

CBS Mornings

06/02/26

7:04:56 a.m.

2 minutes and 53 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Los Angeles Mayoral Race]

GAYLE KING: It's primary day across the country, including in California, where some very close races are playing out. The governor's race, though, is wide open. In Los Angeles, Mayor Karen Bass is facing challenges from both the left and the right, including reality star Spencer Pratt, who's been endorsed by President Trump. Our chief national correspondent, Matt Gutman, is in LA with more on the story. Matt, it went from no way, no how to Spencer Pratt, maybe. President's record's pretty good in endorsing, too.

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: California Primaries for Governor & L.A. Mayor]

MATT GUTMAN: To — and running neck-and-neck too. Good morning, Gayle. I mean, this is a jungle primary we have in California, and that means that the top two candidates, regardless of party, advance to November. For the governor, it's a race to run the fourth-largest economy in the world. High stakes, but so far, low voter turnout. But as you mentioned, that's not the case with the LA mayoral race, one of the most fiercely fought races in the country. In Los Angeles, the seat for City Hall is still anyone's game. There's incumbent Democratic mayor Karen Bass, who is facing an unlikely challenger: former reality TV star and Republican Spencer Pratt. And Council member Nithya Raman, a Democratic socialist —

NITHYA RAMAN: Thank you for your support!

GUTMAN: — all fanning out across the city for one final push as the latest polling shows Bass in a virtual tie with Raman and Pratt coming in third. Bass is looking to overcome criticism she faced during the 2025 Palisades fire.

MAYOR KAREN BASS (D) [on 05/06/26]: It was one of the worst moments of my life to not be here when my city needed me.

GUTMAN: And one of her most ferocious critics has been Pratt, who told our Adam Yabaguchi, it's what encouraged him to join the race.

PRATT [on 05/07/26]: I didn't want to run for mayor, but I had to step up so that my sons one day come back here and live in the LA that I lived in, beautiful, safe, I'm standing in what happened because of failed politicians.

GUTMAN: As for Raman, she's leaning into fighting homelessness.

COUNCILWOMAN NITHYA RAMAN (D): They are tired of how high the housing costs are here, how it's driving families out of the city, how our response to our homelessness crisis has

been lackluster.

GUTMAN: As for the election of governor here, it's also a wide-open race to replace Governor Gavin Newsom. Xavier Becerra, a former Biden administration official, is in the lead —

FORMER HHS SECRETARY XAVIER BECERRA (D): I'm not running against them. I'm running for governor. Let them try to catch me.

GUTMAN: — followed by environmental advocate, Tom Steyer —

TOM STEYER: I am running because Californians can't afford to live here anymore.

GUTMAN: — and former Fox News host Steve Hilton. He's aiming to change the political direction of the nation's largest blue state.

STEVE HILTON: If we don't get a Republican in the top two, we have no chance for change.

GUTMAN: Now, affordability is a huge issue for Californians right now. The latest CBS news poll shows a whopping 70 percent of voters find the cost of living to be unmanageable, and whoever wins will manage a state with a roughly \$4 trillion economy, and a lot of work ahead of them, Vlad.

VLADIMIR DUTHIERS: All right, Matt, thank you very much.