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Liberal leadership race heats up as John Pesutto wins Hawthorn seat



By Allanah Sciberras | 6:35pm Nov 30, 2022



John Pesutto claims ultra-marginal seat of Hawthorn

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[Liberal Party](#) leadership contender John Pesutto has won back the ultra marginal seat of Hawthorn four days after the [Victorian Election](#).

Speaking to 9News, Pesutto said it was a great honour to be elected after a "long four-year" battle.

Pesutto [lost his seat in 2018](#) by just hundreds of votes to Labor MP John Kennedy.

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Liberal candidate John Pesutto has won back the seat of Hawthorn. (Nine)

"This was a really tough and competitive campaign, particularly after the federal election," he told 9News.

"It was a civil campaign and it's a great honour to be elected for the second time."

Hawthorn had traditionally been a core Liberal seat and is the same area where [independent teal candidate Monique Ryan won a seat in the federal election](#) from then-treasurer Josh Frydenberg.

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At last count, Pesutto was up by 986 votes against independent Melissa Lowe.

She and Kennedy phoned Pesutto to concede the seat earlier today.

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Liberal Party leadership contender John Pesutto will ramp up efforts to win over his colleagues in the coming day (Nine)

It appeared on election night that Lowe was in front but pre-poll and postal votes tipped the race in Pesutto's favour.

Pesutto told 9News that he would ramp up efforts to win over his colleagues in the coming days as he faces off against Brad Battin and Richard Riordan for the party's leadership. Ryan Smith pulled out of the leadership race today.

"If elected leader, we will see a Liberal Party that is inclusive that is committed to reaching all sides of the state," Pesutto said.



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"Winning these seats in Melbourne, it shows that the Liberal Party can still win these seats and it means we can wins these ones, we can win the ones in outer suburbs and in regional and rural Victoria."

In Mornington, the Liberal Party's Chris Crewther was in front of independent Kate Lardner by 337 votes.


In Bass, Labor held a lead of just 53 votes ahead of the Liberals.

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