

## Minorities and women are leading the red wave

BY RONNA MCDANIEL  
OPINION CONTRIBUTOR



**(THE HILL)** - For generations, the Democratic Party has taken the votes of women and minorities for granted. But on Nov. 2, voters sent a clear message: Don't count on it.

Take Republican Winsome Sears, Virginia's Lieutenant Governor-elect. She's the first Black woman elected to hold statewide office in the commonwealth's 400-year history. Or how about incoming Attorney General Jason Miyares, a proud Republican, the son of a Cuban immigrant, and the first Hispanic to win a statewide race in Virginia?

The trend continued down-ballot, too. Four of the seven seats Republicans flipped in Virginia's House of Delegates were won by women or minorities, including A.C. Cordoza, a Black man who once supported former President Barack Obama until he realized the issues he cares about more closely align with the GOP. Each of these candidates are proof that Americans are rejecting Democrats' tired identity politics narrative.

It wasn't just Virginia, though. In New Jersey, a record number of Republican women were elected to the General Assembly. In fact, all but one of the seats Republicans gained in the state assembly were won by female candidates, and one of the two State Senate seats Republicans flipped was won by a woman. Two of these candidates won in a district Biden carried by almost 12 points last year. These candidates aren't political pros or lifelong activists. They're wives, moms, professionals, and — most importantly — Americans who were alarmed by the direction of this country and inspired to get involved.

A similar story played out in Texas. Republican John Lujan won his race in Texas House District 118, a region that's 75 percent Hispanic. It's a significant victory considering that less than a year ago, Joe Biden carried it by 14 points.

These wins are an extension of the trends we saw in 2020. Voters elected five new Republican Hispanic candidates to the House of Representatives. Reps. Mike Garcia of California, Tony Gonzales of Texas, Nicole Malliotakis of New York, and Florida's Carlos Giménez and Maria Elvira Salazar are bringing new energy and fresh perspectives to the Republican Party. In addition, two-thirds of the House GOP freshman class — 18 of 27 new members — are women, bringing the total number of GOP congresswomen to 33. That's the highest number we've ever had in Congress.

We're excited to keep building on this momentum in the months to come. We're opening new community centers like the ones we've launched in Texas, Wisconsin, and Ohio to reach Indian, Hispanic, and Black Americans — voting blocs that have not traditionally identified as Republican but share our values of freedom, faith, and prosperity.

The RNC is also rolling out a nationwide citizenship education program to help lawful permanent residents not only prepare to become naturalized American citizens but also to instill in them a sense of pride in their new country and a fundamental understanding of what it means to be an American. With one million new American citizens every year, there's great potential for welcoming new voters into our Party.

Finally, we're working hard to recruit a deep bench of candidates from a wide variety of backgrounds. Already, 196 Republican women have filed to run for congress — up from 162 this time last year. And among minority communities, we've seen 177 GOP members announce their candidacy. That's a jump from 131 at this point in 2020.

Republicans are making gains in these demographics because Americans are sick of Democrats' divisive agenda. They're tired of being told what to think and how to vote. They're looking for results, not rhetoric. Our message of strong families, stable communities and economic opportunity for all transcends gender and skin color. Every day, more Americans are realizing they have a home in the GOP.

## GOP infighting just gets uglier

BY CRISTINA MARCOS | THE HILL

**(THE HILL)** - House Republicans can't seem to stop fighting with each other, despite potentially being less than a year out from winning the majority in the 2022 midterm elections.

Just two weeks ago, House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy (R-Calif.) urged Republicans to stop attacking each other after 13 moderate GOP lawmakers were marked as traitors by some of their conservative colleagues over their votes for the bipartisan infrastructure bill championed by President Biden.

McCarthy, the odds-on favorite to be the next Speaker if the GOP does win back the House next year, said his conference should focus instead on their opposition to Democrats' social spending and climate package.

Weeks later, conservative and ultraconservative lawmakers are again making headlines with schoolyard insults on Twitter.

The GOP drama on Tuesday was the nasty Twitter fight between Reps. Marjorie Taylor Greene (R-Ga.) and Nancy Mace (R-S.C.), with Greene calling the swing-district lawmaker "trash" for condemning Rep. Lauren Boebert (R-Colo.). Mace fired back by using emojis to label Greene as "batshit crazy."

The battle between the two centered on Boebert, who herself was called "TRASH" days earlier by Rep. Adam Kinzinger, the anti-Trump Republican from Illinois who has increasingly taken on the most far-right of his party. He was criticizing Boebert for invoking Islamophobic tropes by suggesting Rep. Ilhan Omar (D-Minn.) could be a terrorist.

