

*CBS Mornings*

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[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Progressive Democrats Win Big in NY Primaries]

MATT GUTMAN: It was a big win for progressive left in Tuesday's New York primaries, all three congressional candidates who were endorsed by New York City Mayor Zohran Mamdani won. For what this means for the national political scene, we're joined by Ed O'Keefe. Ed, good morning. Okay, so, Mamdani is emerging, obviously, as a kingmaker, at least here in New York so far, with remarkable influence on voters. So, what do you think this Democratic socialist sweep tells us about Democratic Party future in general, and what does it tell us about voters right now?

ED O'KEEFE: Well, two things. First of all, it tells us that New York City Mayor Zohran Mamdani still has an incredible sway over New York City voters and New York City congressional districts, but he has not endorsed outside the city, and a bunch of blue Democratic districts, in essence, just became blue or more like midnight blue instead of maybe the blue I'm wearing right now. So, you know, they reflect, however, something that the Democratic Party is going to have a big conversation about in the coming years, especially as they get ready to nominate someone for president. And that is what exactly did Israel do in the wake of the October 7 attacks? Was it genocide? Or was it something else? Because for a growing number of far-left Democratic voters, it is genocide, and unless the candidate is saying that, it is a disqualifying characteristic for that candidate. But that won't be a factor in every race across the country, and Democrats certainly aren't nominating socialists everywhere else. Just 40 minutes north of where you guys are sitting, for example, they nominated a woman named Cait Conley, an Army combat veteran, to take on Republican Mike Lawler in one of the most competitive House districts across the country. The issue for her will be Republicans are going to run ads saying that she associate herself with the socialists in New York City, or does she represent you? And it will be up to voters to determine whether they think the Democrat in their district is more in line with those in New York City or elsewhere. And what this says more broadly, guys, about Democrats and Republicans, is voters want change. They are sick of the status quo. Two House incumbents were defeated last night of these primaries. They were supported by House Democratic leadership. We've seen other incumbents in both parties, lose primaries this year, and we'll continue to do so. And it's why you've seen Democrats across the country have these races with less conventional contenders, because they are, in fact, intrigued and looking for someone who doesn't necessarily reflect the politics of right now, but a different kind of politics they want to see in the future.

GAYLE KING: Yeah, Ed, you sort of led me to my next question: What, if anything, do these results mean in New York outside of New York? And you said, listen, it's sending the message voters want change. Do you think this translates outside of New York?

O'KEEFE: Not necessarily the socialism part of it, because you're not going to see a socialist

candidate running per se in congressional races in Virginia or Texas or Arizona with any success. But the idea that Washington needs to be shaken up, that the U.S. relationship with Israel needs to be rethought, those kinds of themes will definitely play in all of these races. And what you're going to see almost immediately, probably by lunchtime today, is Republicans start running ads featuring these winners in New York City and trying to associate Democratic candidates across the country with them. That's not unlike what Democrats did when the Tea Party was getting popular back in 2010 and tried to take out moderate Republicans with those conservatives. What goes around comes around, and both parties are going through change.

NATE BURLESON: All right, Ed, thank you.