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Democrats set to take Congress in sweeping rebuke of Trump

Once unthinkable, even deep red states turn on GOP, down to state houses in Texas and Iowa

By Jim Puzzanghera and Tal Kopan
GLOBE STAFF

WASHINGTON — Democrats were on the cusp of gaining firm control of both the House and Senate Tuesday in a blue wave that swamped even deep red states, giving the party significant new power to oppose President Trump as voters delivered a clear rebuke of his policies.

Though results in key states were still being counted, Democratic candidates pulled off stunning victories in staunchly red states, including Iowa, Kansas, Ohio, South Carolina and Texas, and appeared poised to not only flip the House as well, but govern with comfortable majorities.

"Today begins the great American comeback," declared New York Democratic Representative Hakeem Jeffries, who is in line to be the next House speaker and make history as the first Black person to hold that job.

The historic election reflected Trump's record-low approval ratings, which dragged down Republicans across the country, allowing Democrats to compete in many more districts than they initially targeted and to topple GOP senators in states once thought unreachable.

"I think we just made some history," said Annie Andrews, a pediatrician who flipped the South Carolina Senate seat by defeating recently appointed Republican Darline Graham. "South Carolina, you have shown the nation what is possible. You have shown the nation that in this era of partisan divides, of vitriol and name calling, in a politics dominated by billionaires and special interest groups and insiders in Washington, D.C., that we will not bow down."

Trump showed little signs of self-reflection as results came in.

"I wasn't on the Ballot and if I was, we would have won IN A LANDSLIDE!," Trump wrote on Truth Social in a signed post. He also told The New York Times that he would accept the results and would work with the Democrats.

In addition to winning Republican-held Senate seats in the Carolinas, the Associated Press projected, Democrats flipped seats in Ohio, Kansas, Texas, and Iowa as they leveraged Trump's plummeting popularity caused by rising prices from his tariffs and war with Iran. They needed to win four Republican-held seats to win the majority.

"Tonight, we showed the country that when everyday people come together, we can make change," former North Carolina Democratic governor Roy Cooper told supporters after he won his race.

Democrats also flipped at least 12 Republican-held House seats, according to the Associated Press, and were poised to win multiple others that

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CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: MIC SMITH/ASSOCIATED PRESS, CHIP SOMODEVILLA/GETTY IMAGES, JESSICA RINALDI/GLOBE STAFF

It was a night for Democrats across the country, from Governor Maura Healey and Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll, to Annie Andrews in South Carolina, to revelers in Austin, Texas.

MAINE

After decades in office, Collins is toppled

By Sam Brodey and Emma Platoff
GLOBE STAFF

BANGOR, Maine — A three-decade era in Maine and US politics appears to be at an end: Republican Senator Susan Collins, the consummate political survivor and prolific legislator first elected in 1996, conceded her race to Democrat Troy Jackson, on a night when Democrats across the country control of the Senate and House amid a historic midterm performance.

"I called Troy Jackson tonight to congratulate him and to assure him that my staff and I will work to ensure a smooth transition," Collins said in an email to supporters. "It has been the honor of my life to serve the people of Maine in the United States Senate. I'm proud of all I have been able to accomplish for our state and for our country in the past 30 years."

The marquee showdown was initially seen as pivotal to determine control of the Senate. But now, with Democrats so far flipping seats in six states, Collins instead was relegated to being another casualty of an angry electorate on a disastrous night for Republicans.

The five-term Collins, the only incumbent Republican in a state Kamala Harris won in 2024, has defied political gravity before, and her party is

MAINE, Page A6

MASSACHUSETTS

Healey wins reelection, sets sights on second term

By Samantha J. Gross and Chris Van Buskirk
GLOBE STAFF

Governor Maura Healey, who built her political brand on opposing President Trump and cast this election as a referendum on the president, clinched a second term Tuesday, beating back a challenge from a wealthy Republican challenger whom she repeatedly tied to the unpopular Republican leader.

Healey, a Democratic former attorney general, positioned herself as a bulwark against Trump amid a national wave of dissatisfaction with the president's war in Iran and rising costs for which she argued Trump was to blame.

The Associated Press projected Healey as the winner over GOP challenger Michael Minogue at 8:01 p.m., one minute after polls closed Tuesday.

In her victory speech to a crowded ballroom at the Fairmont Copley Plaza in Boston's Back Bay, Healey drove home her campaign promise of tackling affordability and the state's housing crisis. She walked onto the stage to "All I Do Is Win" by DJ Khaled.

"I may not get it right every time. You may disagree with some of the decisions I make, but I promise you this: I'm going to work my hardest every single day," she told the crowd. "That starts with lowering your costs."

Healey focused her campaign on fashioning Minogue as a proxy for the president. Minogue put nearly $20 million of his own wealth into his first campaign, smashing campaign finance records and

HEALEY, Page A7

ISSUES

Nine questions generate more heat than usual

This story was reported by Jon Chesto, Karyna Cheung, Sean Cotter, Kelly Garrity, Dana Gerber, Samantha Gross, John Hilliard, Emma Platoff, Kate Selig, Lea Skene, Matt Stout, and Chris Van Buskirk of the Globe staff. It was written by Hilliard.

The nine questions on Tuesday's ballot proved to be the most closely watched state contests this fall in an election with few competitive races. Groups opposing or supporting the measures reported raising roughly $25 million and divisions between some yes or no votes sparked heated debates.

"The ballot questions are more interesting than voting for" a candidate, said Daniel Dangond, 28, an unenrolled voter in Cambridge, "because it feels like in a state like Massachusetts, it doesn't really matter who you vote for."

Voters had never faced more ballot initiatives, which included questions about state primaries, public records, gun restrictions, and repealing the legalization of recreational marijuana. The questions served as an opportunity for voters to take action on a number of significant issues that had stalled on Beacon Hill.

QUESTIONS, Page A7

Big turnout
Numbers were particularly high in early voting across the country. **A5.**

Koh wins
He'd be first Asian American elected to represent Mass. in Congress. **B1.**

Markey cruises
The senator turned back challengers' criticism about his age. **B1.**

The United States will stop providing $4 billion in aid each year to Israel in 2027 but will sell arms to its closest ally in the Middle East, President Trump said. **A4.**

With politicians fighting over The Cheesecake Factory, food writer Devra First decided it was her duty to head to the restaurant and experience it. What did she find? **G1.**

The Patriots sound like a team that's not looking to swing for the fences when it comes to the 4 p.m. trade deadline next Tuesday, Ben Volin writes. **C1.**

Newport's real-life Eloise, Marlen Scalzi, now 74, grew up living in the Hotel Viking, dining on room service, and mingling with its high-profile guests. **B5.**

Count on it

Wednesday: Amazingly warm. High 72-77. Low 56-61.

Thursday: And again. High 72-77. Low 59-64.

Weather and Comics, G6-7.

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