

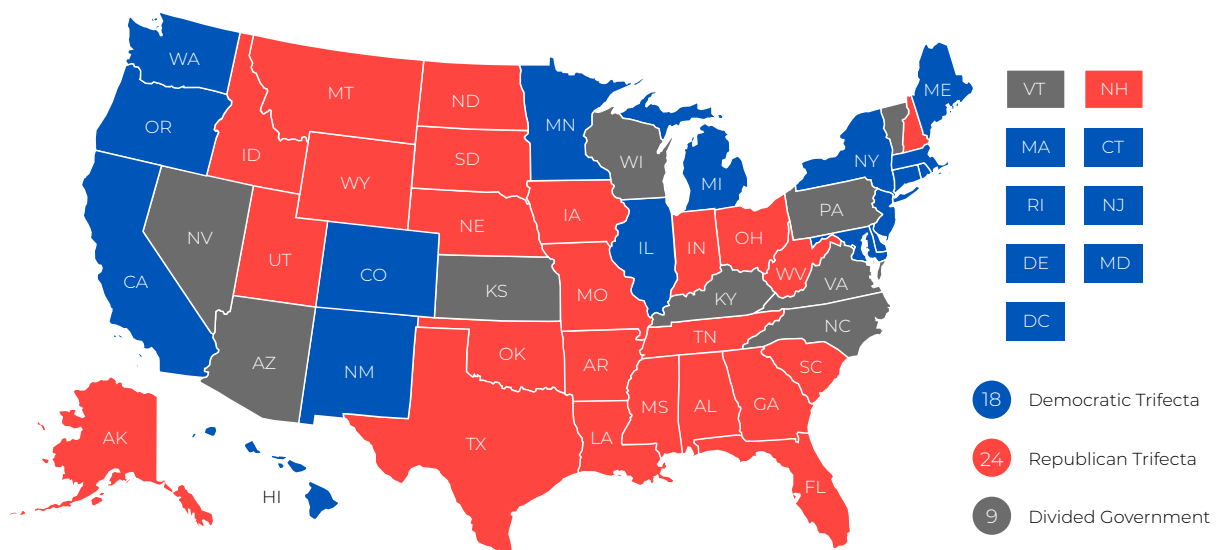
FOCUS

2023 ELECTION RESULTS

While Democrats were bracing themselves for a stressful night on Tuesday, the party ended up holding onto vulnerable seats and winning new majorities. The marquee race this year was in **Kentucky** where incumbent Democratic Gov. Andy Beshear and Republican Attorney General Daniel Cameron faced off in the most expensive race in the country. Governor Beshear comfortably won another term in the traditionally deep red state. In **Louisiana**, however, Republicans were able to win a new trifecta by flipping the governor's seat in the October 14 open primary, avoiding a runoff election later this month. Republicans were attempting to win another trifecta in **Virginia**, which Democrats staved off by taking the House and hanging onto their Senate majority. Republicans were also hoping to make inroads in the **New Jersey** legislature but Democrats again foiled their plans, picking up five seats in the Assembly. The surprisingly strong night for Democrats has cast the strength of the party in a new light and gives them reason to be optimistic heading into the 2024 elections. Abortion in particular has become a critical issue in elections around the country, with Republicans' attempts at abortion restrictions turning off moderate voters and driving Democrats to the polls.

Also on the ballot were eight special elections in eight states out of the 51 special elections that have been scheduled across the country this year. Voters also decided the fate of 27 ballot initiatives, including establishing a right to abortion in the State Constitution and legalizing cannabis in **Ohio**.

