

Newsletter for Aug 13, 2026 : 525

Primary Results

If you haven't seen them, these are the results from Tuesday's Democratic Primary for the Bennington-5 District:

- Michael Nigro: 551
- Tom Blakely: 525

I owe all of you who voted for me a strong and sincere "THANK YOU!"

In Tuesday's Primary, 525 Bennington-5 voters put their confidence in my campaign. Now we get back to work of earning the trust of our neighbors across Bennington and Pownal.

Analysis of Tuesday's Results

Mike and I ran essentially even, with me getting 95% of the votes he got. Twenty-six votes, essentially a rounding error. That tells me two things:

1. Voters are ready for a change.
2. Voters want to keep the Representative who is actually working for them.

That gives us a great combination in November: Mike's steady work and experience paired with my fresh insights, enthusiasm and energy. He and I didn't just secure the nomination, we both got a firm endorsement as a viable combination to represent Pownal and Bennington. It also gives us a clear path to win in November, sending two Democrats to represent Bennington-5.

Mary Morrissey got 255 votes in the Republican Primary. I wouldn't read too much into that. Rather than "Mike and I each got twice the votes Mary got" it's probably a combination of factors. First, Republican turnout for the primary was low, at least in part because there were fewer competitive races than on the Democratic side. Second, Mary's past victories have usually depended on votes from Democrats and independents, who either voted for her and one of the Democratic candidates, or only voted for only one candidate.

The biggest takeaway for me is that I didn't just secure the second Democratic nomination, I ran successfully *alongside* Mike, without drawing votes away from him. Voters, at least Democratic voters, see the two of us as a viable combination. A team, if you will. My goal is not to beat Mike – it never was – and these results strongly suggest that we can both win.

Strategy for November

As I see it, our focus is clear: *our primary focus shouldn't be trying to convert Mary's Republican base*. Rather it should be to ensure that Democrats and independents vote for both of the Democratic candidates, and that they actually come out in November and vote!

We need to earn the **second vote** from voters who are comfortable with Mike but have traditionally given their other vote to Mary. We also need to target independents and voters who may only cast one of their two House votes.

My existing messaging stays the same: offer practical solutions, emphasize local communication, collaboration and participation, and remain prepared and active. If we remain highly visible and communicate well, people recognize us as viable candidates.

The rest is up to you. Show up on November 3rd and vote! Your vote is your voice, and every vote counts.