



Phil Lyman supporters cheer at the Utah Republican Nominating Convention in Salt Lake City on Saturday.

PHOTOS BY TRENT NELSON / The Salt Lake Tribune

Moore, Maloy don't win nominations

GOP

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now wade into a primary election where they'll face other GOP candidates who gathered enough voters' signatures to remain in the summer primary. To delegates, those signature gatherers have spited a convention system they hold sacred, and, in many cases, they steadfastly elected "convention-only" candidates.

Two-thirds of delegates picked Phil Lyman — a state legislator Trump pardoned in 2020, after he was convicted of

a misdemeanor for leading an illegal protest on federal land — in the 2024 gubernatorial race.

Taking the convention stage to address the crowd before the vote, Gov. Spencer Cox, who is up for reelection after his first four-year term, was met with some cheers, but a vocal majority hissed at the governor.

"Maybe you're booing me because you hate that I signed the largest tax cut in Utah history. Maybe you hate that I signed constitutional carry into law. Maybe you hate that we ended CRT, DEI and ESG," Cox, recalling his Republican bone



Trent Stagg » Won Trump endorsement for U.S. Senate



John Curtis » Makes Senate primary by gathering signatures



Brad Wilson » House speaker gathered signatures



Jason Walton » Businessman made ballot by gathering signatures

Rep. Burgess Owens, a loyal Trump surrogate, in Utah's 4th Congressional District. Because Rep. John Curtis is leaving his 3rd District seat in hopes of replacing Romney, several Republicans are running for his open seat.

Of the two other incumbent members of Congress, neither Rep. Blake Moore of Utah's 1st Congressional District nor Rep. Celeste Maloy, the recent winner of November's 2nd District special election for the 2nd District seat, were nominated on Saturday. Both, however, will run in their primary races.

Less than two days ahead of the convention, Sen. Mike Lee — a favorite among delegates and an avid Trump supporter — endorsed Colby Jenkins, a former U.S. Army officer, over Maloy in the 2nd District race.

In a head-to-head vote, Jenkins received nearly 59% of the delegates' support, leaving Maloy with 43%. But the win wasn't enough to clear the 60% threshold to win the nomination outright, meaning Maloy, who didn't gather signatures, will have a chance to defend her seat again in June.

Taking the stage Saturday, Maloy brought her own surrogate to the microphone: Delegate favorite and congressional colleague Owens.

More than two of the 17 hours delegates spent at the Salt Palace were taken up by six long votes to nominate a candidate to replace Curtis in Utah's 3rd District. State Sen. Mike Kennedy, another "convention-only" candidate, eventually received 61% of the vote. He joins signature-gathering candidates Stewart Peay, Jr. Bird, Cass Lawrence and John Douglal on the ballot.

After voting finished around midnight, the delegates retraced their steps out of the Salt Palace and back into the darkness, leaving behind red, white and blue campaign signs and the disposable plates that once held free pizza slices given by the Cox campaign to feed the delegates on the convention floor.

Rep. Burgess Owens » No. 4th District opposition in primary

Rep. Blake Moore » 1st District incumbent not nominated

Rep. Celeste Maloy » 2nd District incumbent not nominated

Salt Lake Tribune reporters Bryan Schott and Emily Anderson Stern contributed to this story.



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