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Special election dates set for New Jersey's 11th Congressional District

By SAL DiMAGGIO Editor

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The special primary election for New Jersey's 11th Congressional seat vacated by Gov-Elect Mike Sherrill, will be on Thursday, Feb. 5 and the special general election will be on Thursday, April 16.

Early voting for the special primary election will be from Thursday, Jan. 29, 2026 through Tuesday, Feb. 3, 2026. Early voting for the special general election will be from Monday, April 6, 2026 through Tuesday, April 14, 2026.

There are 12 candidates currently running as Democrats and one Republican running. The sole Republican is Randolph Mayor Joe Hathaway.

The Democrats running are former District 7 Congressman Tom Malinowski, Morris Township Committeeman and former Mayor Jeff Grayzel, Obama administration alumna and former clean energy nonprofit leader Cammie Croft, activist Anna Lee Williams, former congressional staffer Marc Chaaban, venture capitalist and veteran Zach Beecher, Passaic County Commissioner John Bartlett, Essex County Commissioner Brendan Gill, Maplewood Committeeman and former Mayor Dean Dafis, Chatham Councilman Justin Strickland and J-L Cauvin of Bloomfield, a comedian and attorney.



Nomination petitions for partisan candidates seeking a party nomination in the special primary election must be filed by Monday, Dec. 1. 500 valid signatures are required for primary candidates.

Direct nominations by petition for independent candidates for the special general election must be filed by the date of the special primary election, Thursday, Feb. 5, 2026. Independent candidates need 250 valid signatures to appear on the general election ballot.

Sherrill, who is set to take office as governor on Tuesday, Jan. 20, 2026, resigned from her congressional seat at 11:59 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 20. Sherrill was first elected in 2018 and was reelected three times, serving almost five full years in Congress.

