



INTRODUCTION

The New Jersey 2nd Congressional District is made up of a mixture of urban and rural areas with suburban areas becoming the key factor in who wins an election in the district. The 2nd Congressional District has been considered a swing district that has elected both 'H P R F U D W V D Q G 5 H S X E O L F D Q V W R R I I L F H , Q W K H H O H F W L R Q had voted for Obama in 2008 and 2012 pivoted to vote for Trump in 2016. The 2nd District has long been said to lean Republican, and the 2020 election showed the GOP was still dominant within the district as in 2016. All the counties within the district voted along the same party lines D V L Q W K H S U H V L G H Q W L D O H O H F W L R Q V K L F W ¶ V K L between Republican Jeff Van Drew and Democrat Amy Kennedy was the least competitive of W K H G L V W U L F W ¶ V W K U H H I H G H U D O H O H F W L R Q V Z L W K 9 D Q ' U H Z voted Republican and municipalities that had voted for him in the previous election cycle as a Democrat. Van Drew also garnered the largest number of votes of any candidate within the 2nd District. Republican Donald Trump won the 2nd District, as he did in 2016. The race for the U.S. Senate seat was the closest between the three federal races with two percentage points V H S D U D W L Q J W K H W Z R P D L Q F D Q G L G D W H V 7 K L V H O H F W L R Q ¶ V U which the New Jersey 2nd Congressional District is headed regarding voting patterns and party alignments within counties and municipalities.

PRESIDENT

7 K H 5 H S X E O L F D Q S U H V L G H Q W L D O F D Q G L G D W H ' R Q D O G 7 U X P Congressional District by three percentage points (Trump 51%- Biden 48%,) and in a vote of 193,906 to 183,151, according to this analysis. The Democratic candidate, Joe Biden, was able W R F K L S D Z D \ D W 7 U X P to win the seat for 2020 against the previous Democratic candidate, Hillary Clinton. Trump kept the same vote share in the district as the 2016 election, while Biden was able to increase the Democratic vote share by two percentage

points. While county winners fell along the same party lines from the 2016 presidential election, during this election Trump saw decreases in all winning margins at the county level from 2016 to 2020 except for Burlington, which is an extremely small portion of the district. Trump lost 8 points off his win margin from 2016 (31 points to 23 points) in Ocean County, followed by Cape May and Gloucester County with a four-point decrease. Biden kept the same winning margins that Hillary Clinton won in 2016 for both Cumberland and Atlantic County. In terms of vote share, Trump remained within one point of his 2016 percentages at the county level, except in Ocean County where Trump, again, saw the largest decrease of three percentage points from his vote share. The Democratic vote share increased from the 2016 election in all counties, except Burlington where it remained at 30 percent. However, despite these gains, Biden still held the same winning margin that Hillary Clinton won in Atlantic and Cumberland counties since Trump's vote share also increased slightly from the 2016 election in those counties.

Trump won most municipalities (72%) in the district whereas Biden had large winning margins in urban centers. In 29 of the municipalities that Trump won, he garnered over 60% of the vote share. Biden, on the other hand, won 26 municipalities (28%) in the district with only eight of those municipalities gaining over 60% of the vote share. Biden, however, had the two largest winning margins within municipalities with a 70 percentage point margin in Pleasantville City and 61 percentage point winning margin in Salem City.

Biden was able to flip four municipalities within the district that voted Republican in 2016: Cape May City, East Greenwich Township, Somers Point City, and Woolwich Township. The largest change came from East Greenwich Township with Biden gaining 13 percentage points and Trump losing 10 percentage points. Somers Point City had the smallest change with Biden gaining three percentage points. East Greenwich Township is also the only municipality in the 2nd Congressional District to vote Democrat in the presidential race but vote Republican in the Senatorial and Congressional races.

2020 Results for President in the 2nd Congressional District

Figure 1. 0XQLFLSDOLW\ UHVXOWV RI WKH HOHFWLRQ IRU 3UHVL FRQJUHVVLRQDO GLVWULFW VKRZQ E\ WKH ZLQQLQJ FDQGLGDW

Table 1.

&RXQW\ UHVXOWV RI WKH HOHFWLRQ congressional district.		
County	Biden	Trump
Atlantic	53%	46%
Burlington	30%	68%
Camden	41%	58%
Cape May	42%	57%
Cumberland	52%	46%
Gloucester	47%	52%

Table 2.

