Virginia rejects 'Trumpism' as Dems score major victories

By STEVE PEOPLES and ALAN SUDERMAN

Associated Press

RICHMOND, Va. — Seizing his party's first major Trump-era victory, Democrat Ralph Northam beat back a charge from Republican Ed Gillespie in the race for Virginia governor, a bruising election that tested the power of President Donald Trump's nationalism against the energy of the Trump resistance.

In Virginia, as in several contests across America on Tuesday, the Trump resistance won. And it wasn't close.

Northam, a pediatric neurologist and Army veteran, defeated longtime Republican operative Gillespie in the hard-fought contest. "I'm here to let you know that the doctor is in," a smiling Northam told supporters gathered in suburban Washington, D.C., for his victory speech. "As long as I'm governor, I will work hard to make sure we're inclusive.'

He added, "Virginia has told us to end the divisiveness, that we do not condone hatred and bigotry and to end the polities that have torn this country apart.'

Northam's victory set off overnight recriminations and finger-pointing among Trump's hardcore supporters. The pro-Trump website Breitbart News, which had earlier praised Gillespie as a "culture warrior," derided him as a "Republican swamp thing." Jerry Falwell Jr., president of Liberty University, said Northern Virginia's voter-rich liberal suburbs should be annexed by the District of Columbia, "to return the governance of (Virginia) to Virginians."

Democrats also scored victories in the race for New Jersey governor and in Maine, where voters slapped the state's Republican governor, a Trump ally, by backing a measure to expand Medicaid coverage under former President Barack Obama's health care law. The Democratic mayors of New York and Boston, both vocal Trump critics, also won re-election easily.

And Virginia voters elected the state's first openly-transgender state representative, among more than a dozen Perez told MSNBC's "Morn-



AP Photo/Cliff Owen

Virginia Gov.-elect Ralph Northam celebrates his election victory with his wife Pam and daughter Aubrey, right, and Dorothy McAuliffe, wife of Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe.



night victory party at the Asbury Park Convention Hall.

AP Photo/Julio Cortez New Jersey gubernatorial nominee Phil Murphy celebrates while speaking to supporters during his election

state legislative pickups for Democrats.

The resounding victories marked the GOP's most significant day of defeat in the young Trump presidency and a rebuke to the president himself as his party eyes a suddenly more threatening midterm election season next year.

The Democratic gubernatorial victories in Virginia and New Jersey prompted congratulations from Obama, who tweeted Wednesday morning, "This is what happens when the people vote." Obama also congratulated "all the victors in state legislative, county and mayors' races."

"The Democratic Party is back, my friends," said Democratic National Committee Chairman Tom Perez.

Perez said the key to his party's success in Tueday's elections was fielding good candidates and thorough organizing efforts.

matters," "Organizing

ing Joe." "This was the most extensive, coordinated ground game in Virginia history, more extensive than any presidential ... Terry McAuliffe did a spectacular job four years ago, and

Trump immediately tried to distance himself from the loss.

they did that much more."

"Ed Gillespie worked hard but did not embrace me or what I stand for," Trump tweeted Tuesday night as he toured Asia, noting that the GOP won a handful of special elections earlier in the year. "With the economy doing record numbers, we will continue to win, even bigger than before!"

Despite the criticism, Gillespie did, in more ways than one, embrace what Trump stands for, even if he didn't welcome Trump into the state to rally voters on his behalf.

The Republican president played a marginal role in Virginia, largely because Republicans on the ground did not want him there, a state he lost last fall, as his approval ratings hover near record lows. The White House instead dispatched Vice President Mike Pence to help Gillespie, although Trump promised Gillespie would "make America great again" in a recorded phone message that went to voters on the election's final

Gillespie, a former aide to President George W. Bush and GOP presidential nominee Mitt Romney, largely reinvented himself as Election Day neared by adopting many of Trump's racially-tinged nationalist positions. Gillespie warned of the dangers of the Hispanic street gang, MS-13, and highlighted its motto, "Kill, Rape, Control" in a television ad. The New Jersey native vowed to protect Confederate monuments. And he condemned the national anthem protests by NFL players, the vast majority of them black.

Liberal activists cheered their successes as evidence of the anti-Trump energy on the ground nationwide they have long insisted was real, despite poor results in special elections in deep-red Montana, Georgia and South Carolina.

"This is the first fair fight we've had. The special elections that we've had so far have been incredibly slanted to the conservative side," said Ezra Levin, co-founder of the liberal group Indivisible, which had hundreds of volunteers and a handful of paid staff on the ground in Virginia. "There is a wave building. And 2018 is just around the corner."

In New Jersey, Democrat Phil Murphy trounced Republican Lt. Gov. Kim Guadagno, who served under the term-limited, deeply unpopular GOP Gov. Chris Christie.

Democrat with early lead in key Washington Senate race

By RACHEL LA CORTE Associated Press

OLYMPIA, Wash. — The Democrat took a strong lead in a state Senate race that will determine the balance of power at the Washington Capitol — and if the results hold Washington will join Oregon and California with Democratic one-party rule in both legislative chambers and the governor's office.

Manka Dhingra was leading Republican Jinyoung Lee Englund with 55 percent of the vote Tuesday night. Under the state's vote-by-mail system, ballots just need to be postmarked or dropped off by Tuesday, which means final results may not be known for days. The next ballot update is set for late Wednesday afternoon.

Republicans, with the help of a Democrat who caucuses with them, currently control the Senate by a single seat. Democrats hold a slim majority in the House.

The race for the 45th District, one of eight special elections for the state Legislature this year, has broken all previous legislative spending records in the state because of the significance of the outcome. As of Monday, more than \$8.7 million had been spent on the race, with much of it — about \$5.9 million — being spent by third-party

Englund said that because of the state's vote-by-mail system and the intense national focus on the race, she believes that many of the district's inundated voters got



Mike Siegel/The Seattle Times Democrat Manka Dhingra, running for state Senator for the 45th District, greets supporters in Woodinville, Wash., Tuesday.

their ballots in later and that the gap will tighten as more votes are counted.

"This is a very big decision" for voters, she said. "The race isn't about me. It's about the balance of power."

But Dhingra said she was confident the results would hold, calling it "a victory by a very wide margin." She said that while she

believes voters had more than President Donald Trump on their mind while casting their ballots, but said she does believe that the national political environment helped energize voters.

"I think people are realizing they cannot be bystanders anymore," she said. "I think this is what you get when people are awake and paying attention.'

Dhingra, a 43-year-old senior deputy prosecuting attorney with the King County Prosecutor's Office, also had a 10-point lead over Englund in August's top-two primary as both advanced to the November ballot.

Smith Lake Improvement Association in partnership with

Clatsop County Sheriff's Office will be hosting a public safety forum

Topic to be addressed: Current criminal activity in the community.

Thursday November 9th · 7-8 pm

Warrenton High School Library 1700 S. Main Warrenton

Northwest Hardwoods • Longview, WA Contact: John Anderson • 360-269-2500

THE DAILY **ASTORIAN**

BCHEDULE

Evening listings WEDNESDAY

WEDNESDAY EVENING						A - Charter Astoria/ Seaside - L - Charter Long Beach				November 8				
Α	L	6 рм	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 рм	8:30	9 РМ	9:30	10 рм	10:30	11 рм	11:30	
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