

## TAKEAWAYS FROM TUESDAY'S PRIMARIES

# Massie's loss leaves no doubt about Trump's power over the GOP

BY JONATHAN J. COOPER, STEVE PEOPLES, HUMERA LODHI AND SIMRAN PARWANI

ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK (AP) — President Donald Trump scored another win Tuesday against a Republican rival, dislodging Rep. Thomas Massie in Kentucky's primary and knocking out one of his most outspoken critics on Capitol Hill.

Massie has been a particularly difficult thorn in Trump's side. He pushed for the release of the Jeffrey Epstein files,

opposed the war with Iran and voted against Trump's signature tax legislation last year. He lost to Trump-backed challenger Ed Gallrein following the most expensive U.S. House primary in history.

While Trump has racked up several wins this primary season, this one perhaps sends an even more forceful message to the president's Republican critics. Massie was entrenched in his deep-red Kentucky district before his feud with Trump exploded, cutting short a congressional career that began in 2012.

Still, Massie will remain

in Congress until his term ends in January, and without a Republican primary on the horizon, he now has a freer hand than ever to antagonize Trump.

Massie's defeat is another sign that Republicans give their politicians vanishingly little leeway to cross Trump, who is bent on retribution and has persuaded his voters to defeat his adversaries again and again.

Here are takeaways from primaries in Alabama, Georgia, Idaho, Kentucky, Oregon and Pennsylvania.

### TRUMP'S ENDORSEMENT

### CONTINUES TO CARRY THE DAY

Gallrein was boosted by significant spending from AIPAC and pro-Israel groups, which provided about half of the money benefiting his candidacy, according to AdImpact.

However, there's no question Trump was the key factor. He has repeatedly shown that Republican primary voters will follow his lead, even as his popularity wanes with the broader electorate.

Before Massie's loss, Republican Sen. Bill Cassidy of Louisiana failed to even

make a runoff on Saturday, unable to repair his relationship with Trump five years after voting to convict him during his second impeachment trial. And earlier this month, Trump successfully dislodged five of seven Indiana Republicans he targeted for voting against his redistricting plan.

Trump is flexing his influence in other places Tuesday.

In the race for Georgia governor, Trump backed Lt. Gov. Burt Jones in an unexpectedly ugly battle for the Republican nomination. Jones, who comes

from a wealthy Georgia family, has given his campaign \$19 million. But billionaire Rick Jackson, a healthcare tycoon, has put more than \$83 million of his fortune into the race. Trump's endorsement power has rarely been tested against that level of lopsided spending, and Jones and Jackson are heading for a June 16 runoff.

Trump stayed on the sidelines of Georgia's Senate race, leaving a crowded field of hopefuls seeking to take on Democratic Sen. Jon Ossoff, who's

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## RACES

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Lawson received 702 votes, or 31.03%.

The third person in that race, Hobart Girdler, received 426 votes, or 18.83%.

Most of the County races, except for one, are concluded with the Primary, as most races only saw Republican candidates.

The one exception was the Property Valuation Administrator, or PVA, office, which saw three Republicans vie for the party's nomination, with a Democratic candidate waiting in the wings to face them in the November election.

That Democrat is current PVA Karen Strand. She will be facing John Richard Haney, as he was the top

vote getter on the Republican side.

Haney received 5,364 votes, or 40.97%, while Ryan Godbey received 4,061 votes, or 31.02%, and Jonathan Fox received 3,666 votes, or 28.00%.

The race for Coroner took a lot of the spotlight in this election, as the person who has served in that position, Clyde Strunk, made a decision to run for Judge-Executive instead.

That left a wide-open field with four candidates seeking the seat.

Tyler Hibbard ended up on top, but with two of the three candidates close on his heels throughout the count.

Hibbard received 4,702 votes, or 35.79%, while Joshua New received 3,980 votes, or 30.30%; Danny Weddle received 3,934 votes, or 29.95%;

and Mitchell Eggers received 521, or 3.97%.

County Clerk Tim Price will remain in his position, as he received 9,340 (70.59%) votes. Opponent Rachel Turner Litteral received 3,840 (29.14%).

Likewise, incumbent Sheriff Bobby Jones retained his position, receiving 13,269 votes (63.48%) over opponent Doug Nelson, who received 4,846 (36.52%).

Jailer Anthony McCollum continues the trend of incumbents being re-elected, fending off four challengers to the position.

McCollum received 7,398 votes (56.49%); Bobby Gumm had 3,351 (25.59%); Raymond "JR" Bates II had 1,232 (9.41%); Mark Hammond had 786 (6.00%); and Thomas Stevens III had 329 (2.51%).

