

CBS Mornings

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7:13:29 a.m.

2 minutes and 21 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Close Primaries Held Today]

NATE BURLESON: Today is primary day in six states, and we are following several big races, including the one to replace the late Republican Senator, Lindsey Graham, in South Carolina. His sister is on the ballot. There are also key races for the Senate in Minnesota and governor in Wisconsin. Mark Strassman has more from Columbia, the capital of South Carolina.

SENATOR DARLINE GRAHAM (R-SC): I bring experience to the table. I'm just not a politician.

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Close Primaries Held Throughout the Country Today]

MARK STRASSMANN: Darline Graham is an appointed U.S. senator with less than a month's experience, but a huge advantage. She is President Trump's choice, as he told supporters in a tele-rally last night and earlier on X.

PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP: Darline Graham has my complete and total endorsement, and I have no doubt you will make South Carolina very, very proud.

STRASSMANN: Some voters told us that presidential endorsement matters.

UNIDENTIFIED WHITE MALE VOTER: Trump supported her. That carried a lot of weight, as far as I'm concerned.

STRASSMANN: Senator Graham was appointed to fill her brother's seat after he passed away suddenly last month. Now she's running to keep the job for another six years.

GRAHAM: [on FNC's *Fox & Friends*, 08/10/26]: And so, I think that should tell everybody that I'm a hard worker, and I'm really strong, and I want to help the people of South Carolina.

STRASSMANN: But this crowded field includes other familiar names in South Carolina politics, including current Congressman Ralph Norman, and Russell Fry, and former governor Mark Sanford. Sanford's hoping pocketbook issues will sway voters.

FORMER GOVERNOR MARK SANFORD (R-SC): I'm running on these issues that I believe in, which ultimately tie to affordability for South Carolinians every day, and it ties really to the American Dream.

STRASSMANN: In Wisconsin, voters are choosing their party's candidate for governor. Democrats are picking between Democratic socialist Francesca Hong, and the

establishment-backed Milwaukee County executive, David Crowley. And, in Minnesota, it's another fight for a Senate seat. Democrats there will pick between more moderate Congresswoman Angie Craig and progressive Lieutenant Governor Peggy Flanagan. It's a race that could factor in the fight for control of the U.S. Senate.

UNIDENTIFIED WHITE MALE MINNESOTA VOTER: I would like to see them be able to work together a lot more, whoever ends up getting in there.

STRASSMANN: Here in South Carolina, with today's special primary, the upright [sic] winner would have to pull more than 50 percent. If that doesn't happen, the top two finishers head to a runoff in a couple of weeks, Gayle.

GAYLE KING: All right, Mark, we'll all be watching. Thank you so much.

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8:01:05 a.m.

1 minute and 57 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: All Eyes on Minnesota Democratic Senate Primary]

DUTHIERS: We're going to begin this hour with another round of primary elections today. We are watching the Democratic Senate primary in Minnesota where Lieutenant Governor Peggy Flanagan and Congresswoman Angie Craig are battling it out. It's one more chance for progressives and moderates to try and decide the future of their party. Jonah Kaplan is in Minnesota. Jonah, good morning.

JONAH KAPLAN: Good morning, Vlad. Yeah, it's an open Senate seat. Tina Smith departing, and, as you mentioned, it is that proxy battle about the future the party. On the more progressive side, you have Lieutenant Governor Peggy Flanagan in office the last seven years. She's been endorsed by some of the liberal powerhouses like Senator Bernie Sanders and Minnesota's own Congresswoman Ilhan Omar. Then, the more moderate candidate, Congresswoman Angie Craig, she's from a Trump district endorsed by former Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg and Arizona Senator Ruben Gallego. I spoke with both candidates ahead of today's vote.

MINNESOTA LT. GOV. PEGGY FLANAGAN (DFL): I think the Washington establishment is really disconnected from what's happening in the lives of — of Minnesotans and of Americans. They want bold fighters and folks who are willing to throw down for the things that actually impact their lives.

CONGRESSWOMAN ANGIE CRAIG (D-MN): You want to come into the party and help us be Republicans? You're welcome! But if you're here to tear down Democrats and if you have policy positions that bring us further from independent voters or Republicans who might be willing to come over to our side, then that's problematic.

KAPLAN: This is the most expensive primary in the state's history. We're talking about \$20 million pumping into outside groups and advertising, and today's winner, Gayle, is expected to face Republican — an outsider, but with name recognition — and that's former network sportscaster Michelle Tafoya.

KING: Oh, okay. Lots to keep track of there, Jonathan [sic], thank you very much.