

NBC's *Today*
08/19/26
7:00:13 a.m. [TEASE]
31 seconds

CRAIG MELVIN: A stunning upset in a key election overnight.

SAVANNAH GUTHRIE: With major implications on the midterms to come. It is August 19. This is *Today*. The results are in.

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Breaking Overnight; Results in]

STATE REPRESENTATIVE ANGIE NIXON (D-FL): Florida, we did it!

GUTHRIE: A Democratic socialist makes history in Florida with a surprising primary win for the race in the U.S. Senate, while in Alaska, the battle for another key Senate seat taking shape as the push to November rolls on. The latest results and what it means for the fight for control of Congress.

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7:04:10 a.m.
3 minutes and 18 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Happening *Today*; Primary Battles]

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Happening *Today*; Upset in Florida]

GUTHRIE: We're also following this overnight. Results from key primary battles in California, Wyoming, Alaska and Florida. Florida delivering the biggest surprise of the night. Democratic Socialist Angie Nixon scored an upset victory in the Democratic Senate race. We got complete coverage, including the impact on the buildup to November's midterm elections. NBC's Ryan Nobles will start us off this morning. Ryan, good morning.

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Breaking Overnight; Major Upset in Florida Senate Primary]

RYAN NOBLES: Hey, Savannah. Good morning. The results from the Florida Democratic primary are shocking. State Representative Angie Nixon was outspent by more than \$15 million in this closely-watched primary. It's another major win for the progressive win — progressive wing of the Democratic Party in this competitive primary season.

NIXON: Florida, we did it! [CHEERS]

NOBLES: Overnight, an upset with major implications for Democrats. In Florida, State Representative Angie Nixon, a Democratic Socialist, defeating moderate candidate Alexander

Vindman, a star witness in President Trump's first impeachment.

NIXON: We, the hard-working, everyday people of Florida, sent a shockwave to the Washington D.C. establishment.

NOBLES: The President posting overnight: "Sleazebag Vindman loses...to a radical left lunatic. How cool is that?" Nixon had said she recently joined the Democratic Socialists of America.

NIXON [on CNN's *Laura Coates Live*, 08/18/26]: It is not about labels. It's about the most basic rights that people here in the state need.

NOBLES: Now, she faces an uphill battle against the Republican nominee Ashley Moody, a state that hasn't sent a Democrat to the Senate in 14 years.

SENATOR ASHLEY MOODY (R-FL): My sister, who is with us tonight, says sometimes you have to fight like crazy to fight crazy, and we are staring down crazy in the socialist today.

NOBLES: Progressives and moderates have been battling throughout this primary as the Democratic Party tries to find its identity and take back power from Republicans in Washington. Also, in Florida, a closely watched race for governor with Congressman Byron Donalds, backed by President Trump, securing the Republican nomination as he looks to succeed Ron DeSantis.

CONGRESSMAN BYRON DONALDS (R-FL): Are you with me to keep Florida red?"

NOBLES: Donalds will face the Democratic nominee, former Congressman David Jolly, a one-time Republican-turned-prominent Trump critic.

FORMER CONGRESSMAN DAVID JOLLY: When we win the Florida governorship, guess what? We do just that. We reshape American politics.

NOBLES: And another closely-watched Senate race taking shape in Alaska. Republican incumbent Dan Sullivan on defense, looking to secure a third term as Democrats aim to flip that critical Senate seat, running former Congresswoman Mary Peltola.

FORMER CONGRESSWOMAN MARY PELTOLA (D-AK): It's a real campaign now. We are really in this. [CHEERS AND APPLAUSE]

NOBLES: Sullivan and Peltola qualifying for the general election, which will include the top four vote-getters. One of whom could be another candidate named Dan Sullivan, a retired teacher who could earn a place on the November ballot, possibly causing confusion for voters down the road. And that Senate race was not the only surprising result last night in Florida. Embattled Republican incumbent Cory Mills lost his primary to former TV news anchor Ryan Elijah in a House race based in the Orlando area. Democrats had targeted that seat as a potential pick-up based partly on the scandals surrounding Mills, Savannah.

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

(....)

8:00:16 a.m. [TEASE]

21 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: The Results Are in]

GUTHRIE: Coming up, the results are in. A Democratic socialist making history in Florida overnight.

NIXON: We, the hard-working, everyday people of Florida, sent a shock wave to Washington.

GUTHRIE: Inside the surprising primary win as the battle for another key Senate seat and control of Congress takes shape. We're live with the latest.

(....)

8:02:37 a.m.

2 minutes and 38 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Breaking Overnight; Major Upset in Florida Senate Primary]

GUTHRIE: We'll start with that surprising election night upset in Florida. Democratic socialist making history there with a surprising primary win in the race for U.S. Senate. NBC's Ryan Nobles joins us now with a look at all of last night's key races. Hi, Ryan, good morning.

NOBLES: Hey, Savannah, good morning. And there were surprising results up and down the ballot in Florida last night, but the biggest shock came in the primary for Senate where Angie Nixon, outspent 16-1, easily beat Alexander Vindman in a major win for the party's progressive wing.

NIXON: Florida, we did it! [CHEERS]

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NOBLES: Sullivan and Peltola qualifying for the general election, which will include the top four vote-getters. One of whom could be another candidate named Dan Sullivan, a retired teacher who could earn a place on the November ballot, possibly causing confusion for voters down the road. And back to Florida. National Democrats are counting on the Sunshine State to help in their efforts to win back the House majority, and several of their incumbents running in tough districts were able to hold off progressive challengers. Meanwhile, one GOP incumbent, scandal-plagued Cory Mills, lost his primary last night, Savannah?

GUTHRIE: Alright, Ryan Nobles, thank you very much.