The 1st District Con-

stable's position will see a new person, as current Constable Danny Weddle decided to throw his hat into the ring for the Constable race.

Therefore, the new 1st District constable will be Garry S. Harness, who received 795 votes (30.25%).

He fended off five challengers: J.E. Chaney 573 (21.80%); Roger Morris 388 (14.76%); Jeremy A. Puckett 369 (14.04%); Patrick Butcher 332 (12.63%); and Leland Travis Merrick, Jr. 171 (6.51%).

Likewise, current 5th District Constable Jeff Ward did not run again, leaving that position open with five candidates filing.

Troy Hill came out on top in that race, with 623 votes (32.36%).

Unfortunately, one of the candidates in that race, Jerry Brumley, passed

away in April, although he still received 263 votes (13.66%).

The other candidates in that race were Cody Weddle, who received 492 votes (25.56%); Jared Coffey at 276 (14.34%); and

Stephen Jay Dalton at 271 (14.08%).

Overall, Pulaski County saw 15,410 ballots cast, with the overwhelming number of those going towards the Republican races.

### PUBLIC NOTICE MASTER COMMISSIONER'S SALE

In order to comply with the orders of the Pulaski Circuit Court, the Commissioner will sell the property described in the following action on **WEDNESDAY, MAY 27** at the hour of **1:00 p.m.** This sale will be held at **207 S. RICHARDSON DRIVE, SOMERSET, KY 42501, (GODBY AUCTION CENTER BUILDING, PLEASE DO NOT CALL GODBY REALTY WITH QUESTIONS: THEY VOLUNTARILY AUC-**

**TIONEER FOR THE MASTER COMMISSIONER).** Said property shall be sold to raise the amounts hereinafter set forth, together with interest and the costs of the action, and (unless otherwise indicated) upon the following terms and conditions:

(A) At the time of sale the successful bidder shall either pay cash or make a deposit of 10% of the purchase price with the balance on credit for thirty (30) days. **In the event the successful bidder desires or elects to credit the balance, he or she will be required to post bond and furnish an acceptable surety thereon.** Said bond shall be for the unpaid purchase price and **bear interest at the plaintiff's judgment rate per** annum from the date of sale until paid. **IN THE EVENT THAT THE PURCHASER IS NOT PAYING THE FULL AMOUNT OF THE PURCHASE PRICE OF THE PROPERTY ON THE DATE OF SALE, ANOTHER PERSON MUST BE PRESENT ON THE PURCHASER'S BEHALF TO SIGN AS SURETY FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE PURCHASE PRICE.**

(B) Risk of loss of improvements shall be on the purchaser from date of sale.

(C) The purchaser shall be required to assume and pay all taxes or assessments upon the property for the current tax year **(2026)** and all subsequent years. All other delinquent taxes or assessments upon the property for prior years shall be paid from the sale proceeds **if properly claimed in writing and the holder(s) thereof is a party to the foreclosure.** The Master Commissioner warrants only such title as is referred by Court order and does not guarantee that all taxes are paid.

(D) The property shall otherwise be sold free and clear of any right, title and interest of all parties to the action and of their liens and encumbrances thereon, excepting easements and restrictions of record in the Pulaski County Clerk's Office and such right of redemption as may exist in favor of the United States of America or the defendant(s).

**1—2955 RINGGOLD ROAD, SOMERSET, Amount to be raised, \$46,607.26, PVA # 048-2-0-18**

**2—207 MURPHY AVE., SOMERSET, Amount to be raised, \$38,709.66, PVA # 061-6-3-75**

**3—690 SHORELINE DR., SOMERSET, Amount to be raised, \$7,786.29, PVA # 040-7-1-66**

**4—468 ANTIOCH CHURCH RD., BURNSIDE, Amount to be raised, \$4,555.76, PVA # 079-2-0-10**

**5—171 MEADOW POINT DR., SOMERSET, Amount to be raised, \$276,713.09, PVA # 051-4-3-46**

**6—738 SLATE BRANCH SPUR, SOMERSET, Amount to be raised, \$51,010.79, PVA # 041-0-0-50**

(The Mobile Home has been converted to real estate and is included in this Sale!)

**7—1691 ANTIOCH CHURCH RD., BURNSIDE, Amount to be raised, \$6,662.07, PVA # 079-7-1-02**

**8—0 LAURA LANE, SOMERSET, Amount to be raised, \$5,662.73, PVA # 064-4-1-44**

**9—222 HIGH STREET, SOMERSET, Amount to be raised, \$5,580.86, PVA # 061-5-6-06**

**10-7395 HWY. 1643, SOMERSET, Amount to be raised, \$5,949.76, PVA # 105-9-0-30**

**11-101 N. RICHARDSON DR., SOMERSET, Amount to be raised, \$6,424.71, PVA # 061-4-5-42**

**12-100 N. RICHARDSON DR., SOMERSET, Amount to be raised, \$6,679.06, PVA # 061-4-5-48**

**13-0 GARLAND RD., BURNSIDE, Amount to be raised, \$2,836.44, PVA # 066-4-1-31**

Further information and appraisals are available online @www.pulaskipva.com, (Additional Resources/Master Commissioner Sales).