7UXPS¶V ILYH ODUJHVW YRWH VKDUHV DP Congressional District.	
Municipality	Vote Share
Lower Alloways Creek Twp.	79%
Bass River Twp.	74%
Upper Pittsgrove Twp.	72%
Downe Twp.	72%
Elsinboro Twp.	70%

Table 3.

% LGHQ¶V ILYH ODUJHVW YRWH VKDUHV DP Congressional District.	
Municipality	Vote Share
Pleasantville City	85%
Salem City	80%
Atlantic City	77%

SENATE

The Republican Senatorial candidate, Rik Mehta, won the New Jersey 2nd Congressional District. Mehta beat the Democratic candidate, incumbent Sen. Cory Booker, by two percentage points in the district, 185,713 for Mehta to 17,955 for Booker. At the state level, however, Booker won reelection for the Senate seat by 16.3 percentage points. Despite

% R R N H U ¶ V V W D W H Z L G H S R S X O D U L W \ ' L V W U L F W g in v R C W L Q J S D W W municipalities went Republican for Trump and Van Drew but then voted for Democrat Booker.

2 Q W K H G L V W U L F W O H Y H O % R R N H U ¶ V Y R W H V K D U H Z D V S H U F share of 57.2% of the vote, whereas Mehta had a larger vote share on the district level by 7.1 percentage points compared to his statewide performance. Biden and Booker had the same percentage of vote share in the district, while Trump had a one percentage point larger vote share than Mehta. Because of this, Tru P S ¶ V Z L Q Q L Q J P D U J L Q R Y H U % L G H Q Z D V R W K D Q 0 H K W D ¶ V Z L Q R Y H U % R R N H U L Q W K H G L V W U L F W G H V S L W H same at the district level.

The senatorial race saw the counties vote along the same party lines as the presidential race. The senatorial and presidential Democratic candidates had the same vote share in Atlantic County while Booker had a one percentage point higher vote share than Biden in Cumberland County. Booker, an incumbent first elected in 2013, had a larger winning margin than Biden in both counties: Atlantic County with one percentage point higher and Cumberland County with three percentage points more.

Mehta underperformed Trump in most of the district. In all but three counties ² Cape May, Gloucester, and Ocean ² Trump had a larger vote share than Mehta. In Cape May and Gloucester County, Mehta and Trump had the same vote share, while in Ocean County Mehta had a larger vote share by one percentage point. In the majority of the counties, Trump also had larger winning margins than Mehta with the largest being a three-point difference in their

Table 6. 0 HKWD ¶ V ILYH ODU and the R Municipalities Within the 2nd Congressional District.

Table 8. Percentage of the vote in each county in the 2nd Congressional District.

County	Biden % - Booker %
Atlantic	0%
Burlington	-1%
Camden	-1%
Cape May	0%
Cumberland	-1%

Drew and Van Drew had the same winning margin in Burlington County. Trump had larger winning margins in Camden and Salem County, but Van Drew had larger winning margins in Cape May, Gloucester, and Ocean County. Trump and Van Drew had the same vote share in Burlington and Cumberland County. Trump only had one percentage point more vote share than Van Drew in Salem and Camden County. Whereas, Van Drew had higher vote shares than Trump in four counties with the highest difference being a four-percentage point difference in Cape May County.

A few of the municipalities were highly contested between Van Drew and Kennedy. Five municipalities had a difference of one percentage point or less. That low of a winning margin is only seen twice in each of the other races (Absecon City and Northfield City). Kennedy won Woolwich township with a .2% difference and Somers Point City with a .1% difference. She also won Egg Harbor Township and Ventnor City with a 1 percentage point winning margin and Van Drew won Cape May City with a 1-point percentage winning margin as well. Over a quarter of the municipalities were won by Kennedy with a winning margin of one percentage point or less. While only two municipalities were won by Trump with a winning margin of one percentage point or less.

Table 13. 7KH GLIIHUUHQFH EHWZHHQ 7UXPS DQG 0HKWDV SHUFWR 9DQ 'UHZV IRU HDFK FRXQW\

County	Trump % - Van Drew %	Mehta % - Van Drew %
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