POST-ELECTION STATE PARTY CONTROL





ATTORNEYS GENERAL RACES

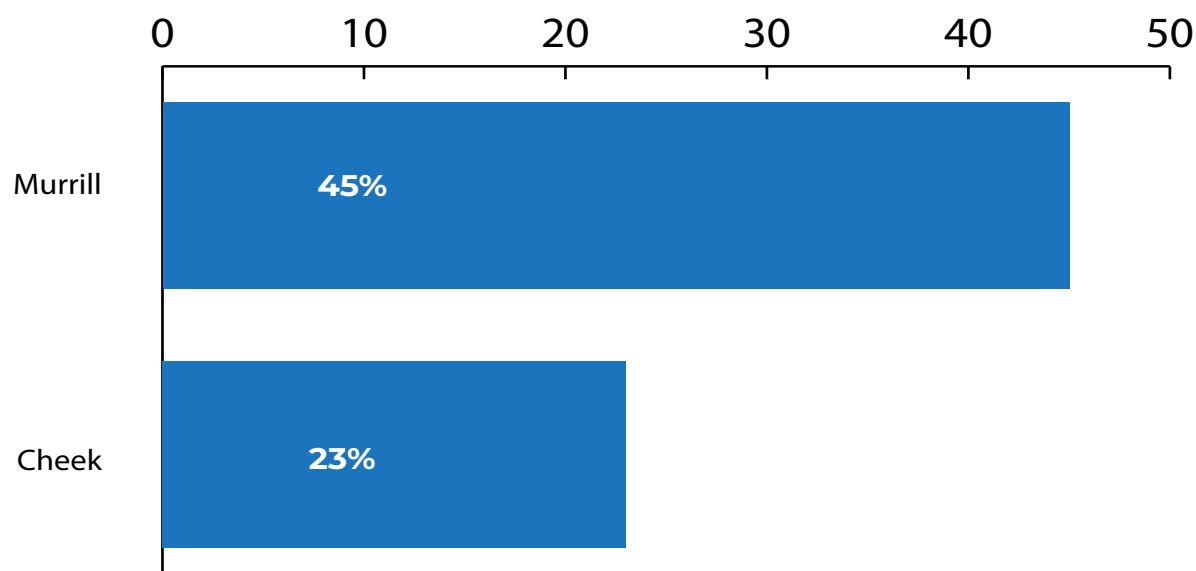
KENTUCKY

Republican Russell Coleman, former U.S. Attorney for Kentucky's Western District during the Trump administration, easily defeated Rep. Pamela Stevenson, D-Louisville, by a 58 to 42 percent margin, the [Kentucky Secretary of State](#) reports. During the campaign Coleman pledged to crackdown on violent crime telling the [Lexington Herald-Leader](#) that during his stint as U.S. Attorney "I brought every local, state and federal law enforcement agency together around a single mission: taking criminals off the streets and putting them behind bars where they belong. That's exactly what I'll do again as attorney general." Coleman, who made frequent criticisms of President Joe Biden during the campaign, has also vowed to protect state residents from Washington overreach.

LOUISIANA

Republican state Solicitor General Liz Murrill and Democratic attorney Lindsey Cheek are advancing to the November 18 runoff election after Murrill won 45 percent of the primary vote and Cheek won 23, according to the [Louisiana Illuminator](#). Murrill, considered a heavy favorite in the runoff, has served as Attorney General (now Governor-elect) Jeff Landry's deputy since 2016 and is focused on continuing similar policies to Landry's. Murrill listed her priorities as violent crime and federal overreach, reports [NOLA.com](#). In a recent voter guide, Cheek listed her priorities as criminal justice reform and dealing with the public safety crisis, namely gun violence in schools.

LOUISIANA ATTORNEY GENERAL RESULTS





MISSISSIPPI

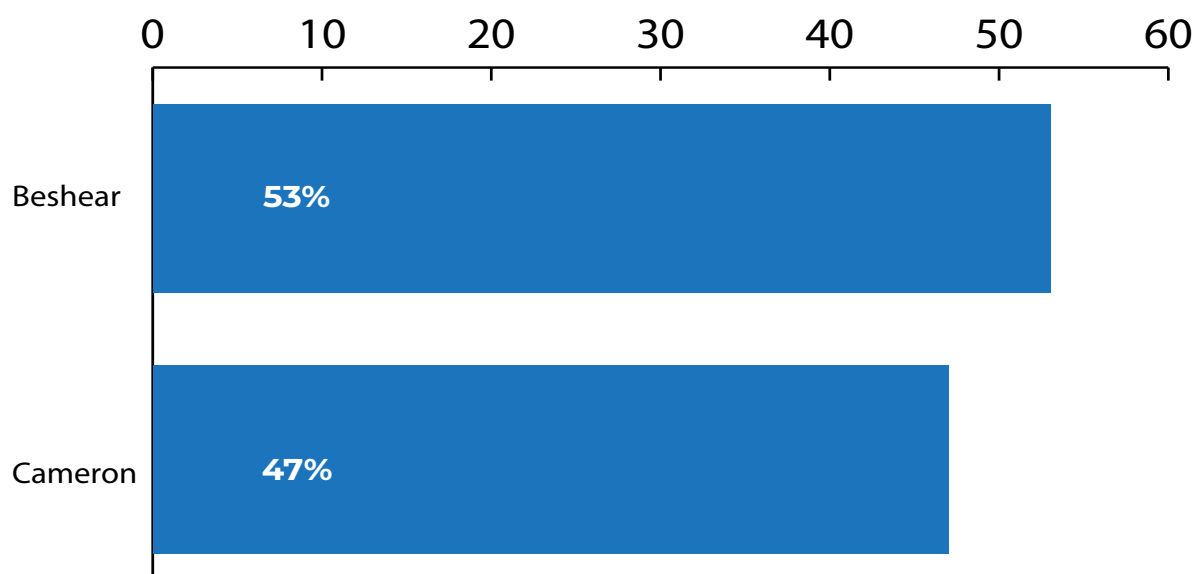
Incumbent Republican Attorney General Lynn Fitch beat Democratic challenger Greta Kemp Martin, 59 percent to 41 percent. Attorney General Fitch represented Mississippi in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*, the Supreme Court ruling that overturned *Roe v. Wade*. She also plans to increase efforts to reduce human trafficking, enact regulations protecting children from harmful online content and address drug traffic, according to [SuperTalk Mississippi Media](#).

