

2008 Primary Election Summary

President

While many polls in the weeks leading up to the primary indicated Sen. Barack Obama was closing the gap between himself and Sen. Hillary Clinton, Clinton ultimately took Pennsylvania by a margin of 10 percentage points. Perhaps most surprisingly was that Clinton won both Montgomery and Bucks counties in suburban Philadelphia, an area many thought would trend Obama. Conversely, Obama took several areas in the center of the state, including Dauphin, Lancaster, Union and Centre counties.

Clinton's win, if nothing else, brings some much-needed momentum to her candidacy moving into the handful of remaining primaries before the Democratic Convention. This momentum helped to infuse a new flood of contributions, with her campaign announcing a total of over \$10 million being raised in the hours following the primary. Next on the calendar are contests in Indiana and North Carolina, with later elections held in Oregon, South Dakota, and Montana.

Treasurer

As several polls indicated, Montgomery County investment banker Rob McCord won the Democratic primary for Treasurer, defeating Rep. Jennifer Mann, John Cordisco, and Dennis Morrison-Wesley. McCord spend nearly \$3.5 million in the primary, ultimately winning with 43.5% of the vote to Cordisco's 26.2%, Mann's 23.8%, and Morrison-Wesley's 6.6%. He will face Republican Tom Ellis in this fall's general election.

US Congress

3rd District Democratic Primary- Kathy Dahlkemper defeated candidates Kyle Foust, Tom Myers, and Mike Waltner to face off against incumbent Rep. Phil English (R-Erie) in the general election in November.

5th District Primary- In what became the most expensive Congressional primary in the country, Republican Glenn Thompson pulled off what many call an upset victory to win the Republican nomination to replace retiring Congressman John Peterson (R-Venango). Thompson narrowly won in a crowded field, surpassing candidates Derek Walker, Matt Shaner, Jeffrey Stroehmann, Keith Richardson, Chris Exarchos, John Krupa, Lou Radkowski, and John Stroup. Thompson garnered about 13,600 votes, with Walker taking about 12,400 votes and Shaner getting about 12,250. On the Democratic side, favored-to-win Bill Cahir lost to Mark McCracken, falling short by about 4,000 votes. This sets the stage for a Thompson v. McCracken race for the fall.

10th District Republican Primary- Republicans Dan Meuser and Chris Hackett went head-to-head in a close race to determine who will challenge freshman Rep. Chris Carney (D-Susquehanna) in the general election. Hackett was victorious with about 52.3% of the vote to Meuser's 47.7%. In this historically Republican district, many are anticipating a real challenge for Carney.

18th District Democratic Primary- Bob O'Donnell defeated candidates Beth Hafer and Brien Wall and will go on to challenge Rep. Tim Murphy (R-Allegheny) in November.

PA Senate

1st District Democratic Primary- Larry Farnese landed a significant upset in his defeat of IBEW boss John Dougherty to replace retiring Sen. Vince Fumo (D-Philadelphia). Farnese, who had the support of Fumo, won with approximately 43% of the vote, while Dougherty had 38% and Anne Dicker had 19% of the votes cast. In this largely Democratic district, Farnese is the presumptive winner in November.

13th District Republican Primary- In a close election to replace retiring Senate Appropriations Chair Gib Armstrong (R-Lancaster), Lloyd Smucker edged out Steve McDonald, Paul Thibault, and Bill Neff. Smucker, who was backed by Armstrong, took 48% of the vote and is the presumptive winner in November in this Republican-heavy senate district.

15th District Democratic Primary- Judy Hirsch defeated Alvin Q. Taylor in the Democratic primary and will go on to challenge Sen. Jeff Piccola (R-Dauphin) in the general election. Piccola is widely considered to be safe in his re-election bid.

17th District Republican Primary- Lance Rogers took 61% of the vote to get the Republican nomination over Lisa Paolino. He will face Democrat and current state Representative Daylin Leach in the fall in the election to replace retiring Sen. Connie Williams (D-Montgomery).

