



Thomas Massie was defeated in the Kentucky Republican primary.

## Thomas Massie election: Losing the battle, winning the war

**On May 19, 2026, thirty-two million dollars bought a congressional seat in Kentucky — and with it, a glimpse of what American democracy has become.**

*Claudio Grass*

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The defeat of seven-term Congressman Thomas Massie in Kentucky's Fourth District primary on May 19, 2026, marked a watershed moment in the long history of corporate and special-interest distortion of US elections. Everyone has known for a very long time that money swings elections, but it is rare to see an example so

flagrant and so provocative. This particular election made a lot of Americans and international observers realize that they are witnessing the death of democracy in real time.

## The Most Expensive Primary in American History

Massie's race was officially [the most expensive primary in American history](#) with over \$32 million spent and it soon became clear that this was less of a reflection of local constituent will and more a masterclass in how outside capital can subvert it. Critics have pointed to a staggering donation disparity: while Massie's campaign was sustained organically by small-dollar, low-amount individual grassroots donors, i.e. real people, with real concerns, that actually live in the state and care about its future, his opponent's war chest was heavily concentrated in a handful of ultra-wealthy megadonors and aggressive outside PACs. Chief among them, the all-powerful American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC). This unprecedented influx of outside cash effectively bought the airwaves, allowing centralized national interests to completely overwhelm a local primary.

All these millions, however, did more than buy ad time to promote Massie's opponent, it was also laser-focused on smearing Massie.

## A Campaign Built on Smears

To secure his ouster, his detractors and the outside PACs weaponized a series of distorted and defamatory accusations designed to paint the seven-term congressman as a partisan saboteur. The most heavily promoted among these was the narrative, echoed heavily by Donald Trump himself, that Massie habitually obstructed the Republican platform and betrayed his own party. This claim was thoroughly dismantled by legislative records showing he actually voted with the administration over 90% of the time during Trump's second term. As the gentleman from Kentucky [put it himself](#): "I vote with Republicans 91% of the time. And the 9% I don't, they're taking up for pedophiles, starting another war, or bankrupting our country." In other words, Massie didn't betray the Republican party, the party betrayed him, along with countless other Americans.

His opponents systematically stripped his votes of their libertarian and constitutional context, reframing his consistent, blanket opposition to all foreign aid as targeted "anti-Israel" hostility. They painted a picture of the Congressman that could not possibly be further from the truth. He was also bluntly accused of antisemitism simply because of his fierce opposition to the Iran war. The fact is,

Thomas Massie has been opposed to all wars, because he understands that putting “America First” means putting an end to all foreign military interventions and entanglements. It means focusing on making the lives of the people at home better, not on ending or irreparably destroying those of people abroad. For his courage to take this stand, the pro-war, pro-Israel lobby condemned him as Jew-hater and painted anyone that supported him with the same brush. The bitter irony of it all is that the millions that this lobby spent against Massie also worked against the interests of a lot of American Jews. As a [Times of Israel](#) opinion piece highlighted: “The absurdity is that most American Jews are liberal. Many are openly opposed to Netanyahu government policy and to the occupation. Many of the protesters in New York demonstrating against this reality are Jewish.” The fact that AIPAC has gone on a buying spree of American politicians for years, something it is openly bragging about, is only helping actual, real antisemites gain support and engage in the very dangerous blurring of the line between the Israeli government and the Jewish people.

## The Epstein Factor

His other sin, perhaps even graver than standing against the idea of pointless death and suffering, was his dogged determination to release the Epstein files and to ensure justice for the victims. Massie, along with ex-Congresswoman Marjorie Taylor Greene (who saw her political career be ended not long ago), Lauren Boebert, Nancy Mace and Democrat Ro Khanna, were among the shamefully few lawmakers that stood up for the abused, the humiliated, the silenced and the institutionally gaslit women that have yet to see anyone responsible for their torment face the justice they deserve.

Unsurprisingly, this push for transparency was met with fierce hostility from the establishment and those it protects. [As Marjorie Taylor Greene told the NYT](#), President Trump told her that he opposed the release of the Epstein files because his “friends will get hurt”. Greene and her family also faced over 700 death threats, including a pipe bomb at her home and direct messages threatening to kill her youngest son, after the US President publicly labeled her a “traitor”. When she shared this with Trump, he retorted that it would be her fault if her son were killed.

In this light, it is abundantly clear why Massie had to be ousted at all costs. He publicly stated that he would not stop if he were to be reelected; in fact, he proudly campaigned on it: he would keep voting against war, against spending measures that drive the nation even further into debt and debase the currency, against government overreach, and against protecting criminals, miscreants and child

molesters no matter where or who they are. The millions that were poured into this race proved beyond doubt the level of panic and the fear of sunlight that overwhelmed his political enemies.

## A Blank Slate With a War Chest

Compounding the engineered nature of the race was the utter obscurity of Massie's opponent, Ed Gallrein. A virtual political unknown, Gallrein had zero public profile or political footprint in the district until he was introduced into the race just months prior. Even Trump himself mispronounced his name in the video he made to endorse him. Throughout the campaign, Gallrein largely avoided public campaign appearances and spontaneous voter interactions, relying instead on a heavily managed media strategy built on his background as a former Navy SEAL and a promise of absolute, unconditional, undying loyalty to Donald Trump. He also declined to debate Massie and to argue his case against him in front of the people of Kentucky. Numerous observers have highlighted that this sets a dangerous precedent for representative democracy. It proves that a long-standing, locally embedded lawmaker can be targeted and purged by special interests using a complete blank slate as a vessel, provided that vessel is insulated by an avalanche of multi-million dollar ad buys.

## Rage Across Party Lines

The most important thing that came out of this election was not Massie's defeat. It was the reaction to it and the unifying effect it had for many across the nation. The ire, the indignation and the sheer disgust that this race awoke in so many people went beyond political and party lines. It brought together people that usually agree on virtually nothing, but they do share the sense that their country is slipping away from them and that their voices mean nothing, because no matter what they vote, they get the same government, controlled by the same interests, bought and paid for by the same wallets, just wrapped in a different color.

However, despair and resignation, tempting as they might be, are not the way forward. For one thing, there are many reasons to be hopeful for the future: Massie won the youth vote by a mile, which clearly shows that the younger generation is not buying what the establishment is selling and they cannot be as easily manipulated as their elders. They are social media savvy, so they can identify online propaganda and paid opinions when they see them. They are also mostly Christian, country folks who don't like to see their faith twisted and weaponized: they believe

in the Ten Commandments and two of the most famous ones, i.e. don't kill and don't steal, are being violated in front of their very eyes by the current administration and its closest ally. Most importantly, they also don't have the overwhelming Boomer urge to support a party or follow a leader blindly off a cliff.

Countless Democratic voters broke with their party when it went too far left, when it tried to force a clearly mentally declining Biden down their throats for a second term and then a deeply unpopular Kamala Harris without even asking them, or when it kept supporting Israel even as the ethnic cleansing it was committing was being live-streamed on their phones. Similarly, many Republicans have simply had enough of broken promises about "no more wars", and "draining the swamp". Most importantly, they had enough of seeing their elected representatives grow richer as they themselves struggle to pay for the roof over their heads, for their kids' education and for their weekly groceries.

## The Tide Is Turning

There is a clear shift underway and it's not just in the US. A growing number of citizens all over the West are becoming dissatisfied with the choices they are being offered and that number will soon reach critical mass. This is the time for new choices to emerge, this time, not hand-picked by special interests, by foreign countries and by those that represent the very worst traits of humanity. Avarice, bloodlust, hatred and misanthropy will not be all we have to choose from for much longer.

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