

Super Tuesday and Future of the Presidential Election

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With the next US presidential election eight months away, a second term for Donald Trump seems more plausible than ever. The Ukraine scandal and related impeachment trial seem to have emboldened Trump and bolstered his anti-elite narrative among Republican supporters. After his acquittal, he became the third president, along with Andrew Johnson and Bill Clinton, [to be impeached](#). Despite this trial, which would have broken most candidates, Trump currently maintains an approval [rating 49%](#) and is being backed with strong support from the Republican party.

The one question on everyone’s mind right now is who will be the Democratic nominee for the coming presidential election? Who has the ability to go up against Trump and defeat him?

The democratic presidential primary is about to reach its tipping point. The Iowa Caucus and New Hampshire primary have left only eight contenders. Among the candidates who have dropped out was the millennial favourite, futuristic “Math Guy” [Andrew Yang](#). He focused his platform on the impact of the automatization of jobs and proposed a ‘freedom dividend’ (1000 USD per month) for every American to combat the changing job market. In total, 20 candidates have already dropped out of the race. The next state to choose delegates is South Carolina, but more candidates and foreign eyes are looking forward to Super Tuesday on March 3. More delegates for the convention can be won on Super Tuesday than on any other single day. This year’s Super Tuesday will offer [1,357 of the 3,979 pledged delegates](#) to be allotted in the Democratic primary. [According to Josh Putnam](#), a political science professor at the University of North Carolina, “heading out of Super Tuesday, we’ll have as many as three viable candidates, maybe only two.”

It is hard to foresee the result of the day, but one thing is clear: Super Tuesday will likely clear the field and establish the presumptive favorite to carry the party’s banner in the November election. For now, **Senator Bernie Sanders** holds critical polling leads. [New surveys](#) show him ahead in California (offering 415 delegates) and Texas (offering 228 delegates), which are [considered the biggest prizes](#) in the upcoming Super Tuesday voting.

What was the result of the previous two states’ primaries?

This year’s democratic primary was the largest and most diverse in American political history. At its peak, more than 25 candidates entered the race, and although many have since dropped out, Democrats have no shortage of candidates seeking the nomination.

So far, we are witnessing strong and prominent performances from **Senator Bernie Sanders** and **Pete Buttigieg**. The Iowa and New Hampshire voters gave 22 delegates to “Mayor Pete” and 21 to Sanders, while Senator Elizabeth Warren only secured eight. A strong performance by Amy Klobuchar in New Hampshire gave the sense that she will remain in the race for quite a while. However, the fact that no candidate gained 30% of votes in the first two states has



@BernieSanders

-77-year-old Vermont
Senator

- Chance of winning the
primary according to
FiveThirtyEight: 39%

- Campaign spending in
January: \$ 26.1 million

- Money left in campaign
in February: \$16.8 million

-Main progressive
candidate in the race



(@JoeBiden)

- 77-year-old 47th Vice President of the United States.
- Chance of winning the primary according to FiveThirtyEight: 8%
- Campaign spending in January: \$10.6 million
- Money left in campaign in February: \$7.1 million
- Biden, or “Uncle Joe,” has cast himself as the “most qualified” candidate to be president.

greatly increased the odds that [no one will have a majority](#) heading into the Democratic convention in Milwaukee this summer. One-time party favorite and “uncontested” champion, former Vice President Joe Biden, currently holds six delegates, putting his delegate count behind four other candidates. After the results came in from Iowa and New Hampshire, The Guardian published [an article](#) with the title: “Why Joe Biden needs ‘a political miracle’ to stay in the race to face Trump.” A man, whose candidacy a year ago seemed to be predicated on his appeal to the white working class voters, is now dependant on African American voters to rescue him from his political forgetfulness. 77-year-old Biden’s debate performances have failed to inspire the average American. After the Iowa caucus, he immediately fled to New Hampshire before the votes had even been counted, just to escape the public humiliation of finishing fifth. Biden, who was Barack Obama’s righthand man for eight years, seems to be [“Stuck Between Barack and a Hard Place.”](#) His affiliation with the former president and tendency to take a credit on Obama’s successes while offering weak justifications for the former president’s policy mistakes has left many voters disappointed.