23rd District Republican Primary- In this election to replace retiring Sen. Roger Madigan (R-Bradford), Republican Gene Yaw defeated current state Representative Steve Cappelli and Doug McClinko, taking 48% of the vote. Cappelli and McClinko each received approximately 26% of the vote. Cappelli retired from the state House to make his bid for the Senate. Yaw will face Democrat Louis Casimir in November in this Republican-leaning district.

33rd District Republican Primary- Richard Alloway took 34% of the vote on his way to defeating opponents Jim Taylor, Catherine Cresswell, and Bob Curley, who received 33%, 28%, and 5% of the vote, respectively. Alloway faces no Democratic opponent in the general election and will replace Sen. Terry Punt (R-Franklin).

39th District Democratic Primary- Tony Bompiani defeated opponent Chris Huffman by 31 percentage points to take the Democratic nomination. He will challenge Sen. Bob Regola (R-Westmoreland) in the fall in what is considered by many to be the most vulnerable Senate Republican seat in this year's general election.

47th District Democratic Primary- Current state Representative Sean Ramaley received 53% of the vote to secure his name on the Democratic ballot in November to replace Sen. Gerald LaValle (D-Beaver). His opponent, Jason Petrella, received 47% of votes cast. On the Republican side, Elder Vogel defeated Jeff Harris by 13 percentage points to face off against Ramaley in the fall. Ramaley is considered the favorite to win by many strategists, given the district's Democrat-heavy voter registration.

PA House

3rd District Republican Primary- Jason Owen took 55% of the vote in his defeat of Joe Pfadt. He will go on to challenge freshman Rep. John Hornaman (D-Erie). Hornaman knocked off Republican Rep. Matt Good in the 2006 election cycle.

6th District Republican Primary- Freshman Rep. Brad Roae (R-Crawford) was victorious in his three-way Republican primary, defeating Lester Lenhart and Kathy Licht with 72% of the vote. He has no general election opposition.

12th District Republican Primary- Incumbent Daryl Metcalfe (R-Butler) received 62% of the vote in his win over primary challenger Robin Redding.

15th District Democratic Primary- Incumbent Vince Biancucci (D-Beaver) defeated primary challenger Domenic DeLeone, taking 62% of the vote.

16th District Democratic Primary- In the primary race to determine who will replace current state Rep. Sean Ramaley (D-Beaver), who is running for senate, Robert Matzie won with 60% of the vote over opponent Donald Despines. Matzie faces no opposition in November.

19th District Democratic Primary- Rep. Jake Wheatley (D-Allegheny) took 73% of the vote in his win over challenger Deidra Washington.

21st District Democratic Primary- In the race to replace freshman Rep. Lisa Bennington (D-Allegheny), a close three-way contest resulted in Dom Costa winning with 35% of the vote. Opponents Len Bodack and Brenda Frazier took 33% and 32% of the vote, respectively. Costa has no opponent for this fall's election.

24th District Democratic Primary- Rep. Joe Preston (D-Allegheny) received 61% of the vote in his defeat of three primary challengers: Lucille Prater-Holliday, Todd Elliott Koger, and William Anderson.

27th District Democratic Primary- In the contest to replace retiring Rep. Tom Petrone (D-Allegheny), Dan Deasy won with 38% of the vote. Opponents John Paul Jones took 32% and Ryan Douglas took 30% of the vote. Deasy is uncontested in the general election.

29th District Democratic Primary- Brad Kirsch received 60% of the vote to opponent Benjamin Ireys' 40% in the Democratic primary. Kirsch will challenge Rep. Bernie O'Neill (R-Bucks) in the fall.

38th District Democratic Primary- Freshman Rep. Bill Kortz (D-Allegheny) was victorious over opponent Caleem Jabbour, taking 71% of the vote. He will face Republican Dan Davis, who was his opponent in 2006, in the fall election.

49th District Democratic Primary- Rep. Peter Daley (D-Fayette) took 70% of the vote in a three-way primary race to maintain his House seat. Opponents Barbara Reis and Randy Barli took 23% and 7% of the vote, respectively.

