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TOP STORY

Primary results final, Atlantic City an outlier on vote-by-mail results

Michelle Brunetti Post

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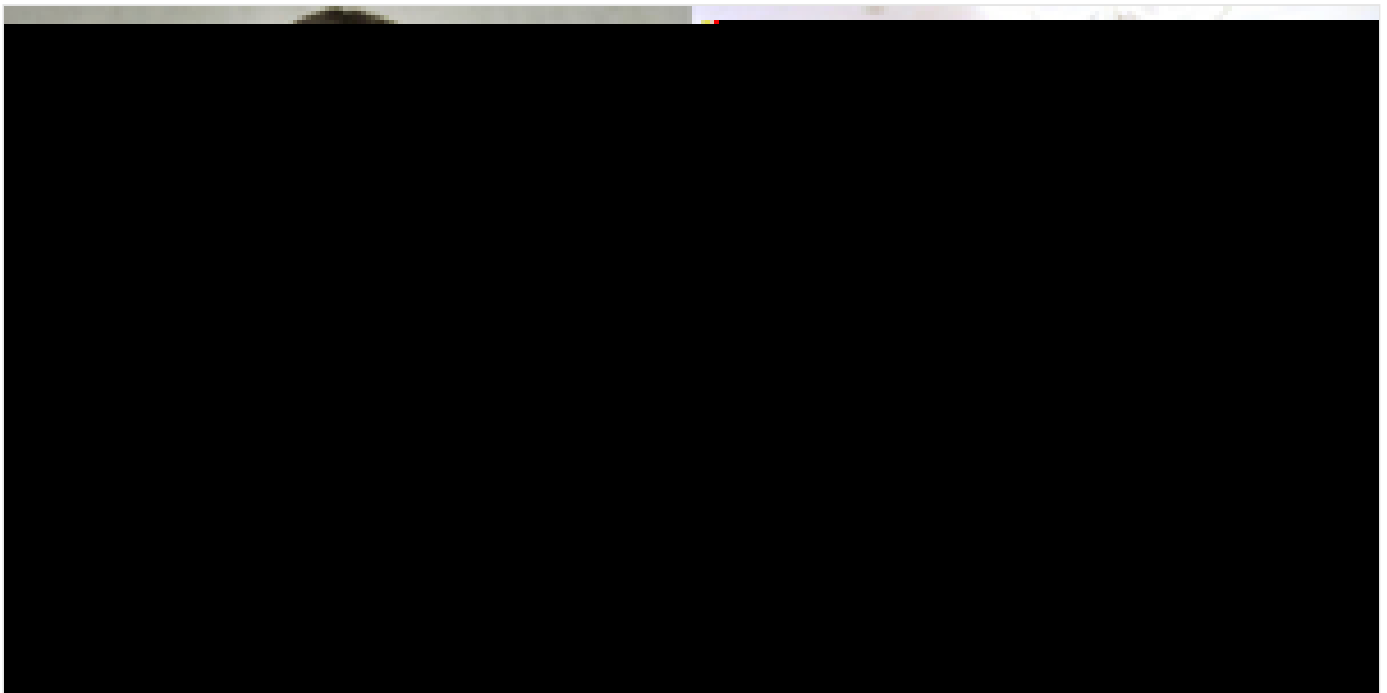
AYS LANDING — The results of the June 8 primary election are now certified in Atlantic County, and show that vote-by-mail results differed markedly from machine results in only one contested primary — in Atlantic City,

“It is unusual to see such a divergence in a primary election,” said John Froomjian, executive director of the William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy at Stockton University.

In general elections, when one party might use vote-by-mail more than another, it is less rare for the mail-in results to differ, Froomjian said.

Callaway has acknowledged he was working for Foley on a get-out-the-vote effort focused on mail-in ballots, and was providing transportation and payments to people to act as messengers to pick up ballots for Atlantic City voters.

“No comment,” Callaway said Tuesday when contacted by phone and asked how the machine and mail-in totals would differ so much.



Today's primary to settle bruising campaigns for Atlantic City mayor, state Senate

“You would need to do a detailed analysis of who voted to really get a sense of why this happened,” Froomjian said, and to determine whether anything improper happened.

For example, Froomjian said, Foley and Callaway may have worked Foley’s firefighter or public safety worker contacts through vote-by-mail.

“You can see if it’s not a close election, the Callaway organization really can’t change the outcome,” he said.

For Callaway’s efforts to be successful, Froonjian said, “it needs to be in a low-turnout election or one that’s really, really close where 100 to 200 votes can make a difference,” such as in a school board race or one in which no candidate has strong name recognition.

“That’s a dicey way to stake your victory,” he said.



Small

Wayne Parry, Associated Press

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Atlantic City Council Democratic Primary

Mayor Marty Small Team (overall winners)

Marty Small: 1,828 machine, 702 mail-ins, 108 provisionals (2,638)

Stephanie Marshall: 1,615 machine, 520 mail-ins, 82 provisionals (2,217)

George Tibbitt: 1,566 machine, 601 mail-ins, 95 provisionals (2,262)

Bruce Weeks: 1,661 machine, 530 mail-ins (2,282)

Tom Foley Team

Tom Foley: 438 machine, 721 mail-ins, 45 provisionals (1,204)

M. Suhel Ahmed: 364 machine, 850 mail-ins, 50 provisionals (1,264)

Aaron Carrington: 388 machine, 627 mail-ins, 41 provisionals (1,056)

Shameeka Harvey: 366 machine, 614 mail-ins, 37 provisionals (1,017)

Running independently

Geoffrey Dorsey: 222 machine, 111 mail-ins, 15 provisionals (348)

Michelle Brunetti Post

Staff Writer

In my first job after college got paid to read the New York Times and summarize articles for an early online data base. First reporting job was with The Daily Record in Parsippany. I have also worked in nonprofits, and have been with The Press since 1990.