Bernie vs Mayor Pete

With the first states’ results in, the progressive senator from Vermont, Bernie Sanders, is trailing close behind moderate Pete Buttigieg’s delegate count. After the senator won a tight victory in New Hampshire, the mainstream media announced

him as a front runner for the progressive side of the party. “Mayor Pete,” on the other hand, still has multiple moderate competitors that are vying for the nomination. Among them is Senator Klobuchar of Minnesota, who pulled out an impressive 19.8 % of the votes in New Hampshire. Among other moderate nominees, Joe Biden also cannot be discounted. Although he fared poorly in both Iowa and New Hampshire, gaining around 16% and 8%, respectively, he is counting on his popularity in states like South Carolina, which offers 54 delegates, to give his campaign a second wind. After the 2016 primary, Senator Sanders has invested heavily in outreach to racial minorities. Those efforts have paid off in 2020 and led to a huge victory in Nevada (36 delegates), the most diverse state to vote so far. With 50% of precincts [reporting currently](#), Sanders has 46.7% support, followed by Joe Biden at 19.3%, Pete Buttigieg at 15.4%, and Elizabeth Warren at 10.3%.

Historically, the model of a charismatic rhetorician packaging progressive ideas in a moderate message is one that has worked incredibly well for Democrats. However, there are new contradictions between identity and those campaigning on current issues. Along with the growing identity abnormalities is a generational divide, which some may argue is more influential than class, race, or education. Surprisingly, President Trump is the real-estate billionaire who speaks for coal miners; Bernie Sanders is the septuagenarian senator who rallies the young left. Buttigieg, as a youthful 37-year-old, appeals mostly to middle-aged and older white voters, while 77-year-old Biden is being supported by African American voters. Traditionally, the American electorate has appreciated candidates who, from a socioeconomic perspective, identify “down.” Franklin D. Roosevelt, for example, was a wealthy man who

distanced himself from the upper class but successfully secured two terms. However, there is not a history of successful candidates that identify “up” like the young former mayor of South Bend who comes from modest beginnings. The Atlantic has dedicated [an entire article](#) to why young voters do not get Buttigieg, and accused his campaign strategy of being inauthentic. Unlike Senator Sanders, who relies on the young progressives, Buttigieg has positioned himself as a forward-looking leader among the older generation of moderate Democrats — he is openly gay and millennial, but also a veteran of the war in Afghanistan. Like Obama, he hopes to make history. If he wins, he would be the first gay president and Chasten Buttigieg would be the inaugural ‘first husband.’ However, his campaign strategy, if proven effective, will leave young progressives as a kind of [unrepresented faction](#) awkwardly domiciled within the Democratic Party.

What are the main critiques of leading candidates?

Bernie Sanders’s biggest critiques are his socialist label and his ‘radical’ proposals. Having a self-declared democratic socialist at the top of the party could jeopardize the Democrats’ chances in November. According to Sanders, much of this criticism is coming from the “Wall Street elite” who fear his growing support. In February of 2020, Lloyd Blankfein, former chief executive of Goldman Sachs, tweeted that Sanders’s election would “screw up” the US economy and delight Russia. “If Dems go on to nominate Sanders, the Russians will have to reconsider whom to work for to best screw up the US. Sanders is just as polarizing as Trump and he’ll ruin our economy and doesn’t care about our military. If I’m Russian, I go with Sanders this time around,” [he wrote](#). For Pete Buttigieg, homosexuality seems to be the big topic of discussion. Most recently, he has been called out by radio host Rush Limbaugh on his syndicated radio program. Limbaugh called Buttigieg “a gay guy, 37 years old, loves kissing his husband on debate stages.” Buttigieg came back strongly during a CNN town hall after conservative Limbaugh said Trump advised him to “never apologize” for his recent comments about Buttigieg’s sexuality. “One thing about my marriage is it’s never involved me having to send hush money to a porn star after cheating on my spouse with him or her,” [Buttigieg said at the town hall](#). “So they want to debate family values, let’s debate family values. I’m ready.”

And then there is Michael Bloomberg.

