TONY DOKOUPILE: Breaking overnight, dramatic results in key Democratic primaries in New York and in Florida, there’s a new challenger for the Republican governor.

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Breaking Overnight; High-Stakes Primaries]

GOVERNOR RON DESANTIS (R-FL): Florida is the state where woke goes to die. [CHEERS AND APPLAUSE]

(...)

7:03:36 a.m.
4 minutes and 2 seconds

DOKOUPILE: But we'll begin with a big story in the world of politics. Breaking news overnight in key primary races for the Democratic Party. We begin in Florida. The former governor Charlie Crist won the chance to challenge the current GOP governor, Ron DeSantis. Of course, DeSantis may become a 2024 presidential candidate. And in New York, two powerhouses were forced to face each other due to a quirk of redistricting. Now one of them out of a job. Scott MacFarlane has more on all of it on a very big primary night.

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Breaking Overnight; Pivotal Primary Results; Voters in New York, Florida Decide Key Races Ahead of General Election]

CONGRESSMAN CHARLIE CRIST (D-FL): We can make history and we will shock the world.

SCOTT MACFARLANE: Democrats are putting their bets on Charlie Crist, a man who served as a Republican governor before switching sides a decade ago.

CRIST: Governor DeSantis only cares about the White House. He doesn't care about your house.

MACFARLANE: They're hoping he can take on Florida GOP Governor Ron DeSantis, who’s been on the national stage taking on public school agendas and going against Disney, leading up to a potential 2024 presidential run.

DESANTIS: Florida will be the vanguard of freedom in this country.

CONGRESSWOMAN VAL DEMINGS (D-FL): We have to get out and exercise our right to vote.
MACFARLANE: Meantime, a former Orlando police chief appears set for a fight for the Florida U.S. Senate seat now occupied by Republican Marco Rubio.

DEMINGS: The President was not focused on fighting for —

MACFARLANE: Val Demings, part of the team leading the impeachment proceedings against former President Trump has won that Democratic nomination.

CONGRESSMAN JERRY NADLER (D-NY): When it comes to unpacking our Supreme Court, I'm going to stand up and fight.

MACFARLANE: In New York, two major institutions of congress were forced to face off. Judiciary Committee chair Jerry Nadler defeated Oversight Committee chair Carolyn Maloney, which the party says is a major loss of a powerhouse Democrat due to a newly-redrawn congressional district. And two hours north in Hudson Valley, a special election there may set the road map for midterms strategies come fall. [TO MOLINARO] Do you see outside interests coming in here trying to fire up the voting base?

MOLINARO (R): Yeah and without question. Obviously, everyone has a degree of interest.

MACFARLANE: Democrat Pat Ryan won last night against Republican Marc Molinaro in the first competitive House election since the U.S. Supreme Court overturned Roe vs. Wade setting the stage for what could be the last national test case on whether abortion will drive voters in November.

CONGRESSMAN-ELECT PAT RYAN (D-NY): The foundations of our democracy were and remain under direct threat.

MACFARLANE: Because there was a special election, Ryan Maloney will only serve in the seat for a few months and have to run again in November. With the primary season largely complete now, we have roughly two months until we find out if Democrats have momentum to preserve majorities in Congress or if Republicans are poised for victory. We're in this now.

DOKOUPIL: We're in this now. Historically speaking, it appears that Democrats are poised for big losses based on everything you know about politics. However, there are different issues at play here. What's going to motivate voters in November?

MACFARLANE: Yeah. Abortion rights, women reproductive health rights, that's going to be a pivotal issue, but the question is: Will it be the pivotal issue for voters. That race last night — Pat Ryan in New York's 19th district, both candidates acknowledged Ryan ran on an abortion rights-first political platform. The question is, Nate, Jamie, and Tony: Will that transcend the kitchen table grocery price, gas price issue —

JAMIE YUCCAS: Right.
MACFARLANE: — in every district across America?

NATE BURLESON: Mmm.

YUCCAS: Yeah, most people vote with their wallet. They’re not looking at the other issues a lot of the time.

BURLESON: You’re right about that.

YUCCAS: When you look at the biggest takeaways from Florida and New York, I think it's interesting that we're talking about party establishment. Not usually the biggest takeaway.

MACFARLANE: Yeah.

YUCCAS: But it seems like that's what happened here.

MACFARLANE: I think Democrats are waking up optimistic, thinking there may be some wiggle room, some opportunity here if they nominate moderate, mainstream, some experienced candidates against Trump loyalists in some districts across America. But the thing is, there are a lot of variables and not a lot of competitive races. Not a lot of space. We'll find out over the next 76 days.

DOKOUPIIL: Yeah. Good to see you in person.

BURLESON: Yeah. Good to have you in person.

YUCCAS: Yeah.

MACFARLANE: Likewise.

DOKOUPIIL: Hudson Valley native.

YUCCAS: Scott, thank you.

(....)

8:01:09 a.m.
17 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Pivotal Primaries]

DOKOUPIIL: Breaking overnight, Charlie Crist wins a primary to challenge Florida Governor Ron DeSantis while Jerry Nadler beats Carolyn Maloney in a primary matchup of two congressional powerhouses.
NADLER: The voters themselves clear tonight. [CHEERS]