Napier's edge at James Madison? An environment he never had at FL

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Strait of Hormuz opened amid two-week ceasefire

Iran announced on April 17 that the Strait of Hormuz is opened to commercial vessels following a ceasefire agreement between Israel and Lebanon. REUTERS FILE

Trump says naval blockade to continue

Christopher Cann, Andrea Riquier and Michael Loria
USA TODAY

Iran declared the Strait of Hormuz "completely open" to all commercial vessels, the country's foreign minister said, meeting a central demand of the United States as the two countries teased another round of peace talks and the clock wound down on a delicate two-week ceasefire.

In his April 17 announcement, Seyed Abbas Araghchi said the declaration was made possible by a separate 10-day ceasefire between Lebanon and Israel implemented the day before, which appeared to be holding.

"In line with the ceasefire in Lebanon, the passage for all commercial vessels through Strait of Hormuz is declared completely open for the remaining period of ceasefire," Araghchi wrote on X.

Iran had maintained that Israel must stop attacking Lebanon before Iranian leaders would continue peace talks with the United States.

President Donald Trump said shortly after the April 16 announcement that he may travel to Pakistan to approve a peace deal with Iran. Both Iranian and U.S. officials said another round of negotiations could soon occur, though no timetable has been set.

Despite the reopening of the strait, Trump said the naval blockade on Iran would continue until a deal is reached.

"THE STRAIT OF HORMUZ IS COMPLETELY OPEN AND READY FOR BUSINESS AND FULL PASSAGE, BUT THE NAVAL BLOCKADE

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Democrat Mejia wins NJ special election

Another primary looms in June for full term

Nicole Fallert
USA TODAY

A progressive Democrat is headed to Congress.

Analilia Mejia won a special election in New Jersey's 11th Congressional District on April 16, beating moderate Republican Joe Hathaway 59.5% to 40%, respectively, according to the Associated Press and CNN. The special election was called to fill a House seat opened by Democrat Mikie Sherrill, now the New Jersey governor, who resigned in November to run in the gubernatorial election.

Mejia

Mejia will head to Congress right away, adding a progressive voice to the U.S. House of Representatives at a time when the GOP manages a narrow majority in the chamber.

Her victory in the Democratic stronghold isn't shocking, but it does signal a progressive ticket can win, according to Amy Funck, a postdoctoral fellow in philosophy, politics and economics at the University of Pennsylvania.

"Progressives have demonstrated effectiveness in mobilizing primary voters," Funck said.

However, the party attempting to curb President Donald Trump's power in 2026 elections will need to work to tune its message going forward, she said.

"More broadly, Democrats have advantages due to the economy and backlash to actions associated with the Trump administration, but internal divisions remain a vulnerability," she said.

"If Democrats want to take the House this fall, they need to first get their own house in order."

Mejia emerged as the nominee in the February primary after the American Israel Public Affairs Committee poured more than $2 million into opposing Mejia's chief competitor, moderate Democratic former Rep. Tom Malinowski. Mejia's campaign lead the race in fundraising and was endorsed by a broad coalition of Democrats, including Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren and New York Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez.

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