51st District Democratic Primary- Freshman Rep. Tim Mahoney (D-Fayette) defeated primary opponent Larry Roberts, receiving 74% of the vote. He faces no opposition in the general election.

54th District Democratic Primary- Rep. John Pallone (D-Westmoreland) received 82% of the vote in his victory over Anthony Shea, Jr.

56th District Democratic Primary- Rep. Jim Casorio (D-Westmoreland) was victorious over primary challenger Brian Blasko, taking 84% of the vote.

57th District Democratic Primary- In the contest to replace retiring Rep. Tom Tangretti (D-Westmoreland), Democrat John Boyle bested opponents Roland Mertz and Scott Sistik in taking 48% of the vote. Boyle will face Republican Tim Krieger in the fall.

59th District Republican Primary- In the election to replace retiring Rep. Jess Stairs (R-Westmoreland), Mike Reese defeated Robert Helterbran to receive the Republican nomination. Reese will face Democrat Michael O'Barto in November.

63rd District Republican Primary- Donna Oberlander received 48% of the vote to defeat opponents Greg Mortimer and Maria Battista Kerle and take the Republican nomination. Oberlander will face Democrat Matthew Ellenberger in the fall, who defeated Gerald Borovick in the Democratic primary. Retiring Rep. Fred McIlhattan (R-Clarion) endorsed Oberlander.

65th District Republican Primary- Rep. Kathy Rapp (R-Warren) defeated opponent Kerry Gern, taking 83% of the vote.

66th District Republican Primary- House Republican Leader Sam Smith (R-Armstrong) was victorious in his primary, receiving 79% of the vote to opponent Harry Bodenhorn's 21%.

69th District Republican Primary- In the race to replace retiring Rep. Bob Bastian (R-Bedford), Carl Metzgar took 31% of the vote in a crowded field of 5 Republican candidates. Metzgar will face Democrat Ken Warnick in the fall, who took 55% of the vote in his victory over Stephen Smerbeck.

71st District Democratic Primary- Six Democrats were on the ballot to replace retiring Rep. Ed Wojnaroski (D-Cambria). Bryan Barbin received 24% of the vote to edge out his opponents. On the Republican side, Jim Rigby took 51% of the vote over Steve Ettien to face Barbin in the fall.

72nd District Democratic Primary- The Democratic primary featured 7 candidates vying to replace retiring Rep. Tom Yewcic (D-Cambria). Frank Burns took 30% of the vote to face Republican Chris Voccio in November.

83rd District Republican Primary- With current state Rep. Steve Cappelli (R-Lycoming) retiring from this seat to run for the Senate, Republican Dave Huffman defeated Dottie White and Rebecca Burke with 43% of the vote. He will face Democrat Richard Mirabito in the general election.

86th District Republican Primary- Rep. Mark Keller (R-Perry) was victorious in his primary, defeating opponent Michael Lapp with 82% of the vote.

88th District Republican Primary- Republican Sheryl Delozier received 27% of the vote in a seven-way primary race to replace retiring Rep. Jerry Nailor (R-Cumberland). She will face Democrat Margie Stuski in November.

101st District Republican Primary- Rep. Mauree Gingrich (R-Lebanon) was victorious over primary challenger, and political reform movement figurehead, Russ Diamond, receiving 64% of the vote.

102nd District Republican Primary- Freshman Rep. RoseMarie Swanger (R-Lebanon) took 62% of the vote in defeating opponent Jason Kern. She is uncontested in the fall.

103rd District Democratic Primary- Rep. Ron Buxton (D-Dauphin) narrowly escaped defeat in his primary bid, winning by a mere 127 votes over challenger Karl Singleton. Singleton, a Harrisburg City community activist, linked his campaign's momentum to Barack Obama's popularity in the City's African-American neighborhoods.

109th District Democratic Primary- Democrat Nancy Schott received 52% of the vote over opponent David Slavick to challenge Rep. David Millard (R-Columbia) in the general election.

