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POLITICS

Peltola adds to lead in tight Alaska Senate race

Democratic challenger moves ahead of incumbent Sen. Sullivan by 4,250 votes in latest tally.

Alex DeMarban
Anchorage Daily News

Democrat Mary Peltola late Tuesday continued to grow her lead over Republican U.S. Sen. Dan S. Sullivan in Alaska's Senate race, after the state Division of Elections released its latest batch of preliminary election results.

Tens of thousands of early and absentee ballots have yet to be counted after the Nov. 3 election, and a winner may not be known until Nov. 18. The election results are expected to be certified on Nov. 25.

The new tally on Tuesday provides the biggest update to the race in several days, but the contest remains tight.

The total ballot count now exceeds 245,000, about 25,000 more than the previous update Monday.

With the new numbers, Peltola, a former U.S. representative, leads Sullivan, a two-term Republican incumbent, by 4,250 first-choice votes, reflecting an additional 1,700 votes over Monday's gap.

Peltola has received 118,926 first-choice votes, or 49% of the vote, the latest results show.

INSIDE

Rep. Begich holds large lead in U.S. House race, but independent Hill sees possible path, **A4**

Sullivan received 114,676 votes, or 47.2% of the vote.

The Alaska contest may be one of the last congressional races decided in the U.S., after a GOP implosion in the Nov. 3 elections nationally that allowed Democrats to regain control of both the U.S. House and Senate by large margins amid voter anger over the policies of Republican President Donald Trump, including the costly Iran war.

Both the Peltola campaign and Sullivan campaign have released statements describing what they say is their path to victory, based on cast vote record data released by the Alaska Division of Elections reflecting ballot information available in last week's tallies.

Peltola had also added to her lead after a small batch of results was released Monday.

The remaining candidates on the ballot are Gerald Heikes, a Republican perennial candidate from Palmer, who is running in third with 5,318 first-choice votes, or 2.2% of the vote.

See **SENATE**, A5



A room of the Black Angus Inn on Gambell Street in Anchorage on Oct. 19.

Photos by **MARC LESTER** / ADN

HOMELESSNESS

'Better than no housing at all'

A notorious Anchorage hotel offers temporary refuge

Paula Dobbyn
Anchorage Daily News

A yellow cab idled at the entrance of the Black Angus Inn in Anchorage's Fairview neighborhood. One of the cab's doors opened and a mother with three of her six children spilled out into the fall sunshine on a bright October day.

The family juggled cardboard trays of McDonald's burgers, chicken nuggets, fries and sodas. A hotel worker scurried to hold the door open and help carry the food inside.

The woman, who didn't want her name shared publicly, said her family came to Anchorage from Samoa to care for her mother, who was in failing health. After her mother died, the family became stranded in Anchorage without the means to get back to Samoa. They stayed at Clare House, an emergency women's shelter in Spenard, until their time there ran out.

That's when the Anchorage Police Department's HOPE Team found them a spot at the Black Angus.

The family joins many others receiving temporary refuge at the Black Angus — a controversial niche the motel has provided for years, and one that homeless advocates say is increasingly vital as Anchorage's housing scarcity and affordability crisis worsens.



The Black Angus Inn is located at 1430 Gambell Street in Anchorage.

The low-budget hotel has earned a decades-old reputation for crime-related problems, lack of upkeep, bed bugs and other troubles that have prompted calls for the place to be torn down.

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POLITICS

Democrat Kreiss-Tomkins' lead grows in governor's race

Former Sitka lawmaker's campaign projects a majority of first-choice votes, avoiding ranked choice tabulation.

Iris Samuels
Anchorage Daily News

Democrat Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins saw his lead grow in Alaska's governor's race after roughly 25,000 additional ballots were counted Tuesday.

Just over 245,000 ballots have been counted so far. Tens of thousands of votes remain to be tallied in the coming days.

Kreiss-Tomkins, a former lawmaker from Sitka, is on track to be Alaska's first Democratic governor in more than two decades.

With 49.9% of the votes counted so far, Kreiss-Tomkins is ahead of three Republican candidates in a race to replace Gov. Mike Dunleavy, who is termed out from seeking reelection after eight years in office.

INSIDE

Several races for Alaska Legislature are too close to call in early results, **A19**

Businesswoman Bernadette Wilson has 28.8% of votes counted as of Monday; former Anchorage Mayor Dave Bronson has 14%; and former Attorney General Treg Taylor had 7.3%.

Under Alaska's ranked choice voting system, if enough of Taylor's and Bronson's supporters ranked Wilson, she could overtake Kreiss-Tomkins to win. But preliminary ballot data shows that Wilson did not receive enough support to move ahead of the Democrat.

Wilson has not conceded the race, nor has Kreiss-Tomkins claimed victory. But his campaign projected on Tuesday that once all ballots will be counted, Kreiss-Tomkins will have a majority of first-choice votes, avoiding a ranked-choice tabulation altogether.

Alaska has among the fastest transition periods of all 50 states. The new governor is expected to be sworn in on Dec. 7, less than three weeks after ballot-counting concludes.

Ahead of the election, Kreiss-Tomkins called the timeline "whiplash-y" and said that if he is on track to win, he would begin working on assembling his cabinet even before a winner is formally declared.

"The responsible thing to do would be to start to pursue transition-related planning, even if there's not a guarantee that we're the eventual winner, so that we're

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NATION

House Republicans quash effort to impeach Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth

Democrats could mount another challenge in January.

Konstantin Toropin, Ben Finley and Joey Cappelletti
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The House on Tuesday turned aside a resolution to impeach Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth, halting an effort to remove the Pentagon chief for his conduct in office and his handling of the war in Iran.

The vote came as Republicans grapple with the fallout from sweeping midterm losses that some in the party have blamed on the war in Iran and the resulting surge in gas prices. But after President Donald Trump signaled strong support for Hegseth, GOP lawmakers largely stood by the secretary Tuesday, blocking the effort in a near party-line vote.

The effort was led by Kentucky Republican Rep. Thomas Massie and backed by Democrats. The vote Tuesday may only delay an impeachment push against Hegseth, with Democrats set to take control of the House and Senate in January.

House Democratic leader Hakeem Jeffries, who is expected to become the next speaker when Democrats

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