

NBC's *Today*

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7:00:26 a.m. [TEASE]

8 seconds

CRAIG MELVIN: Our top stories, some rather unexpected election results coming in overnight.

HODA KOTB: Yeah, and that could have major implications for both parties in the build up to the midterms.

(...)

7:00:39 a.m. [TEASE]

26 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Breaking Overnight; Primary Focus]

KOTB: Primary focus. In New York, a Democrat pulling out a big win in a key swing district.

CONGRESSMAN-ELECT PAT RYAN (D-NY): I honestly can't believe it. I cannot believe it. [CHEERS AND APPLAUSE].

KOTB: While in Florida, a Republican-turned Democrat advances in that state's governor's race setting up a clash that could impact the next presidential battle. We'll break down the biggest races as both parties get set for a November showdown.

(...)

7:03:35 a.m.

3 minutes and 9 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Key Primary Race Victories]

KOTB: But first, let's focus on the primary results as well. All closely watched races in Florida and New York. We have complete coverage. And we also have the takeaways as we head towards the midterms. We're going to start things off with White House chief correspondent Kristen Welker. Hey, Kristen, good morning.

KRISTEN WELKER: Hi, Hoda and Craig, good morning to both you. Last night's primaries had a lot of headlines from a member-on-member battle in New York, the youngest person potentially poised to go to the Capitol. But the biggest takeaway of all came in that special election in New York where the Democrat pulled out a victory over his Republican challenger running on a platform of abortion rights. The implications for the fall? Democrats could put on a fiercer fight than expected to hold onto power with abortion at the center of it all. In the last major round of primaries before the midterm elections, critical races in Florida and New York

offer clues ahead of November and the night brought a big surprise in New York with even bigger implications.

RYAN: I — I — I honestly can't believe it. I cannot believe it.

WELKER: Democrat Pat Ryan winning in a special election in a bellwether swing district that has predicted every presidential election since 1996. Both parties glued to that race. Ryan campaigned on abortion rights, which Democrats hope can fire up key voters this year in the wake of the Supreme Court's *Roe v. Wade* decision. And Republican Marc Molinaro had focused on key Republican issues: inflation and crime, whereas in Florida, it was all about who can slow down Governor Ron DeSantis's possible presidential ambitions.

CONGRESSMAN CHARLIE CRIST (D-FL): What a night.

WELKER: Former Republican governor-turned-Democratic Congressman Charlie Crist will now get another shot at the governor's mansion.

CRIST: This guy wants to be president of the United States of America and everybody knows it.

WELKER: But Crist faces an uphill battle against DeSantis with Florida voters shifting to the right since he was governor. Congresswoman Val Demings won Florida's Democratic Senate primary. She's hoping to upset Marco Rubio in a race recent polls show is increasingly competitive.

CONGRESSWOMAN VAL DEMINGS (D-FL): Tonight is a good night. Am I right about that?

WELKER: Back in New York, a bitter battle between two veteran Democrats is over with Congressman Jerry Nadler defeating Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney after a redrawn district map forced the two committee chairs to fight for a single house seat.

CONGRESSMAN JERRY NADLER (D-NY): Those New Yorkers get to choose who best represents the people and values of this city. And you know what, I think the voters made themselves clear tonight.

WELKER: Now another big top line from the night: voters could be poised to send a Gen-Z candidate to Congress for the very first time. 25-year-old Maxwell Frost, who is Afro-Cuban, won his primary in Florida. And if he wins in the fall, which seems likely, he will be the youngest person in Congress, making him more than 60 years younger than the oldest person in Congress. Hoda?

KOTB: Wow. Generational gap there.

(...)

8:00:29 a.m. [TEASE]

11 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Primary Recap]

KOTB: The votes are in.

CRIST: What a night.

KOTB: We are recapping last night's critical primary elections in Florida and New York. The winners of some major races, and what it all means for the midterms.

(....)

8:02:36 a.m.

1 minute and 25 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Breaking Overnight; Surprise Win in New York Race]

KOTB: The results are in after a high stakes primary race in Florida and New York. NBC chief White House correspondent and *Weekend Today* co-anchor, Kristen Welker will tell us who came out ahead and also what this could mean for the midterms in November. Hey, Kristen, good morning.

WELKER: Hi, Hoda. Good to see you. Big implications for November. Tuesday's primaries did deliver key clues ahead of the fall elections. The biggest takeaway, though, came from that special election in New York, where Democrat Pat Ryan pulled out a victory in a bellwether swing district. Now, Ryan campaigned on abortion rights. Of course, that's an issue Democrats are hoping will fire up key voters this year in the wake of the Supreme Court decision to overturn *Roe v. Wade*. The Republican, Marc Molinaro, focused on core Republican issues, including inflation and crime. Meanwhile, another bitter battle in New York to tell you about. This one between two veteran Democrats with Jerry Nadler defeating Carolyn Maloney after a redrawn district map forced the two committee chairs who both have been in Congress since 1992 to fight for a single House seat. And in Florida, Republican governor and potential presidential hopeful Ron DeSantis now knows who his challenger will be in the fall. Former Republican governor-turned-Democrat governor Charlie Crist beat his challenger overnight. Crist making his strategy clear, blasting DeSantis for his White House ambitions, all setting up for what could be an unpredictable November, Hoda.