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## The Show Must Go On

*A look at recent notable election results in ERIE's Footprint*

As we previously reported, several states in ERIE's footprint took proactive and unprecedented measures to ensure the health and safety of voters while holding their primary elections amidst the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Pennsylvania, Indiana, Maryland, and West Virginia all held their previously-delayed elections over the past couple of weeks with expanded opportunities to vote by mail to ensure social distancing (additionally, D.C. held its June 2 primary as originally scheduled - results [here](#)). Here is recap of some of the notable results.

**PENNSYLVANIA** - On June 2, Pennsylvania held federal and state primary elections to solidify party candidates for the upcoming general election on November 3. The primary, originally scheduled for April 28, was postponed by Act 15 of 2020 which passed amid COVID-19 pandemic concerns. Some final election results were delayed due to unprecedented volumes of mail-in ballots and a June 1 executive order from Governor Wolf which extended the mail-in ballot submission deadline in 6 counties by a week.

Republican voters formally elected Donald J. Trump as their candidate in the November Presidential Election with 878,819 votes. Democratic candidate and former Vice President Joe Biden (772,237 votes) defeated Senator Bernie Sanders (183,866 votes), who has already conceded the nomination.

There will be general elections for all 3 statewide executive row offices (Attorney General, Auditor General, Treasurer) in November, but there was only 1 contested primary election, with Nina Ahmad topping five other Democrats in the race for the Auditor General candidacy.

Two high-profile primary races were held in districts of outgoing legislative leaders. Current Representative Cris Dush (R-Jefferson) prevailed in a 3-way Republican primary to fill the seat being vacated by Senate President Pro Tempore Joe Scarnati (R-Jefferson). Republican candidate Robert Mercuri also prevailed in a 3-way Republican primary to fill the seat of retiring House Speaker Mike Turzai (R-Allegheny). Both candidates will face Democratic challengers in the November general election.

Six incumbent Democratic lawmakers lost their bids for reelection: State Senator Larry Farnese (D-Philadelphia) and Senator Daylin Leach (D-Montgomery), both lost their respective races. Representatives Jim Roebuck, Maria Donatucci, and Roni Green (all D-Philadelphia), and Adam Ravenstahl (D-Allegheny) also lost.

**INDIANA** - Indiana State Rep. Rep. Matt Lehman, House Majority Floor Leader and President of the National Council of Insurance Legislators (NCOIL), was declared the winner in a heavily contested Republican primary, earning 55% of the vote. According to the Insurance Institute of Indiana, Lehman was targeted by a radical Indiana-based conservative operation because of his leadership position, as the group identified a variety of areas in which they feel Republican legislative leadership hasn't been conservative enough. This result is notable for the insurance industry, as Lehman, a long-time insurance agent, has been a champion for industry issues in Indiana and across

the country given his leadership and influence in NCOIL. Other notable results for the insurance industry include tort reform ally Sen. Sue Glick and insurance agents Reps Peggy Mayfield and Bruce Borders all successfully defeating their challengers.

**MARYLAND** - No state races were on the ballot, and there were no surprises among the eight U.S. House races, where incumbents will be heavily favored in November. In the Democratic presidential primary, Joe Biden topped the 85 percent mark, one of his best showings in the country.

### **WEST VIRGINIA**

**Governor's race:** Incumbent GOP Gov. Jim Justice won by a commanding 45-point lead over his closest primary opponent, former Secretary of Commerce Woody Thrasher. Gov. Justice won all 55 counties and will face Democrat Ben Salango in November. Salango, current Kanawha County Commissioner and a plaintiffs' lawyer, pulled away late from community organizer Stephen Smith to win by six points, using a 36-point advantage in his populous Charleston home base.

**Legislative upsets:** The shocker of the night was Republican Senate President Mitch Carmichael's defeat by former Democrat and teacher Amy Nichole Grady for the 4th District State Senate seat. In a three-way split, Grady earned 39% of the vote versus 35% for Carmichael, who was targeted over education issues that have led to two separate teacher strikes since 2018. His defeat puts the entire Senate leadership into play. Among several other defeats of incumbents in both houses, another surprising upset was the narrow defeat of Republican House Speaker Pro Tempore Daryl Cowles by union-backed George Miller. Delegate Cowles was the most senior GOP member of the House to lose, having served since 2006.

**Supreme Court:** The three seats up on the five-member West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals were critical races for the business community given the state's often difficult tort environment. The results of these non-partisan elections are final with no run-off or general contest in November. According to ERIE's trades, the composition of the court "will remain essentially pro-business after the election."

### **Upcoming Election Dates**

Here's a quick look at the upcoming elections in ERIE's footprint:

#### **June 23**

- **Kentucky – 2020 primary election originally scheduled for May 19.** For more information, please visit the [state's elections Web site](#).
- **New York – 2020 presidential primary/special elections originally scheduled for April 28.** The early voting period for these elections will be June 13-21. For more information, visit the [Board of Elections Web site](#).
- **North Carolina - 11th Congressional District Republican Primary Runoff previously scheduled for May 12.** For more information, please visit the [State Board of Elections Web site](#).

#### **August 6**

- **Tennessee – 2020 State/Federal Primary and County/State Judicial Vacancy General Election.** For more information, please visit the Secretary of State's [Web site](#).
  - Voter Registration Deadline - Tuesday, July 7, 2020
  - Early Voting Period - Friday, July 17 – Saturday, August 1, 2020
  - Absentee Ballot Request Deadline - Thursday, July 30, 2020

## **August 11**

- **Wisconsin – 2020 Partisan Primary.** For more information, please visit the Wisconsin Elections Commission [Web site](#).

## **November 3 - General Election**