**JOHN T. MANDT, MASTER COMMISSIONER,  
PULASKI CIRCUIT COURT, 203 W. COLUMBIA ST.,  
SOMERSET, KY 42501, Phone 606-679-3504**

## TODD

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tin "Marty" Todd, a retiree from the Federal Bureau of Prisons, with 560 votes, or 4.20% of the total. Those numbers are the unofficial results from Tuesday night.

With such a decisive victory, was this a mandate from the voters in favor of Marshall Todd's vision for Pulaski County, after the building industry veteran was first victorious in the last county office election cycle, in 2022?

"I think it was," said Todd. "... We were hoping for 50%, (that) would have been great, but we're really pleased with 57%.

"I feel really good about the victory because it was a little more than we anticipated," he added, noting that he had "good candidates" running against him, who "ran aggressive campaigns and put some stuff out that was hard to combat." However, he said, "I think my team did a really good job keeping us on track. We ran a good, clean campaign, and it turned out well."

The Pulaski County Fiscal Court with which Todd works saw more drama in its races, however. Not in the first magisterial district, where incumbent Jason Turpen beat challenger An-

thony Garland 2,405 votes (82.99%) to 493 (17.01%), and only somewhat more in the third district, where incumbent Jimmy Wheelton beat Joseph Lyons 1,588 votes (53.47%) to 1,382 (46.53%).

The real drama came in the fourth magisterial district, where the seat held incumbent Mark Ranshaw, one of the most vocal members of the court and a magistrate since 2019, was flipped by John "Jack" New, a previous challenger of Ranshaw's. New had 1,170 votes, or 47.06%, against Ranshaw's 1,051, or 42.28%. Also in the race were Chad Girdler (137 votes), Keith Evan Jasper (105 votes), and Michael R. Norman (23 votes).

Also down to the wire was the fifth magisterial district, where incumbent Mike Strunk barely walked away with an 11-vote win over his challenger, Chris McDonald, following Tuesday night's unofficial count. Strunk had 1,104 votes, or 50.25%, and McDonald 1,093, or 49.75%.

The second magisterial district was always going to see a new individual join the fiscal court following this election cycle, as current seat holder Mike Wilson opted not to run again this year. Gerald Smith won that race with 1,115 votes (42.85%), following by Jeff Wilson with 588 votes

(22.60%), Tommy Wilson with 384 (14.76%), Brian Carrigan with 299 (11.49%), and Eugene Harness with 216 votes (8.30%).

None of these candidates has a Democratic challenger in the fall, meaning they've essentially won their seats in the Primary Election. Almost all of the races on the ballot this year in Pulaski County were for Republican voters only, as Kentucky has closed Primaries, where independents cannot vote for a specific party. The only local race open to all voters involving Pulaski County candidates was one for Somerset City Council, which is non-partisan.

Todd said that Strunk and Ranshaw both had strong opponents, and he feels like he can work with the newcomers as well as the current court going forward.

"It's going to be interesting the next six months, how we finish out this term with the current fiscal court," he said, "but I've got good relations with the incoming people that won tonight. I think they'll blend in and probably have some new ideas, but they'll have to figure out how we work on fiscal court, and they'll work with us, and I feel good."

What made the difference in the race for Todd that he overcame his competition with such strong numbers? For Todd, it's all about

what's been done already in his first term in office.

"I think the people could see exactly what we've done," said Todd. "We came out with all the things we've accomplished in the last three-and-a-half years, and we stayed very positive kept campaign issues right on track of what we were doing for the county, including blacktop (on roads), bringing in a lot of money to the county, good relationships with our state reps and (state) senator and our people in D.C.

"Right now, we're bringing in more money — and that's what we ran on — bringing in more funding for all the projects," he added, noting that he'd like to continue building on that in his second term.

"We're going to push economic development, number one," he said. "We need to develop some jobs here in Pulaski County. I feel like that's what we've been lacking the last three or four years. We're going to take that as a major issue, that we've got to expand things on Pulaski County's side to keep us moving forward. We're going to continue to bring in a lot of funding and improve our infrastructure — water, roads, buildings — (but) moving some jobs into the county would be what I really want to do in the future."