

## TOP TAKEAWAYS FROM THE NEW HAMPSHIRE PRIMARY

**WASHINGTON:** In July, Hillary Clinton offered up some prophetic words. "I always thought this would be a competitive race," she told CNN. How right she was. Her rival Bernie Sanders ran away with the Democratic presidential primary in New Hampshire, besting Clinton by more than 20 percentage points. On the Republican side, Donald Trump earned his first win of the campaign, and none of his rivals were even close. What does it all mean? Here are the top takeaways from Tuesday's primary in the Granite State, only the second stop on the long road to the White House.

### Trump 1, Establishment 0

The first lesson is not to be hasty in drawing conclusions from the campaign trail. It's clear that Trump was unable to fully muster supporters last week in Iowa, when he finished second to ultra-conservative Senator Ted Cruz. But he made good Tuesday on the resounding overall lead he has enjoyed in opinion polls since last summer, earning more than a third of Republican votes in New Hampshire.

"People read a lot into Trump's performance in Iowa," said Robert Boatright, a professor of political science at Clark University in Massachusetts. The anti-establishment, anti-elite message of the billionaire tycoon resonates with an eclectic mix of voters from the center to the far right-whose unifying characteristic is the rejection of politics as usual.

Unless evidence surfaces to the contrary, those voters have not abandoned their chosen candidate. Trump's rivals are many-four of them earned at least 10 percent of the vote on Tuesday: Ohio Governor John Kasich, former Florida governor Jeb Bush, Senator Marco Rubio of Florida and Cruz, the hero of the religious right.

"The Republican leadership wanted the field of non-Cruz and non-Trump candidates to be reduced," said Kyle Kondik, managing editor of the University of Virginia's online political newsletter Sabato's Crystal Ball. "The winnowing didn't really happen tonight."

### Jeb Bush: Stayin' Alive

Bush, who is looking to follow in the footsteps of his president father and brother,

spent last week insisting over and over again that New Hampshire was not a do-or-die moment for his campaign. With roughly 11 percent of the vote on Tuesday, Bush-headed for a fourth-place finish-is still alive.

New Hampshire "revives his campaign to a certain degree-it shows that he has at least as much support as Rubio and Cruz in a primary state," said Steven Smith, a professor of political science at Washington University in St. Louis. "He also probably has a larger bank account than Kasich and Rubio at this stage. So he will be in a position to put on full-scale campaigns in South Carolina and Nevada" later this month, Smith said.

### What next for Rubio?

Rubio-the surprise third-place finisher in Iowa-headed for fifth place in New Hampshire, largely due to a robotic debate performance on Saturday that didn't impress voters in the northeastern US state. "Maybe Rubio was a little overvalued after Iowa-now he's probably going to be undervalued after New Hampshire," Kondik predicted. Rubio, in a campaign message to supporters hours

after the New Hampshire polls closed, admitted: "On Saturday night at the debate, I dropped the ball. I want you to know that will never happen again."

### Clinton banking on black

After Tuesday's loss, Clinton's team quickly tried to downplay its significance by turning to the numbers. "The nomination will very likely be won in March, not February," campaign manager Robby Mook said in a memo sent to reporters. Voters in 28 states will cast ballots in March, with more than half of the delegates to the Democratic National Convention at stake. Notably on the calendar are contests in South Carolina, Texas, Georgia and Alabama, where black and Hispanics make up a majority of the Democratic voters. Since the presidency of Clinton's husband Bill in the 1990s, the links between the Clintons and blacks have been nearly airtight, with the exception of Barack Obama's historic 2008 run-at Hillary's expense.

"Before the primaries, you could make the argument that Iowa and New Hampshire were two of Bernie Sanders' three best states

because they're very liberal and they're very white, Vermont being the third state," Kondik said. Clinton's national profile may suffer after the loss in New Hampshire, Kondik said, but Sanders' lack of popularity in the South is borne out by several polls. According to an NBC survey, he trails Clinton in South Carolina by 37 percentage points.

