

NBC's *Today*

06/02/26

7:00:38 a.m. [TEASE]

31 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Primary Day]

CRAIG MELVIN: Primary day. Voters casting ballots in key elections today, including two high-stakes races in California, led by the fierce battle for mayor of Los Angeles.

SPENCER PRATT: A lot of people say, oh, he doesn't have any experience, but we all have the experience living in the city.

MELVIN: Former reality star Spencer Pratt gaining late momentum. Could he pull off a stunning upset? We'll take you inside that showdown and what to look for with the midterms now just months away.

(...)

7:05:49 a.m.

3 minutes and 14 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Key Primaries Set the Stage for Midterms]

SAVANNAH GUTHRIE: Also, this morning voters are heading to the polls and key primary races across the country today. Two closely watched battles getting much of the attention are in California, one for governor. The other for mayor of Los Angeles, where former reality star Spencer Pratt is making a push to lead the nation's second-largest city. NBC's Liz Kreutz is in LA for us this morning, up early. Hi, Liz, good morning.

LIZ KREUTZ: Hi, Savannah. Good morning to you. Spencer Pratt has certainly made a name for himself in this race that's really been centered on three key issues: frustration over homelessness, the fire recovery, and a large decline in Hollywood production here. And the latest polls show it could be anyone's game to head to a runoff with current mayor Karen Bass, just a few points ahead of Pratt and her fellow Democrat, Nithya Raman. This morning, voters gearing up for a key primary day. Razor-tight races across the country and all eyes on California —

SPENCER PRATT [in ad]: This is the story —

KREUTZ: — and the final hours of a contest fit for Hollywood, the Los Angeles mayor race, where reality star Spencer Pratt —

PRATT: I say things that I feel.

KREUTZ: — with the help of viral AI campaign ads made by his supporters has gained late

traction in his long-shot bid.

PRATT: We all have the experience of living in this city.

KREUTZ: Pratt, who is a registered Republican, but running with no party affiliation, entered the race after losing his home in the Palisades fire last year. He's trying to unseat incumbent Democratic mayor Karen Bass, who faced intense criticism for her handling of that disaster.

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.

KREUTZ: They're also facing city councilwoman Nithya Raman.

LOS ANGELES VOTER "RYAN" HEAD: I just don't think Spencer Pratt is any good for LA. He is an influencer. He is a reality TV star.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE VOTER: Definitely voting for Pratt.

PRATT [TO UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE VOTER]: Why is that?

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE VOTER: Because I'm voting for change.

KREUTZ: Californians are also choosing the next leader of the nation's most populous state. Nearly 60 candidates are running to succeed Governor Gavin Newsom. The crowded race becoming even more muddled after former Congressman Eric Swalwell dropped out following sexual assault allegations, which he denies. Democratic politician Xavier Becerra, currently in the lead with billionaire investor and climate activist Tom Steyer, also a Democrat, and right-wing political commentator Steve Hilton tracking closely behind. And there are other major races today in six primary states, from Iowa — where Democrats are battling it out, hoping to win a Senate seat in the traditionally Republican state this fall — to an unusual race in New Jersey where GOP Rep. Tom Kean has disappeared from the public eye for months, leaving Republicans worried they may eventually lose his key congressional seat. All setting the stage for midterm elections that could shift the balance of power in Washington. Now, as for that race in New Jersey, Congressman Kean has said he is addressing a personal medical issue and he will return once recovered, but he's offered no other details. Meanwhile, here in California, there are several notable House races to watch, including in San Francisco, where voters are deciding who will take over Speaker Emeriti Nancy Pelosi's seat after she retires after nearly 40 years in Congress, Savannah.

GUTHRIE: Okay, Liz, thank you. And a programming note, you can find complete coverage and analysis of those primary results as they roll in, starting tonight, 10:00 P.M. Eastern on NBC News NOW.