

NBC's *Today*

08/03/22

7:00:27 a.m. [TEASE]

19 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: On the Ballot]

HODA KOTB: Good morning. On the ballot. Overnight voters in Kansas vote overwhelmingly to protect abortion rights. The nation's first test at the polls since the overturning of *Roe v. Wade*. Just ahead, the impact on the battles in other states and the takeaways for both parties after a nice of closely watched primaries from coast to coast.

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7:03:32 a.m.

1 minute and 52 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Kansas Votes To Protect Abortion Rights]

CRAIG MELVIN: More on tributes to Vin Scully just ahead, but we are going to start this morning with those election results coming in overnight and there are a lot of headlines that we want to break down for you.

KOTB: Indeed. The first vote held on abortion rights since *Roe vs. Wade* was overturned played out in the red state of Kansas. Voters there sending a strong message by striking down a proposed amendment that would have removed abortion protections from the state constitution. The Kansas Secretary of State reporting high voter turnout, close to the levels of a presidential election. For the latest on that and the night's other key races and what it all means heading into the midterms, we turn to NBC's Hallie Jackson. Hallie, good morning.

HALLIE JACKSON: Hey there, Hoda, good morning to you. And listen, one of the biggest takeaways from this election is what the results in Kansas could mean for the next election after that surprising victory for abortion rights supporters, suggesting the end of *Roe vs. Wade* is motivating voters. And then former President Trump getting what he wanted even with mainstream Republicans putting up a fight. Those who back his election lies doing well in their GOP primaries. In conservative Kansas this morning, a political earthquake and a big win for abortion rights supporters. Kansas voters rejecting an amendment that would have removed abortion protections from the state constitution, in effect, keeping access to the procedure there.

PRO-ABORTION ACTIVIST: So grateful and just overjoyed. [SCREEN WIPE] We did what Kansas needed us to do.

JACKSON: President Biden overnight saying the vote "makes clear what we know: the majority of Americans agree that women should have access to abortion." It's the first time abortion has been on the ballot since the Supreme Court overturned *Roe v. Wade*. The results in Kansas

suggesting the court's decision is galvanizing abortion rights supporters less than 100 days until the midterm elections.

PRO-ABORTION ACTIVIST: I hope we inspire other states when they get the opportunity to vote to really think about a woman's choice.

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7:07:15 a.m.

1 minute and 3 seconds

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[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: What's Next After Kansas Abortion Vote?]

KOTB: Alright Hallie, let's get back to that victory for abortion rights in Kansas. So that result surprised a lot of folks. What does that mean for the midterms that are just a couple of months away?

JACKSON: So, a couple of things here, Hoda. First, you gotta look at the turnout here. It was big, right? 900,000 people voted here, nearly double the number of people who voted back in the 2018 primaries. And when you dig into the numbers, when you — when you really get into it, there's a suggestion that a sizeable number of Republicans voted for protecting the current abortion access in Kansas. You can see that in the drop-off of how many Republicans voted in the Kansas primary races versus on this abortion measure.

So, yes, big picture, right? When you ask about what are the takeaways here for the midterms, it does suggest that abortion rights post-Roe is a motivating factor for voters. But if you're trying to draw some big conclusions for November, keep in mind, it's not just going to be abortion on the ballot then. You're also going to have the economy, inflation, other factors coming into play. So, yes, this is a critical data point, but it's also — you know, not a straight line from now until November, Hoda.

KOTB: Yeah, good perspective. Hallie Jackson for us there in D.C. Hallie, thank you.

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8:00:27 a.m. [TEASE]

21 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Election Results]

KOTB: It's eight o'clock on *Today*. Coming up, defining decision. Kansas moves to overwhelmingly uphold abortion rights. The first vote since the Supreme Court overturned *Roe vs. Wade*.

PRO-ABORTION ACTIVIST: So grateful and just overjoyed. [SCREEN WIPE] That we did what Kansas needed us to do.

KOTB: What that decision could mean for the midterm elections. We're live with a full recap.

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8:03:01 a.m.

56 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Kansas Votes To Protect Abortion Rights]

KOTB: Alright, let's get right to our news at eight o'clock, guys. Voters in Kansas have decided by a significant margin to uphold abortion rights in their largely conservative state. Meantime, Tuesday primaries in other states tested former President Donald Trump's influence at the ballot box. NBC's senior Washington correspondent Hallie Jackson joins us with the very latest. Hey, Hallie, good morning.

JACKSON: Hey, Hoda. Good morning to you. And listen, you've gotta call it what it is, right? A kind of political earthquake in conservative Kansas this morning. This decisive win for abortion rights supporters with Kansas voters choosing to protect abortion access there by rejecting an amendment that would have removed those protections from the state constitution. Turnout — this was a big deal — near double the number of people voted on Tuesday than in the 2018 primaries. That's what propelled this to a win. It's the first time abortion's been on the ballot since the Supreme Court overturned *Roe v. Wade*, suggesting the court's decision is really galvanizing abortion rights supporters for now.