Former New York City Mayor Mike Bloomberg has garnered great attention since announcing his candidacy late last fall. According to the new [NPR/PBS NewsHour/Marist poll](#), he is now in second place among the Democratic nominees with 19% of support nationwide. Bloomberg chose not to compete in the first four primary states. He will not be a caucus choice in Nevada either, despite being on the debate stage. He has promoted himself as the only candidate who can defeat Trump, and he aims to make up for an unusually late entry in the Democratic primary through historic amounts of spending. He has already spent more than \$30 million on television ads and has adopted an unorthodox strategy of skipping the first four states in the primary. Notably, Bloomberg has announced that his campaign will be entirely self-funded.

In February 2020, Bloomberg’s total spending surpassed \$400 million on television, radio, and digital media advertising, more than Obama spent on the entirety of his 2012 general election campaign (\$338.3 million). By comparison, the Democratic frontrunner, Sanders, has spent an estimated \$18 million on ads, despite the fact that he has campaigned for eight months longer than Bloomberg. The former mayor’s spending so far has exceeded his opponents, including President Trump. However, the two billionaires have already started going head to head. He and Trump each spent \$11 million on single 60-second TV ads during the Super Bowl earlier this month. Trump called out “Mini Mike” for being afraid to participate in the debate while Bloomberg pointed out the inherited nature of Trump’s wealth.

Both featured on Forbes's 400 richest people. Bloomberg placed ninth with a net worth of \$52 billion, while the current president was ranked 275th with a worth of \$3.1 billion. Despite the sufficient accumulated wealth on both sides, it is hard to predict how much this presidential race is going to cost either side. However, Bloomberg's unprecedented wealth and spending could be a defining factor in how long he stays in the race. The 2016 presidential election cost about \$2.4 billion, according to an analysis by the nonpartisan Center for Responsive Politics, which tracks political spending. This was actually a dip from the previous election in 2012. Trump's spending in 2016 was considered relatively modest at \$94 million.

There will be nothing modest about the 2020 race. Trump and his allies are raising huge sums for his re-election and Bloomberg [has not ruled out spending \\$1 billion](#) to defeat Trump, even if the former New York mayor fails to win the Democratic nomination. Michael Bloomberg has already spent nearly \$350m on ads focused on the 16 states and territories voting on the Super Tuesday. It is believed that most of his popularity is cutting into Biden's support, especially with moderates and African Americans. Several black members of Congress and city mayors have endorsed Bloomberg despite the discriminatory "stop-and-frisk" policy as mayor of New York. A few days ago, the Drudge Report released [an article](#) claiming that the campaign is "considering Hillary as running mate after their polling found the Bloomberg-Clinton combination would be a formidable force." There is no doubt that Hillary Clinton wants back in, and her staff is pushing such rumours. However, the Bloomberg-Clinton ticket also has the potential to infuriate Bernie Sanders's voters who see Clinton as the woman who "rigged" the 2016 primaries against him. For further reference of just how deep disdain for Clinton runs, it is important to note that 12% of Sanders's primary supporters voted for President Trump in the 2016 general election. Despite the fact that Clinton has already [shut down the notion](#) of serving as Bloomberg's running mate, it is clear that this billionaire is serious about putting his money where his mouth is.



Donald J. Trump ✓
@realDonaldTrump

It is happening again to Crazy Bernie, just like last time, only far more obvious. They are taking the Democrat Nomination away from him, and there's very little he can do. A Rigged System!

The importance of the upcoming Super Tuesday primaries on March 3 cannot be understated. This will be a decisive day for several candidates. It will likely clear the presidential primary field and force several candidates to drop out. This narrowing of the race, however, will help the remaining candidates to raise money and garner greater support. Super Tuesday will also feature the much anticipated debut of Bloomberg, who will appear on the ballot after skipping the first states. He is already considered to be a noteworthy candidate who is gradually gaining solid support. There is speculation about what will happen if Joe Biden falls short or Sanders fails to gather momentum in California. Some are even questioning if Elizabeth Warren will survive beyond this day. With many unknowns heading into Super Tuesday, one thing remains clear: the winner of this momentous day will be a firmly established force in the contest to become the next Democratic presidential nominee.