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FINAL

ROAD TO VICTORY



Corey O'Connor, holding son Emmett, and his wife Katie, holding daughter Molly, wave to drivers at the corner of Forward and Murray avenues in Squirrel Hill on Wednesday. The couple hold signs thanking the city for nominating him as the Democratic candidate for mayor.

Lucy Schaly/Post-Gazette

Voting breakdown shows Gainey's defeat was marked by deep divides

By Mike Wereschagin and Jacob Geanous
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Four years ago, as former Mayor Bill Peduto was fighting to hold onto the top job in the city, a political tide driven by the left wing of his party was rising to overwhelm his bid for a third term.

From Lawrenceville to Highland Park, and Squirrel Hill to Point Breeze, some of the bastions of Pittsburgh's liberalism were abandoning the man who had once called himself the first progressive mayor of a major rust-belt city.

These Democratic voters had swung to his unlikely challenger, then-state Rep. Ed Gainey, and enabled him to take down an incumbent mayor for the first time since the nation was mired in the depths of the Great Depression nearly 100 years earlier.

The shift in these key areas

MAYORAL Election 2025

would prove crucial to Mr. Gainey's historic victory that day.

Four years later, they would play the same role in his defeat.

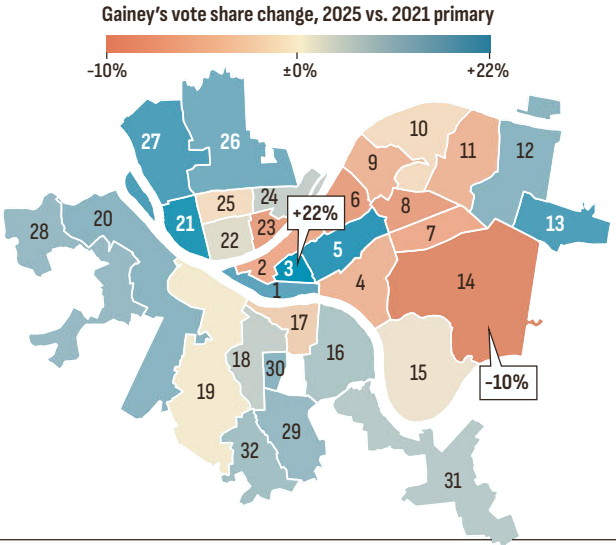
Results from the primary election on Tuesday, in which Allegheny County Controller Corey O'Connor unseated Mr. Gainey as the Democratic nominee for mayor, show steep declines in support for Mr. Gainey in some of the most vote-rich areas of the city.

Nowhere was that shift more dramatic than in the 14th ward, a long-time epicenter of political power in the city. Encompassing the densely populated neighborhoods of Squirrel

SEE ROAD, PAGE A-12

Shifting support

Over the past four years, Mayor Ed Gainey lost popular support in key areas of the city, such as the 14th Ward — the city's most populous — where Mr. Gainey's share of the vote fell by 10 percentage points compared to his first run for mayor. Though the mayor boosted his margins of victory in the Hill District, the East Hills and parts of the North Side, it wasn't enough to overcome Corey O'Connor's lead.



Defeat a 'cautionary tale' for progressives

By Hallie Lauer
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

A yearslong progressive sweep of elections in Western Pennsylvania ushered Pittsburgh Mayor Ed Gainey into office in 2021 and made him the first challenger in nearly a century to unseat an incumbent running for re-election.

Four years later, the same thing happened to him.

Allegheny County Controller

Corey O'Connor won the Democratic primary with about 53% of the vote Tuesday night, likely pushing control of the city back to what many see as the old establishment wing of the Democratic party that elected former Mayor Bill Peduto and former Allegheny County Executive Rich Fitzgerald.

It's too early to say if this loss was the first nail in the coffin for the progressives, Democratic strategist Mike Butler said, but

Tuesday night's results are "definitely a cautionary tale."

Amid social unrest and political upheaval in Pittsburgh, Mr. Gainey became the city's first Black mayor, knocking incumbent Mr. Peduto out of office.

His historic election in 2021 was part of a series of political wins for the further-left leaning cohort in Allegheny County that started in 2018 with the election of Sara Innamorato and Summer

Lee to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives. It went on to elevate those women to the seat of Allegheny County government and Congress in subsequent years.

Progressives didn't necessarily lose ground, but they didn't gain much more support than they had in the city four years ago either. Election night results show Mr. Gainey received nearly the same

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PITTSBURGH PUBLIC SCHOOLS

NEW PLAN CALLS FOR 12 SCHOOLS TO CLOSE

Officials originally wanted to shutter 14

By Megan Tomasic
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Pittsburgh Public School officials are flipping the script. Instead of proposing 14 school closures, they are now considering 12, a move that changes the fate of at least five buildings.

The revised plan was presented Wednesday at the school board's agenda review meeting, months after an original feasibility study was largely rejected by school directors who questioned why things such as feeder patterns and financial impacts weren't included.

The major changes included in Wednesday's document: Roosevelt K-5 and Schiller 6-8 — originally proposed for closure — would remain open. Manchester PreK-8, which was to be converted to a 6-8 school, would permanently shutter.

Conroy, a school that helps students with special needs, would stay in its current location in Manchester, a win for parents who pushed against a proposal to move it to South Brook 6-8. And Allegheny K-5 would move into the current

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U.S. STEEL DEAL

Nippon awaits latest CFIUS review

Trump will have 15 days to make a decision

By Anya Litvak
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Late Wednesday morning — as steel analysts and reporters furiously refreshed their browsers to see if a national security review of Nippon Steel's \$14.9 billion acquisition of U.S. Steel would clear the deal struck in December 2023 — Stephen Anderson took the long view.

Just as the Japanese do, he explained.

A retired commercial diplomat who spent 25 years with the U.S. Commercial Service, including most recently at the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo, Mr. Anderson was a guest speaker at a trade event in Oil City organized by the nonprofit Northwest Commission and the Japan-America Society of Pennsylvania. It was geared toward veterans who want to do business in or with Japan.

Mr. Anderson set the stage by traveling back in time.

In 1905, Russia and Japan signed a peace treaty brokered by President

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Weather
Occasional rain and drizzle.
Daytime high, 55;
tonight's low, 47.
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