# Maryland Senate Primary: a high-stakes race



## Maryland Senate Primary: A High-Stakes Race

The Senate race in Maryland is drawing heightened attention as both Democrats and Republicans prepare for a critical primary on Tuesday, May 14, 2024. Former Governor Larry Hogan’s entry into the race has disrupted the usual political dynamics in this traditionally Democratic state, presenting the GOP with a rare chance to flip a Senate seat.

### Democratic Contestants

Key Democratic contenders include Congressman David Trone and Prince George’s County Executive Angela Alsobrooks. The race between them is extremely close. Trone, a wealthy businessman and owner of Total Wine & More, has financed his campaign with over $61 million of his own money. In contrast, Alsobrooks has secured endorsements from notable figures, including Governor Wes Moore, taking a more traditional fundraising approach.

### Republican Candidate

Larry Hogan, who served two terms as Maryland’s governor and is known for his centrist policies, is the Republican hopeful. Hogan’s previous record includes signing legislation banning fracking and supporting the Paris climate accord. His campaign positions him against the dysfunction in Washington, occasionally drawing parallels to moderate Republicans like Mitt Romney and Lisa Murkowski.

### Election Significance

This Senate race is especially significant as Democrats currently hold the Senate by a single vote. With the potential onset of President Joe Biden’s second term or to counter Donald Trump’s initial two years, maintaining or shifting control of the Senate is critical for both parties.

### Current Political Landscape

Although Maryland trends blue, Hogan’s widespread name recognition and centrist reputation pose a notable challenge to any Democratic candidate. A recent poll indicates that voters know Hogan better than his Democratic opponents, which could influence the outcome.

### Broader Implications

The race also tests the durability of the anti-Trump faction within the GOP and whether Hogan’s moderate brand can still garner significant support.

### Conclusion

As voters head to the polls, the Maryland Senate race promises to be a highly competitive contest that could impact the balance of power in the U.S. Senate.

*[Source: "The Independent," John Bowden, Washington DC, May 14, 2024]*