The question of course is: Will African-American voters stay loyal to Clinton? "It will be very difficult, if not impossible, for a Democrat to win the nomination without strong levels of support among African-American and Hispanic voters," Mook said.

### The math

So far, only two percent of the Democratic and Republican delegates on offer have been awarded in Iowa and New Hampshire. As long as the Republican race remains divided, Trump can continue to dominate, even without winning 50 percent of the vote. But, from March 15, many states will begin attributing all of their Republican delegates on a winner-takes-all basis, and not proportionally, as the Democrats do. — AFP



**MANCHESTER:** Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump speaks as his wife Melania Trump and daughter Ivanka Trump look on after Primary day at his election night watch party at the Executive Court Banquet facility. — AFP

## TRUMP, SANDERS FACE CHALLENGES AFTER COMMANDING PRIMARY WINS

### DIVERSE STATES WILL CHALLENGE THEIR TRANSFORMATIONS

**MANCHESTER:** Republican Donald Trump and Democrat Bernie Sanders were moving yesterday from commanding wins in the first-in-the-nation New Hampshire primary to more diverse states that will challenge their transformation from outsider candidates to their parties' presidential nominees.

Tuesday's outcomes would have been nearly unthinkable not long ago. Sanders, a self-described democratic socialist, easily beat Hillary Clinton, a former secretary of state and first lady once seen as the all-but-certain Democratic nominee. While Clinton remains the favorite in the national race, the win by the Vermont senator could be a springboard into a competitive, drawn-out campaign.

With more than 90 percent of the vote counted, Sanders had 60 percent to Clinton's 38 percent. He swept majorities of men, independents and young people. And Sanders and Clinton were evenly divided among women, a major setback for a candidate who aims to become the nation's first female president.

### Important rebound

For Trump, the brash real estate billionaire and television personality who has never held public office, the win was an important rebound after his loss to Texas Sen. Ted Cruz in last week's Iowa caucuses, the first nominating contest. Trump has led national polls for months, and the New Hampshire victory proves he can win votes and gives credibility to his upstart

populist candidacy.

Trump had 35 percent, with Ohio Gov. John Kasich a distant second with 16 percent. "We are going to make America so great again," Trump told a raucous crowd. "Maybe greater than ever before." For some Republican leaders, back-to-back victories by Trump and Cruz, an uncompromising conservative, add urgency to the need to coalesce around a more mainstream candidate. Tuesday's vote did little to clarify who that might be. Kasich, a more moderate Republican, poured nearly all of his campaign resources into the state. He pointed to his largely positive approach, saying, "Light overcame the darkness."

Former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush and Florida Sen. Marco Rubio vied for third place along with Cruz, ensuring all would press on to the next contest - the Feb 20 South Carolina primary. The state is a hotbed of conservative tea party groups and evangelical voters that will test Trump's staying power. New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie told supporters that instead of going to South Carolina, he'll head home to "take a deep breath" and take stock of his struggling bid.

### 'Hungry for solutions'

Among Democrats, Sanders, who narrowly lost to Clinton in Iowa, appeals to liberal Democrats who believe President Barack Obama hasn't done enough to address the nation's wealth disparity. In her concession speech, Clinton echoed Sanders' calls for taking

on Wall Street banks and tackling income inequality. But she cast herself as more prepared to make good on her pledges.

"People have every right to be angry. But they're also hungry, they're hungry for solutions," she said. Clinton's campaign argues she will perform better as the race heads to more racially diverse states, including Nevada and South Carolina. Both New Hampshire and Iowa are overwhelmingly white states that are far less diverse than the nation as a whole.

Nevada has been considered Clinton territory, in part because of her strong relationships to the Latino community and longtime Democrats in the state. At stake Tuesday were less than 1 percent of the delegates who, at party national conventions in July, will choose nominees to succeed Obama. But a strong showing in New Hampshire can give a candidate momentum ahead of state contests in coming weeks, including the March 1 "Super Tuesday" when 11 states vote.

