

NBC's *Today*

08/12/26

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

30 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Breaking Overnight; Democratic Divide]

SAVANNAH GUTHRIE: Breaking overnight, the Democratic divide on display in closely watched primaries across the country. The center-left candidate for governor in Minnesota pulls out a narrow victory, but progressives riding a winning wave in other key races.

MINNESOTA LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR PEGGY FLANAGAN (DFL): This campaign was about the many versus the money. [CHEERS] [SCREEN WIPE] Well, guess what? The many just won.

GUTHRIE: We will break down the results with the November midterms less than three months away.

(...)

7:02:59 a.m. [TEASE]

19 seconds

CRAIG MELVIN: Lots to cover, including that breaking election news. A major upset in Wisconsin overnight.

GUTHRIE: NBC News projecting Milwaukee County Executive David Crowley has won the Democratic primary for governor, defeating Francesca Hong. Her loss seen as a setback for progressives, who have seen big wins in other high-profile primaries this election season.

(...)

7:08:12 a.m.

3 minutes and 26 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Major Upset in Wisconsin Gov. Race]

GUTHRIE: We'll go now to the countdown to the critical fall midterms and those overnight results from some closely-watched primary says across six states. We've got two reports. We'll start with NBC's Ryan Nobles, who's in South Carolina's capital of Columbia this morning. Ryan, good morning.

RYAN NOBLES: Hey, Savannah, good morning. Here in South Carolina. The GOP primary is headed to a runoff, but the big surprise was in Wisconsin where David Crowley, the more moderate candidate for governor there, who at one point had gotten out of the race, got back in,

won the endorsement of the state's governor, squeaked by a narrow victory over the Democratic socialist Francesca Hong. It is a major win for moderate Democrats and what has become a very competitive primary season. This morning, an upset in Wisconsin with national implications. Establishment-backed candidate David Crowley defeating Democratic socialist Francesca Hong in the race for governor. The race, a much-needed win for moderate Democrats as the party debates its future with multiple recent victories from very progressive candidates ahead of the key midterm elections that could shape Congress.

MILWAUKEE COUNTY, WISCONSIN EXECUTIVE DAVID CROWLEY (D): We're going to need someone who can build the necessary coalitions and speak to unity, not necessarily division.

NOBLES: Crowley's victory was narrow. Hong had been leading in the polls, but drawing controversy over some past positions, including calls to abolish the police, and to cancel Thanksgiving, though she recently backtracked under pressure, but the Democrats' ideological divide continuing, on display elsewhere in the Midwest with Minnesota's Lieutenant Governor Peggy Flanagan, another progressive, defeating moderate incumbent [sic] Angie Craig in a Senate primary.

FLANAGAN: This campaign was about the many versus the money. [CHEERS] [SCREEN WIPE] Well, guess what? The many just won.

NOBLES: She'll face off in November against former NFL sideline reporter Michelle Tofoya. Meanwhile, in South Carolina, the special election to replace the late Senator Lindsey Graham is headed to a runoff with Graham sister Darline, who currently holds the seat and is backed by President Trump, set to square off against Republican Congressman Ralph Norman in two weeks.

SENATOR DARLINE GRAHAM (R-SC): I want to thank President Trump, his steadfast support, and his complete and total endorsement — means so much to me.

NOBLES: Norman zeroing in on Darlene Graham's lack of experience in national politics.

CONGRESSMAN RALPH NORMAN (R-SC): Well, I don't know where she stands on a lot of issues. I think that's where we'll find out.

NOBLES: And, in Connecticut, 14-term Congressman John Larson lost his primary race to former Hartford Mayor Luke Braunen, the latest example of Democrats voting out incumbent House members and replacing them with younger leadership.

GUTHRIE: So, Ryan, taking a look at the Republican primaries, the Trump factor. Did we see President Trump's influence play out in the final results?

NOBLES: We did Savannah, but there were some uneven results, certainly most of the candidates that he endorsed did win, but there was one surprising result, and that was in

Minnesota, where Mike Lindell, the election conspiracy theorist, the CEO of MyPillow, lost the Republican primary to Lisa DeMuth. And then, of course, here in South Carolina, he endorsed Darline Graham. That was enough to get her to the runoff, but not enough to allow her to cross that 50 percent threshold to win the primary outright, Savannah.

GUTHRIE: All right, so they continue there. All right, Ryan, thanks.

(...)

8:04:24 a.m.

3 minutes and 25 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: News at 8; Major Upset in Wisconsin Gov. Race]

MELVIN: Now we turn to the lead-up to November's midterm elections. Six states holding primaries yesterday. The results coming in overnight, highlighted by an upset in the democratic primary for governor of Wisconsin. NBC's Ryan Nobles is following all of it from the beautiful city in God's country, the corner of Hampton and Main Street there in Columbia, south Carolina. Ryan, good morning.

NOBLES: Yeah, Craig. And I should say everybody here in Columbia says hello. I mean, everyone says hello to you, Craig, so the results here —

MELVIN: Hello back.

NOBLES: — and the results here in South Carolina are a little mixed. We are going to a run-off in the Republican primary for Senate, but the big surprise came in Wisconsin where the more moderate candidate for governor squeaked by a victory over the Democratic socialist candidate. It's a big win for moderate Democrats in what has become a very competitive primary season. This morning, an upset in Wisconsin with national implications. Establishment-backed candidate David Crowley defeating Democratic socialist Francesca Hong in the race for governor. The race, a much-needed win for moderate Democrats as the party debates its future with multiple recent victories from very progressive candidates ahead of the key midterm elections that could shape Congress.

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GRAHAM: I want to thank President Trump, his steadfast support, and his complete and total endorsement — means so much to me.

NOBLES: And speaking of President Trump, his influence over these primaries was a little uneven. Many of his candidates did win, but there was a surprise in Minnesota where Mike Lindell, the election conspiracy theorist, best known as the CEO of MyPillow, lost the Republican primary to Lisa DeMuth. And, of course, here in South Carolina, Darline Graham did have his endorsement. It was enough to get her to the run-off but not quite enough to clear the 50 percent threshold to win the nomination outright. That's it here from South Carolina. Craig, if there's anything else you need us to check on before we leave Columbia, just let me know. I'm happy to do that.

MELVIN: There's a great restaurant called Bourbon on Main Street. It's literally two blocks from where you are.

NOBLES: We already went there.

MELVIN: Oh!

NOBLES: We already went there.

MELVIN: I hope you told Christian hello.

GUTHRIE: Could you go by Craig's storage unit? He needs a couple of things.

MELVIN: I'll tell mom you'll stop by. Ryan, thank you, thank you.

GUTHRIE: I love it.