GUBERNATORIAL ELECTIONS

KENTUCKY

Incumbent Democratic Gov. Andy Beshear defeated outgoing Republican Attorney General Daniel Cameron in the marquee matchup of this election cycle. According to the [Kentucky Secretary of State](#), Governor Beshear and running mate Lt. Gov. Jaqueline Coleman garnered 53 percent of the vote compared to 47 percent for Cameron and running mate Robert Mills. The contest was the most expensive in the country with almost \$74 million being spent between both candidates and various interest groups, the [Lexington Herald-Leader](#) reports. Throughout the campaign Beshear touted the state's economic growth and his leadership during a number of crises including the recent flooding in Eastern Kentucky. Cameron had repeatedly sought to tie Beshear to President Joe Biden, who lost the state by double digits during the 2020 election. Beshear faces deep opposition in the Republican controlled legislature with Senate Majority Leader Damon Thayer, R-Georgetown, telling reporters "There's no incentive or reason for us to work with him."

KENTUCKY GUBERNATORIAL ELECTION RESULTS





LOUISIANA

Republicans flipped control of the governor's mansion on October 14 when Republican Attorney General Jeff Landry won 52 percent of the vote in the open primary, avoiding a November runoff election, according to [Politico](#). Landry was backed by former President Donald Trump and focused on crime during his campaign. With Landry's win, Louisiana will become a Republican trifecta state.

MISSISSIPPI

Incumbent Republican Gov. Tate Reeves won reelection against Democratic challenger Brandon Presley. Governor Reeves won 51.8 percent of the vote, avoiding a runoff election. This will be Governor Reeves' second and final term, according to [Mississippi Today](#). Despite Reeves' struggling approval ratings, largely due to a state welfare fraud scandal, Republicans maintain their trifecta in the state.

LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS

LOUISIANA

The October 14 open primary saw 27 Republicans and 10 Democrats win seats in the Senate, with two races advancing to a November 18 runoff, both of which only have single-party candidates, one all Republican and one all Democrat. This means Republicans will hold a 28-11 majority in the Senate, a net gain of one seat for the GOP, reports [KTBS](#).

In the House, 60 Republicans and 27 Democrats won on October 14, leaving 18 races to the runoff election. Counting single-party races yet to be decided, Republicans have locked in 69 seats to Democrats' 31. Republicans will need to win three more seats to expand their supermajority beyond the current 71-33 makeup.

MISSISSIPPI

As widely predicted, Republicans maintained their supermajorities in both chambers. In the Senate, Republicans maintained their seats and Democrats won one additional seat from an Independent, bringing the Senate makeup to 36 Republicans to 16 Democrats. In the House, Republicans won three new seats, bringing their total to 79, Democrats gained one seat, bringing their total to 41, and two Independents kept their seats unopposed, reports [The New York Times](#).

NEW JERSEY

With all 80 seats in the Assembly and 40 seats in the Senate up for grabs this cycle Republicans were hoping to build upon gains made during the last election. As the night progressed, however, it turned into a pretty disappointing night for the GOP. According to [NJ](#)

