the U.S. Senate in their favor after the upcoming general election in November.

In Kansas, Republicans avoided a potentially unfavorable situation, as Representative Roger Marshall defeated former Kansas Secretary of State Kris Kobach in the Senate primary. Most Republicans view Marshall as the better choice for the upcoming general election over Kobach – an anti-immigrant candidate who lost the state’s gubernatorial race to Democratic Governor Laura Kelly back in 2018. With his primary election victory, Marshall will face off against State Senator Barbara Bollier, who won the Democratic Senate nomination earlier this week as well. Bollier is a former moderate Republican who received national attention in late 2018 by switching parties. So far, she has been able to raise more in campaign contributions than all of the top Republican candidates combined. In Michigan, the major highlight of election night was that incumbent Congresswoman Rashida Tlaib won her Democratic primary over challenger Brenda Jones, the Detroit City Council President. With her victory, Tlaib secured likely re-election in November, as Michigan’s 13th Congressional District is heavily Democratic so she should handily defeat her Republican opponent later this year.

Perhaps the biggest surprise of election night took place in Missouri, where nurse and political activist Cori Bush defeated long-serving Representative William Lacy Clay. Bush became involved in the Black Lives Matter movement following the 2014 police killing of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri and supports progressive policies such as Medicare for All and the Green New Deal. Similarly to Tlaib, Bush should easily prevail in November’s general election due to the predominately Democratic makeup of her district. If she does, Bush will become the first African-American woman to be elected to the U.S. House of Representatives from Missouri. Lastly, in the state of Washington, incumbent Governor Jay Inslee is set to face police chief and challenger Loren Culp in November’s general election, after the two finished first and second respectively in Tuesday’s primary.