



L.A. mayoral race flips late: Spencer Pratt shut out

Karen Bass and Nithya Raman are projected to advance to the November runoff in the Los Angeles mayoral race, but the result is already drawing suspicion from voters who watched Republican reality television star Spencer Pratt lead for days before late-counted mail ballots pushed him into third place.

Decision Desk HQ [projected](#) Sunday that Raman had secured the second runoff slot behind Bass, with about 87 percent of the vote counted. Bass led the primary with 34.68 percent, while Raman stood at 27.12 percent. Pratt, who had held second place ahead of Raman since election night, fell to third with 26.69 percent as additional mail ballots were processed.

Bass, the incumbent mayor, had already secured her spot in the runoff on June 2. The battle for second place became the drama of the race, with Pratt — a registered Republican best known for his reality television career — appearing poised for a November matchup before the count moved steadily in Raman's direction.

Pratt has not conceded. Earlier Sunday, he signaled that his campaign was prepared to keep watching the count.

“Remember everyone...we are still in the lead, and we've got alllllll the way til July 6th to keep counting,” Pratt wrote. “They're not the only ones who know where to find votes.”

The reversal has fueled frustration among voters who have grown deeply skeptical of California's slow-moving, mail-heavy election system. State law allows properly postmarked ballots to be counted after Election Day if they arrive within the legal window, and late-counted ballots in California often trend left, giving Democrats an advantage in races that appear tighter on election night.

The Los Angeles mayoral race is officially nonpartisan, but Bass and Raman are registered Democrats, while Pratt is a registered Republican. That means the projected result would produce an all-Democrat runoff in November and shut out the one candidate who had turned the contest into something more unpredictable.