

RELEASE IN PART B6

**Fw: Artur Davis loses AL-GOV race, Parker Griffith fights for political life**

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**Subject:** Fw: Artur Davis loses AL-GOV race, Parker Griffith fights for political life

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From: "Chris Cillizza"

Date: Tue, 1 Jun 2010 23:06:34 -0400

To: Chris Cillizza

Subject: Artur Davis loses AL-GOV race, Parker Griffith fights for political life

<http://voices.washingtonpost.com/thefix/governors/national-republicans-get-their.html>

Rep. Artur Davis loses in Alabama governor's race

Alabama Agriculture Commissioner Ron Sparks crushed Rep. Artur Davis in the Democratic primary for governor, ending Davis' hopes of becoming the state's first black governor.

The Associated Press called the race for Sparks shortly before 11 pm eastern time. With nearly 70 percent of precincts reporting, Sparks led by a whopping 64 percent to 36 percent margin.

Davis had long been touted as a star on the national stage but his insistence on opposing President Barack Obama's agenda in a failed attempt to keep himself viable in a general election coupled with his long-running feud with the state's unelected black leaders combined to make his showing a major disappointment.

In the Republican gubernatorial race, a July 13 runoff appeared to be a certainty with former state Sen. Bradley Byrne, businessman Tim James and state Rep. Robert Bentley running in close quarters.

Affirming the sense that Alabama voters were not happy with the status quo, 5th district Rep. Parker Griffith trailed badly in his first race as a Republican since switching parties last year.

Madison County Commissioner Mo Brooks had 51 percent of the vote to Griffith's 33 percent and 16 percent for Les Phillip with nearly 90 percent of precincts reporting.

Griffith, who had been elected as a Democrat to the northern Alabama 5th district, switched parties last year with promises from House Republican leaders that they would back him to the hilt.

But, he struggled to convince Republican primary voters that he was one of them; he was battered over his vote for Nancy Pelosi (Calif.) as House Speaker at the start of the 111th Congress, for example.

Griffith's problems were a mirror image of Pennsylvania Sen. Arlen Specter's (D) difficulties in his primary loss to Rep. Joe Sestak on May 18.

Two hundred miles to the west, national Republicans seemed likely to get some good news as Mississippi state Sen. Alan Nunnelee looked likely to win the GOP nomination in the 1st district without a runoff.

With 89 percent of precincts reporting, Nunnelee had 51 percent of the vote in the race against former Europa Mayor Henry Ross and Fox News Channel commentator Angela McGlowan.

Nunnelee will face Rep. Travis Childers (D) in the fall in a district that gave Sen. John McCain (Ariz.) 62 percent of the vote in 2008 and that will be a major GOP pickup target this fall.

Across the country in new Mexico, Dona Ana District Attorney Susana Martinez cruised to a victory in the GOP primary for governor. She will face Lt. Gov. Diane Denish in the fall.

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