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SPORTS, 1S

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WORK ON GATEWAY PROJECT HALTED BECAUSE OF PAUSE ON FEDERAL FUNDS



Workers are seen near a gantry at the Tonnelle Avenue project site in North Bergen on Feb. 4, the day New Jersey and New York sued in an effort to get the funding restored. KEVIN R. WEXLER/NORTHJERSEY.COM

Mejia claims primary victory

900 votes back in NJ-II, Malinowski concedes

Katie Sobko
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Activist Analilia Mejia claimed victory in the special Democratic primary election for New Jersey's 11th Congressional District seat after former Rep. Tom Malinowski conceded to her.

"I think the message coming out of this race is that people power can win," Mejia said, speaking at a press event in Montclair on Tuesday, Feb. 10.

The former campaign manager for Sen. Bernie Sanders, who had earned his endorsement and that of New York's Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, said this race has proved that people want representatives who will listen and "prioritize your interests over special interests."

The results in the race to fill the seat left vacant by Gov. Mikie Sherrill are not official.

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Analilia Mejia takes the stage at her primary night party at Porta in Montclair.

MICHAEL KARAS/NORTHJERSEY.COM

Rail tunnel laborers fume over layoffs

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NORTH BERGEN - Lamonte Richardson had a feeling of déjà vu last week when he went home to tell his family and three school-age children that he had been laid off from his job as a shop steward on the Gateway rail tunnel project, halted because of a pause on federal funds.

The Newark resident had to do the same thing 16 years ago - when ARC, the predecessor project to Gateway, was suddenly terminated by then-New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie.

"Being laid off sporadically like that out of nowhere is detrimental to me, my fellow members and my family," Richardson, a member of Local 472, the union for heavy and general construction of the Laborers' International Union of North America, said on Mon-

day, Feb. 9. "I don't understand what the holdup is."

The \$16 billion Gateway program, the largest federally funded infrastructure project in U.S. history, was supposed to be the very symbol of stability and economic promise - and send a message that the U.S. could successfully build large-scale civil works projects on time and on budget.

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NJ will keep \$1B after feds abandon school DEI demands

Mary Ann Koruth
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In a win for New Jersey, the state has retained \$1 billion in approved federal funding for K-12 public schools that the Trump administration said it would withhold if states did not comply with its demand that schools certify that their "DEI practices" are lawful.

The settlement by the attorneys general of New Jersey and 18 other states "will prevent the federal government from unlawfully withholding over \$1 billion in critical federal funding to state and local education agencies in New Jersey," Jennifer Davenport, the state's acting attorney general, said in a statement on Monday, Feb. 9.

The Trump administration basically abandoned the demands after a federal

District Court in Maryland in a parallel lawsuit ruled against the directive.

The administration agreed that the Maryland court's decision also applies to New Jersey and the other states in the multistate lawsuit.

"In New Jersey, we will continue to stand against the Trump administration's relentless - and illegal - attacks on our most vulnerable residents," Gov. Mikie Sherrill said. "The U.S. Depart-

ment of Education's nonsensical decision to cut off funds for our schools is an affront to hardworking families across our state, especially those in need of specialized education services."

Nineteen Democratic-led states sued U.S. Education Secretary Linda McMahon over an April 3 directive sent to state education commissioners saying

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