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ANALYSIS

Trump says victory is near in Iran war



President Donald Trump declared “swift, decisive, overwhelming victories” in Iran in his address to the nation April 1.

ALEX BRANDON/POOL VIA GETTY IMAGES

Presidential order on ballots gets backlash

Sherrill vows to protect rights of state’s voters

Katie Sobko

NorthJersey.com

USA TODAY NETWORK – NEW JERSEY

How would a new executive order from President Donald Trump – aiming to alter the way mail-in ballots are distributed – affect New Jersey?

The order would require the federal Department of Homeland Security and the Social Security Administration to create lists of all the citizens in each state eligible to vote and require the post office to send mail-in ballots only to those people.

After those federal agencies compile the list, it would be sent to the chief election official in each state. Lt. Gov. Dale Caldwell, who also serves as New Jersey secretary of state, would be that person.

The order also calls on the Postal Service to review ballot designs.

Trump alleges in the order that these “additional measures are necessary” to avoid voter fraud. The president voted by mail last week in Florida.

Gov. Mikie Sherrill said in a statement that the “Constitution is clear: states run elections, not the federal government,” going on to say the order “does nothing to strengthen election integrity and is designed to make it harder for eligible citizens to vote.”

“New Jersey has administered safe, secure, and accessible voting for generations,” she said. “Our vote-by-mail system works. Millions of New Jerseyans – Republicans, Democrats, and unaffiliated voters alike – rely on it. The president himself has cast ballots by mail.”

She concluded by saying that “any problem with mail-in ballots would be caused by Trump himself” and that she will “take every action available to protect New Jerseyans’ fundamental voting rights.”

That stance was shared by New Jersey Attorney General Jennifer Davernport, who said in a statement that elections are run by the states “not the

U.S. may leave behind messy situation

Susan Page

USA TODAY

On Day 33 of the war with Iran, President Donald Trump declared victory was at hand. Almost.

In a prime-time address from the White House on April 1, Trump extolled what he called “swift, decisive, overwhelming victories on the battlefield” – victories so decisive he suggested the war would wind down after an additional two or three weeks of military strikes that could “bring them back to the stone ages, where they belong.”

“We are on track to complete all of

America’s military objectives shortly, very shortly,” he said.

But Trump made it clear that he is prepared to leave a messy and problematic situation behind.

The 19-minute speech included no new details about the war’s course and no more than a passing reference to the possibility of negotiated settlement.

But he also didn’t mention the possibility of expanding the war by deploying the thousands of U.S. ground forces now being massed in the region. And he recast what had been described as a fundamental goal – to gain control of the highly enriched uranium now bur-

Inside

Resistance, skepticism greet address on Iran. **3A**

President fires Bondi as U.S. attorney general. **5A**

ied in Iranian territory – as a step he no longer sees as necessary.

The sites were under “intensive satellite surveillance and control” and U.S. forces could return to the region if Iran tried to retrieve the enriched uranium, he said. (That surveillance has been underway for years, well before the war began.)

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NJ-11 congressional candidates trade barbs in debate

William Westhoven

Morristown Daily Record

USA TODAY NETWORK – NEW JERSEY

As one candidate put it, voters who tuned in to a debate between candidates to replace Gov. Mikie Sherrill in Congress on April 1 heard “two very clear, very different visions for the future.”

On the left was Democrat Analilia Mejia, a labor and political organizer from Glen Ridge who beat long odds to win a 12-candidate primary on Feb. 10 in a field that included former New Jersey Rep. Tom Malinowski and former Lt. Gov. Tahesha Way. On the right was Re-

publican Joe Hathaway, a Randolph councilman and former mayor who was unopposed in the primary for a special election scheduled for April 16 in New Jersey’s 11th Congressional District.

Mejia, in attack mode from her opening statement, tied Hathaway to his support of Donald Trump, “who derides any idea that helps people as radical, and will vote in lockstep with the very same people who are making your daily life increasingly unaffordable, and have thrown us into a reckless war.”

Hathaway, standing throughout the 75-minute clash, attempted to paint Mejia as a left-wing, radical socialist

whose progressive policies “are completely out of touch with everyday people in this district.”

The debate, sponsored by the New Jersey Globe and the Rebovich Institute for New Jersey Politics at Rider University, comes just weeks before the special election to fill the unexpired 11th Congressional District term of Sherrill, who resigned after being elected governor last November.

Repeatedly accusing her of antisemitism, he said Mejia’s vision of the future “is one that will leave us less safe, less

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Special-election candidates in the 11th Congressional District are progressive activist Analilia Mejia, left, the Democratic nominee, and Randolph Township Councilman Joe Hathaway, the Republican nominee.

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