

NBC's *Today*

06/09/26

7:00:44 a.m. [TEASE]

25 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: L.A. Shakeup]

CRAIG MELVIN: L.A. Shake up. NBC News projecting former reality star Spencer Pratt's bid to become mayor of Los Angeles now coming to an end. His third place finish, falling just short of November's runoff as the city's current mayor addresses baseless claims of election fraud.

MAYOR KAREN BASS (D): I think that that's a familiar accusation that is made when one is losing.

MELVIN: We'll have the very latest.

(...)

7:03:19 a.m. [TEASE]

7 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Happening *Today*;

MELVIN: We're also watching that breaking news out of California this morning, where it's now a two-person race for the mayor of Los Angeles.

(...)

7:06:54 a.m.

2 minutes and 57 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Pratt's Run Ends as LA Mayor's Race Now Set]

SAVANNAH GUTHRIE: We've got breaking news overnight on that closely watched mayor's race in Los Angeles one week after voters headed to the polls. NBC News can now project former reality TV star Spencer Pratt will not advance to November's runoff. NBC's Liz Kreutz joins us with the latest on the results coming in overnight. Hey, Liz, good morning.

LIZ KREUTZ: Hey, Savannah, good morning to you. As you know, Spencer Pratt gained a lot of momentum, especially online, through his viral campaign ads railing against the city's leadership, as well as this personal story of losing his home in the Palisades fire. But in this very blue city where Democrats overwhelmingly outnumber Republicans, it wasn't enough to clinch that critical second spot to run off against the incumbent mayor, Karen Bass. This morning, a week after California's primary day reality TV star Spencer Pratt's insurgent campaign for LA mayor has officially run its course. NBC News projecting progressive City Councilwoman Nithya

Raman, who had been steadily gaining ground on the conservative political outsider, will now advance to the fall runoff against incumbent Democratic mayor Karen Bass. The results a bitter disappointment for Pratt's supporters after his election night high when results showed him in second place last week.

SPENCER PRATT [on 06/03/26]: I didn't know I'd be here tonight, but it's obviously God's plan.

KREUTZ: The race drawing national attention with some top Republicans — without evidence — claiming voter fraud, including President Trump posting on Truth Social: “Not possible for Spencer Pratt to have lost the LA runoffs after the big lead he had...rigged elections.” But California's election process often slower than other states more than 80 percent in this race voting by mail and those ballots are counted so long as they're postmarked by Election Day. The nonpartisan official in charge pushing back on fraud claims.

LA COUNTY REGISTRAR-RECORDER & COUNTY CLERK DEAN LOGAN: This is how the voting process is structured in California based on giving voters multiple options and — and a long time period for when to cast their ballots.

KREUTZ: And Mayor Bass also firing back. [TO BASS] What do you make of the President's claims and some of the claims by Spencer Pratt's supporters that the Democrats have cheated in this election?

BASS: Well, I mean, I think that that's a familiar accusation that is made when one is losing.

KREUTZ: Statewide, well over a million mail and ballots still need to be counted. You can see every single one of these ballots is being counted by hand. They then make their way over here to this highly secure tally room. While in the tight race for governor Republicans, Steve Hilton says the system is flawed, but he hasn't seen evidence of fraud.

STEVE HILTON [on CNN's *Erin Burnett OutFront*, 06/08/26]: We've seen nothing that would give us calls to intervene in that way.

KREUTZ: His race still a question mark either Hilton or Democrat Tom Steyer will face former Biden cabinet member Xavier Becerra in the November match-up. And Hilton is one of many now calling on the state to make changes to its ballot counting process to speed it up. Governor Gavin Newsom's office tells us that the governor wishes the vote can't move faster too. And as for the LA mayor's race, Spencer Pratt has not commented or spoken out since NBC News and other outlets projected he is not advancing to the runoff. Savannah.

GUTHRIE: All right, Liz, thank you very much.