113th District Democratic Primary- Freshman Rep. Frank Shimkus (D-Lackawanna) lost his Democratic write-in campaign to Kevin Murphy. Shimkus was knocked off the primary ballot earlier this year by a judge who cited problems with his nominating petition. Shimkus will still appear on the ballot come this November, as he was successful in winning the Republican write-in campaign.

115th District Democratic Primary- Rep. Ed Staback (D-Lackawanna) was victorious over his primary challenger, Paul Dudrich, taking 81% of the vote.

117th District Republican Primary- Rep. Karen Boback (R-Luzerne) defeated primary challenger James May with 58% of the vote.

118th District Democratic Primary- Rep. Mike Carroll (D-Luzerne) took 81% of the vote in his victory over primary challenger PJ Best.

124th District Republican Primary- Republican House Whip Dave Argall (R-Schuylkill) bested challenger John Schickram, garnering 74% of the vote.

125th District Republican Primary- Gary Hornberger received 60% of the vote to opponent James McGovern's 40% in the race to challenge freshman Rep. Tim Seip (D-Schuylkill). Hornberger defeated incumbent Bob Allen in the 2006 primary only to lose to Seip in the general election.

130th District Republican Primary- Richard Gokey won a three-way Republican primary race to challenge freshman Rep. David Kessler (D-Berks). Gokey received 43% of the vote, defeating opponents Aaron Durso and Billy Reed. Reed knocked off incumbent Dennis Leh in the 2006 primary election only to lose to Kessler in that year's general election.

145th District Democratic Primary- Tom Peterson won the Democratic primary with 55% of the vote over opponent Brian Kline to challenge Rep. Paul Clymer (R-Bucks) in November.

163rd District Democratic Primary- Kevin Lee won the Democratic primary with 59% of the vote over opponent Robert Cassidy to challenge Rep. Nick Micozzie (R-Delaware) in the fall.

171st District Democratic Primary- Joanne Tosti-Vasey received 55% of the vote in the Democratic primary to opponent Tim Wilson's 45%. She will go on to challenge Rep. Kerry Benninghoff (R-Centre) in the general election.

172nd District Democratic Primary- Richard Costello received 57% of the vote in the Democratic primary to defeat his opponent Tim Kearney. Costello will challenge former House Speaker and state Rep. John Perzel (R-Philadelphia) in November.

179th District Democratic Primary- Freshman Rep. Tony Payton (D-Philadelphia) was victorious in his primary bid, taking 61% of the vote to opponent Guy Lewis's 39%.

180th District Democratic Primary- Rep. Angel Cruz (D-Philadelphia) defeated primary challenger Jonathan Ramos, receiving 55% of the vote.

182nd District Democratic Primary- Rep. Babette Josephs (D-Philadelphia) won her primary bid over two opponents, receiving 60% of the vote.

184th District Democratic Primary- Rep. Bill Keller (D-Philadelphia) was victorious over opponent Christian DiCicco, taking 60% of the vote.

186th District Democratic Primary- In one of the couple of instances where an incumbent was defeated, Rep. Harold James (D-Philadelphia) lost his primary bid to Kenyatta Johnson. Johnson, a former Senate aide and community activist, received 66% of the vote.

187th District Primary- In the election to replace retiring freshman Rep. Carl Mantz (R-Berks), Republican Gary Day received 69% of the vote to get the nomination over opponent Allen Cerullo. Day will face Democrat John Ritter, who defeated Richard Stine in that party's primary.

190th District Democratic Primary- The other of the two incumbents knocked out on primary day was Rep. Tom Blackwell (D-Philadelphia). He lost his write-in campaign to Vanessa Brown, who is unopposed in the general election. Blackwell's nominating petition was voided by a judge earlier this year.

193rd District Republican Primary- Will Tallman received the Republican nomination to replace retiring Rep. Steve Nickol (R-Adams). Tallman defeated opponent Mike Rishel with 55% of the vote. He will face Democrat Neil Clifford in the general election this fall.

198th District Democratic Primary- Rep. Rosita Youngblood (D-Philadelphia) was victorious on primary day, defeating opponent Byron Davis with 64% of the vote.