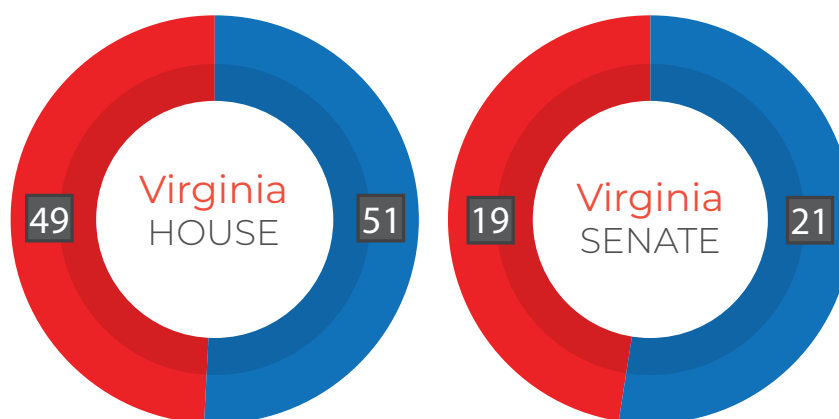


[Spotlight](#), Democrats lost just one Senate seat in District 12 but balanced it out by retaking the District 3 seat once held by longtime Senate President Stephen Sweeney. The [New Jersey Globe](#) reports that Democrats will now hold a 51-29 majority in the Assembly, a gain of five seats, while the Senate will remain a 25-15 Democratic majority.

VIRGINIA

Despite Republican Gov. Glenn Youngkin's push to secure the first Republican trifecta in Virginia since 2013, Democrats were able to take the House and hold onto their Senate majority, reports [The New York Times](#). Republicans were able to reduce the blue majority in the Senate from 22-18 to 21-19, with Democrats still in control of the chamber. Democrats also won a majority in the House, winning at least 51 seats with one race still being too close to call as of November 9, reports [AP News](#). If current leads hold, Democrats will hold the chamber 51-49.

VIRGINIA LEGISLATIVE RESULTS



SPECIAL ELECTIONS

The **Florida** House District 35 primary elections were held on November 7 with Erika Booth winning close to 50 percent of the vote in the Republican primary, reports the [Orlando Sentinel](#). The Democratic primary was much closer, with Tom Keen winning 36 percent of the party vote. Booth has stated that she will “protect our children from indoctrination” and focus on fighting illegal immigration. Keen lists his priorities as funding affordable housing, improving insurance, expanding abortion access and reversing recent Republican-passed laws. The general election will be held on January 16. The seat will be up for election again in November 2024 for a full two-year term.

Kentucky held a special election to fill the House District 93 seat vacated by former Rep. Lamin Swann, D-Lexington, who passed away unexpectedly following a significant medical emergency. Democrat Adrielle Camuel, an administrative assistant in the Fayette County school system, defeated Republican Kyle Whalen, a construction entrepreneur by a 58 to 42 percent margin, the [Kentucky Secretary of State](#) reports. According to [WKYT](#), Camuel stated her plans to continuing advocating for policies such as increasing access to affordable housing that were supported by the late Representative Swann.

Maine held a special election to fill the House District 50 seat vacated by the resignation



of former Rep. Sean Paulhus, D-Bath. As only one candidate ran in the special election, the results are uncontested, reports [The New York Times](#). Democrat David Sinclair, an attorney and former Bath City Council member, will fill the seat, noting that his main focus will be on affordable housing.

Massachusetts Republicans managed to flip the Senate Worcester and Hampshire District from Democratic control. Rep. Peter Durant, R-Spencer, won the seat against Rep. Jonathan Zlotnik, D-Gardner. This is a major victory for state Republicans, who have flipped a seat that has been held by Democrats for over five decades, reports [WGBH](#). Representative Durant will now head to the Senate, where he has pledged to stem illegal immigration and protect the Second Amendment.

New Hampshire Democrat Paige Beauchemin won the special election for House Hillsborough 3, reports [WMUR](#). Beauchemin, a registered nurse, beat Republican David Narkunas, who lost a special election in May for another seat in the Third District, reports [The Nashua Telegraph](#). The Democrat's win narrows the Republican's slim House majority to 198-197, with two Independents.

Rhode Island Senate District 1 Democratic candidate Jake Bissaillon easily defeated Republican Niyoka Powell with more than 80 percent of the vote, according to the [Rhode Island Current](#). Bissaillon, the chief of staff to the Senate president, campaigned on stricter gun laws and progressive tax reforms.

South Carolina Rep. Deon Tedder, D-Charleston, won the special election for Senate District 42, [ABC News 4](#) reports. The election will not change the partisan balance of the chamber, leaving it at 30 Republicans, 14 Democrats and one Independent.

Texas House District 2 is headed for a runoff election since no candidate won a majority of the vote. According to [The Texas Tribune](#), two Republicans are heading to a runoff in the special election to replace expelled former state Rep. Bryan Slaton, R-Royse City. The runoff rivals are Brent Money, a Greenville lawyer, and Jill Dutton, a former president of the Republican Women of Van Zandt. Brent Money led the race with 32 percent of the vote, with Jill Dutton coming in second at 25 percent. As of November 9, the secretary of state has yet to schedule the runoff.