

NEW JERSEY REAL-TIME NEWS

N.J. Election 2018: Mikie Sherrill wins House seat for Democrats, beats Jay Webber

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Democrat Mikie Sherrill (left) and Republican Jay Webber (right). (File photos)

By Rob Jennings | NJ Advance Media for NJ.com

Democrat Mikie Sherrill on Tuesday won one of the the most closely watched U.S. House races in the nation, beating Republican Jay Webber and flipping New Jersey district that Republicans have held for 34 years, according to projections.

Webber has also conceded defeat.

The race between [Sherrill, a former Navy pilot](#) and ex-federal prosecutor, and Webber, a state assemblyman, came as Democrats across the nation were trying to regain control of the House from the GOP in midterm elections considered a referendum on Republican President [Donald Trump](#).

Sherrill, 46, who had never run for office before, will succeed retiring Republican Rep. Rodney Frelinghuysen, who has held the seat since 1995.



U.S. Rep. Rodney Frelinghuysen is pictured last year. (Photo by Robert Sciarrino | NJ Advance Media for NJ.com)

Frelinghuysen has served 12 terms in the House and in January 2017 achieved a longtime goal by becoming chair of the House Appropriations Committee.

But objections to Trump were weakening his political prospects, and Sherrill began making gains. By November, the influential Cook Political Report was rating the race a toss-up.

Still, Frelinghuysen's announcement that he would not seek a 13th term in Congress came as a surprise.

Sherrill cruised to victory in the June primary over four Democratic opponents. On the Republican side, Webber — a state assemblyman who entered the race after Frelinghuysen exited — defeated two opponents.

Sherrill has raised more money for her campaign than any other New Jersey congressional candidate in state history.

Webber sought to close his fundraising gap with Sherrill but never caught up, though Trump and Vice President Mike Pence separately hosted fundraisers for him. He appeared at a rally in October with House Speaker Paul Ryan.

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Sherrill also received plenty of support from big-name Democrats.

Former Vice President Joe Biden, leading a rally for Sherrill in September, said her candidacy could be crucial in helping Democrats win control of the House.

"We desperately need, in both parties, men and women of character," Biden added. "Mikie gets it."

The 11th District is home to 557,552 registered voters, the highest total of N.J.'s 12 congressional districts.

Of those, there are 172,246 Republicans, 166,087 Democrats and 216,207 unaffiliated voters, according to the New Jersey Secretary of State.

The district includes parts of Morris, Essex, Passaic and Sussex counties.

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