"Marjorie Taylor Greene is a liar. And I'm not going to tolerate lies, racism or bigotry, whether you are Republican or Democrat," Mace added during a Tuesday interview on Neil Cavuto's Fox Business show. "She's crazy. She's insane. She's bad for the party. And I'm not going to put up with it."

Boebert initially issued an apology "to anyone in the Muslim community I offended with my comment about Rep. Omar." But when Boebert and Omar did connect over the phone on Monday, both lawmakers confirmed that it quickly went downhill.



Mace

Greene

In a video posted to Instagram recapping the conversation, Boebert again invoked an anti-Muslim trope by saying, "Make no mistake, I will continue to fearlessly put America first, never sympathizing with terrorists. Unfortunately, Ilhan can't say the same thing."

Rep. Tom Reed (N.Y.), one of the 13 House Republicans who came under fire for their infrastructure votes, said that GOP leaders should make more clear that rhetoric like Boebert's is unacceptable.

"Well, I think when you're in a position of leadership, you have to stand up. You have to deal with it. I appreciate the fact that Kevin called our colleague directly to discuss the matter with her. But at some point in time, you also have to stand up and just call it out for what it is. This type of rhetoric cannot be condoned. It cannot be upheld," Reed said on CNN.

Yet alienating far-right members who are closely allied with Trump also carries risks for McCarthy.

Greene claimed on an episode of Rep. Matt Gaetz's (R-Fla.) podcast last week that McCarthy "doesn't have the full support to be Speaker" because "there's many of us that are very unhappy about the failure to hold Republicans accountable, while conservatives like me, Paul Gosar and many others just constantly take the abuse by the Democrats."

McCarthy's Senate counterpart, Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.), has taken the opposite tack and distanced himself from Trump since the violent Jan. 6 attack on the Capitol.

That's resulted in regular attacks from Trump against McConnell, who has tended not to fire back. Trump has called McConnell an "old crow" and said he is "getting beaten on every front by the Radical Left Democrats" since agreeing to a temporary debt limit extension in October.

Greene touted her ties to Trump on Tuesday, tweeting that she had a "great conversation" with him about Mace.

"Don't look now, but it's MTG unable to take the heat, running to the [principal]'s office to tattletale because she can't stand on her own two feet," Mace responded. "Bless her heart."

## Chris Cuomo: Suspension from CNN

'embarrassing'

BY DOMINICK MASTRANGELO



**(THE HILL)** - CNN's Chris Cuomo said he is embarrassed after being suspended by the network on Tuesday following new revelations about his involvement in the campaign of his brother, former New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo (D), to defend himself from allegations of sexual harassment.

"It hurts to even say it. It's embarrassing. But I understand it. And I understand why some people feel the way they do about what I did. I've apologized in the past, and I mean it," Chris Cuomo said Wednesday on his weekday radio show on SiriusXM. "It's the last thing I ever wanted to do, was compromise any of my colleagues and do anything but help. I know they have a process that they think is important. I respect that process, so I'm not going to talk about this any more than that."

Chris Cuomo was suspended indefinitely Tuesday night from the network hours before his prime-time show was set to air after a spokesperson said the company was "not privy" to details of the situation, and that they "raise serious questions" about the anchor's conduct.

The prime-time host's involvement in crisis public relations sessions with his brother's top aides were first reported in May, but newly released documents by the New York Attorney General's Office in connection with an investigation of the former governor painted a broader picture about Chris Cuomo's efforts to help his brother beat back criticism.

In one case, a top aide to the former governor asked Chris Cuomo to "check with his sources" in the media about additional women coming forward with allegations against him, which the anchor confirmed in a reply message he would do.

In another message, Chris Cuomo texted the aide he had "a lead on the wedding girl" in an apparent reference to a woman who alleged Andrew Cuomo touched her inappropriately at a wedding.

The anchor in August apologized for advising his brother but said he "never made calls to the press about my brother's situation."

"I never influenced or attempted to control CNN's coverage of my family," Cuomo said. "And as you know, back in May when I was told to no longer communicate with my brother's aides in any group meetings, I acknowledged it was a mistake, I apologized to my colleagues, I stopped, and I meant it."

In the statement on Tuesday, CNN said it "appreciated the unique position he was in and understood his need to put family first and job second."

"However, these documents point to a greater level of involvement in his brother's efforts than we previously knew," the network concluded. "As a result, we have suspended Chris indefinitely, pending further evaluation."

Chris Cuomo did not acknowledge the newly released documents during his show on Monday and did not discuss the details of the documents during the intro to his radio show on Wednesday.