News World News Briefs

Democrats Hope For 'Blue Wave' Push From 8-State Primary Day

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Holding hopes of a "blue wave" in November, Democrats fought to shape the political battlefield in primaries across eight states, none more important than California where Republicans avoided an embarrassing setback in the race for governor.

Lt. Gov. Gavin Newsom, a Democrat, easily advanced on Tuesday to the general election, with business executive John Cox coming in second. Cox's strong finish put to rest GOP fears that no Republican would qualify for the deeply Democratic state's top office this fall and the party's other candidates would suffer from a resulting lack of voter interest on election day.

The governor's race was one of many drawing attention to California, a state not accustomed to being a national po-



In this Jan. 25, 2017 file photo protesters hold signs as they yell at a rally outside of City Hall in San Francisco. Immigration is one of the major issues between the gubernatorial candidates in the June primary. Republicans John Cox and Travis Allen are opposed to California's "sanctuary state" legislation while Democratic candidates, Gavin Newsom, Antonio Villaraigosa, John Chiang and Delaine Eastin support it and say California must do al it can to stand up for immigrants. litical battleground. But its handful of competitive House races — largely in Southern California — have made it hotly contested territory in the fight over control of the House, drawing big money and the spotlight on the biggest primary night of midterms.

Voters in seven other states went to the polls Tuesday. And it was a big night for women, as female candidates for governor advanced. Democratic incumbents, including California's Sen. Dianne Feinstein, fared well, fending off challenges from the left.

Neither party immediately appeared to suffer major setbacks. Yet the winners and losers in California's most competitive races could take days to sort out given the state's unique election laws.

Spade Remembered as Vibrant and Colorful, Like Her Creations

NEW YORK (AP) — Bright. Vibrant. Colorful. And, most essentially, fun.

The same words used so often to describe Kate Spade's enormously popular handbags — "It" bags that were both aspirational and affordable — were an apt description of the woman herself, say many in the fashion world. And that only contributed to the sense of shock and loss in the industry upon hearing the news Tuesday that Spade had apparently taken her own life at 55.

"She was always just as happy and delightful as her collection was," said Fern Mallis, industry consultant and former director of the Council of Fashion Designers of America during Spade's rise to success in the 1990s. "She was every bit the representation of that brand, and the fun of it all."

Indeed, Spade had said it herself: "I hope that people remember me not just as a good businesswoman," she told Glamour magazine in 2002, "but as a great friend — and a heck of a lot of fun."

Spade was found hanged in the bedroom of her Park Avenue apartment Tuesday morning in an apparent suicide, law enforcement officials said.

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