

For much of the night, the result was in doubt, but for the first time in more than two decades, a Democrat will represent the district – a win that helped tip the balance of power in Congress.

Although he had not yet won, Van Drew posted a ["Thank You South Jersey"](#) message on Twitter at about 10 p.m., and delivered a victory speech at about 10:30 p.m. ***Ugg'go dgf 'dgmjy #0**

But it was Grossman who grabbed an early lead by as much as four percentage points. As the results continued to come in, Van Drew pulled ahead and eventually captured the seat.

According to Politico, Van Drew won Cumberland County by 18 percentage points. He also won Cape May and Gloucester counties, but it wasn't until the results came in from Atlantic County at nearly midnight that Van Drew was named the projected victor. He won Atlantic County by 12 points.

Grossman captured traditionally Republican Ocean County by 22 percentage points, Burlington County by 24, Salem County by five points and Camden County by 13 points. Waterford Township is the only Camden County town in the district.

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“Congratulations to state Senator Van Drew and his supporters on a great victory,” Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee Chairman Ben Ray Lujan said. “Senator Van Drew’s focus on reaching across the aisle to find common ground will make him an excellent representative for this community. I look forward to welcoming him to Congress and getting to work on solving our nation’s most critical issues.”

It was a seat national Democrats were looking to flip early on, after LoBiondo announced last year he wouldn't seek re-election. In his announcement, LoBiondo said “there is no longer middle ground to honestly debate issues and put forward solutions,” due to increasing political polarization. [Read more here: Frank LoBiondo To Retire From Congress](#)

Earlier this year, national Republicans called the district a "recruiting hole," and the national party eventually withdrew its support for Grossman following a series of controversial comments.

Grossman took a strict conservative approach to the election, saying he would always support President Donald Trump’s agenda. During the debate, he said climate change has always existed, “just ask Noah.”

The former Atlantic City Councilman and Atlantic County Freeholder captured the party’s nomination despite not receiving support from the party’s leadership in any of the counties in the district during the primary. After controversial comments he made in which he called diversity “a bunch of crap,” the national GOP decided not to endorse him. Read more here: [National GOP Pulls Endorsement For NJ Congressional Candidate](#)

[See related: Diversity 'A Bunch Of Crap': NJ Congressional Candidate](#)

Grossman's comments centered on what he called the Democrats efforts to divide everyone into groups. He said things such as affirmative action prevent the best candidates from being accepted to the best schools. He said Republicans make big mistakes when they nominate lesser candidates just because they fit into a box, citing the nomination of then Lt. Gov. Kim Guadagno over Jack Ciattarelli in last year's gubernatorial election.

During the debate, he also claimed that The Washington Post sent a reporter to follow him around for a day, but failed to write a story depicting his involvement in numerous activities involving minorities.

It was a stark contrast to LoBiondo, the 12-term incumbent Cong

"That did bother me, but not as much as I hate Trump," chimed in another Democratic voter, who only wanted to be identified as Nick, 72. "And that doesn't bother me as much as Hugin being a big pharmaceutical executive and making millions off sick cancer patients. And Hugin raised thousands of dollars for Trump in New Jersey. He's a big Trump supporter."

"The corruption charges bother me, but Menendez is the lesser of two evils," said Dominick Rose, 36 who said he's begrudgingly voting for Menendez today. "I didn't like either Hugin or Menendez but you have to pick one."

Michael Alarcon, 42, is a Republican who voted for Trump. He said he will be voting for Hugin today because he thinks Trump has done a good job.

"Liberal Democrats screamed and yelled over the past two years and that's not how you govern. Instead, all that and tha^{MM}