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ELECTION 2026

Survive and advance



Gov. Mikie Sherrill exits after voting in the 11th District special election on April 16 in Montclair. The winner will have to survive another primary and general election before the end of the year. JULIAN LESHAY GUADALUPE/NORTHJERSEY.COM

Lebanon and Israel reach 10-day ceasefire

Trump says he'll invite leaders to White House

Cybele Mayes-Osterman, Christopher Cann, Andrea Riquier, Zac Anderson and Michael Loria
USA TODAY

Israel and Lebanon have agreed to a 10-day ceasefire, President Donald Trump announced on April 16, a move that could temporarily ease a conflict that has threatened the two-week truce between the United States and Iran.

Trump said Lebanese President Joseph Aoun and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu agreed to a temporary truce that was to begin at 5 p.m. ET on April 16. The president added that he will invite the two leaders to the White House for "the first meaningful talks between Israel and Lebanon since 1983."

"Both sides want to see PEACE, and I believe that will happen, quickly!" Trump wrote on social media. Trump told reporters the agreement will include Hezbollah.

Hours after the announcement, many questions remained. Netanyahu said he agreed to the truce but vowed not to remove troops from southern Lebanon.

He said there's an opportunity to make a "historic" deal with Lebanon but added the dismantling of Hezbollah remains a central condition for any long-term agreement.

Hezbollah, the Iranian-backed militia that holds significant power in Lebanon, said any agreement must not allow Israeli troops "freedom of movement." Senior Hezbollah lawmaker Hassan Fadlallah told Reuters on April 16 that the group's decision to abide by the 10-day ceasefire will depend on whether Israel commits to halting all forms of hostilities.

Lebanon's Prime Minister Nawaf Salam welcomed the ceasefire, describing it as a central demand that his country has pursued since the start of the Israel-Hezbollah war. Salam thanked regional and international countries for their efforts in advancing the ceasefire, including the United States, France and other European Union countries, as well as Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Qatar and Jordan.

After the ceasefire between Washington and Iran was brokered, Israel launched its deadliest attack on Lebanon since its war with Hezbollah began. Iran and Pakistan said the ceasefire had extended to Lebanon, which the United States and Israel repeatedly denied.

The Israeli military campaign in Lebanon has killed more than 2,100 people and displaced more than 1.2 million others, according to Lebanon's health ministry. Hezbollah attacks have killed two Israeli civilians and 13 Israeli soldiers in Lebanon since March 2, Israel says.

Trump's announcement comes as the ceasefire between the United States and Iran is set to expire April 22. Secretary of War Pete Hegseth on April 16 ramped up the pressure for a long-term peace deal, saying the U.S.

Why the 11th District special election won't be the final vote

William Westhoven
Morristown Daily Record
USA TODAY NETWORK - NEW JERSEY

Voters in New Jersey's 11th Congressional District were due at the polls on April 16 to choose their new representative in Washington, a successor to Mikie Sherrill, who left the seat to become governor.

But for the victor, a win will be the political equivalent of a temp job. Either Republican Joe Hathaway or Democrat Analilia Mejia - the two main contenders in Thursday's vote - will have to survive another primary and general election before the end of the year to stay in office.

Mejia, a veteran labor organizer and former campaign staffer for U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders, already faces three



Analilia Mejia and Joe Hathaway
NORTHJERSEY.COM FILE PHOTOS

challengers for her party's nomination in the next contest in June.

Given the Democrats' 60,000-voter registration advantage in the suburban North Jersey district, and political tailwinds favoring Democrats in the second Trump administration, Mejia was considered a favorite by many pundits to take the special election.

In addition to Hathaway, she faced independent candidate Alan Bond of Montclair, who has touted his business background and leadership with his local church food pantry, in the special election.

In February, Mejia emerged as the long-shot winner of a special primary with 13 Democrats on the ballot, including former Rep. Tom Malinowski

More online

See **NorthJersey.com** for results, commentary and analysis on the April 16 special election.

See **ELECTION, Page 5A**

NJ Transit president gets greater power to set policy for World Cup

Katie Sobko
NorthJersey.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - NEW JERSEY

NJ Transit President and CEO Kris Kolluri can now make unilateral decisions for the agency when it comes to preparing for the 2026 FIFA World Cup.

The tournament is set to start in East Rutherford in less than two months, and MetLife Stadium - under its temporary new name - will play host to eight matches, including the final.

Tens of thousands of fans from around the world are expected to descend on the region as a result, and with time being of the essence, the agency's board voted late on April 15 to provide Kolluri with more power.

He is now "authorized to enter into contracts, execute agreements, negotiate agreements with labor units, set promotional fares, request, transfer and expend

funds, set or adjust service levels, utilize assets, settle claims and disputes, obtain insurance, and take any actions deemed necessary and appropriate" to support the agency's services for the tournament, according to a resolution endorsed by the transportation agency's board.

The action was taken because the "once in a generation event for New Jersey" will require tens of thousands of fans to use the rail service on the

See **NJ TRANSIT, Page 5A**

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