Clinton remains ahead in the overall delegate count due to support from super delegates - the party officials who can support the candidate of their choice at the convention. Overall, Clinton has amassed at least 392 delegates and Sanders at least 42; the magic number to clinch the nomination is 2,382. There were only 23 delegates at stake in New Hampshire's Republican primary, and they are awarded proportionally, based on the statewide vote. A candidate needs 1,237 delegates to win the nomination. — AP

## SANDERS CAMP JUBILANT AFTER BIG PRIMARY WIN

**CONCORD:** In a school gymnasium in Concord, jubilant volunteers for Bernie Sanders could not contain their excitement over his double-digit victory in the New Hampshire primary-and the tough battle ahead with Hillary Clinton.

"Bernie, Bernie, Bernie," they screamed at the senator's victory party late Tuesday, projecting an energy matched only by supporters of the night's Republican winner, Donald Trump. "Celebrate the Bern, baby!" said Sara Stuart, 56, a teaching assistant and local campaign volunteer covered in Bernie badges. "It is huge!"

With 90 percent of precincts reporting, Sanders won 60 percent of the Democratic vote compared to 38 percent for Clinton, the former secretary of state who commands one of the biggest political machines in the country. Just months ago, the grumpy 74-year-old grandfather promising a "political revolution" was written off as a joke.

### 'History in the making'

But a gathering grassroots campaign and message of addressing profound inequality has stirred up liberal voters-and Sanders is giving Clinton a run for her money. "It's really history in the making," said Eric Packer, 64, a Wall Street-trained investment advisor from Massachusetts who switched from backing Clinton in favor of Sanders last year.

"I think this helps to set the stage for the potential for Bernie to be taken more seriously." Exit polls showed Sanders beat Clinton among virtually every group-among women and men, in all age groups under 45, among those with and without college degrees, and among gun owners and non-gun owners. Clinton was ahead only among whites, families earning over \$200,000 a year and voters 65 and older, US media reported.

"What began last week in Iowa, which voters here in New Hampshire confirmed tonight, is nothing short of the beginning of a political revolution," Sanders said as he declared victory.

### Feel the Bern

The Clinton campaign admitted that Sanders raised \$5 million more than them last month, underlining his growing sway. Sanders often extols the fact that more than one million Americans each donated on average \$27, totalling \$3.7 million.

His campaign has a popular winning slogan-"Feel the Bern" has been printed on countless T-shirts, badges, magnets and key rings. The donations point to a grassroots popularity perhaps matched in this primary season by Trump, who packs thousands into big-venue rallies nationwide and who won the Republican New Hampshire primary. "The people want real change," said Sanders. "Together, we have sent the message that will echo from Wall Street to Washington, from Maine to California." The decisive test will come in Nevada and South Carolina, more racially diverse states in the west and south, where Clinton's support among blacks and Latinos is expected to defeat Sanders this month. — AFP



**CONCORD:** Democratic presidential candidate Bernie Sanders speaks to supporters after winning the New Hampshire Democratic Primary. — AFP



**SHARON:** In this Friday, Dec 18, 2015, photo Syrian refugee Ahmad Alkhalaf, 9, sits on a prayer rug in a mosque. — AP

## REFUGEE MENTAL HEALTH NEEDS MAY OVERWHELM, SAYS EXPERTS

**BOSTON:** For the thousands of Syrian refugees expected to arrive in the US in coming months, the first order of business will be securing the basics - health care, jobs, education and a safe home. But what organizations helping resettle them might not be prepared for, and what refugees themselves might be in denial about, is the need to treat the mental scars of war, experts said. Iham Al Horani, a 32-year-old refugee living in Worcester, Massachusetts, said he has had little time to think about his mental health in between months of job hunting and shuttling his mother, recovering from sniper gunfire, to doctor's appointments.

"It was difficult, what we came from," Al Horani said through a translator. "The living conditions in the refugee camp were bad. But at least we're all here." Organizations that work with refugees said it's too early to assess the full scope of arrivals' mental health needs. But experts say it's important to keep tabs on the emotional state of new arrivals, since symptoms may not appear until months or years later - well after most resettlement support services have ended.

The US has taken about 2,500 Syrian refugees since the conflict there began in 2011, including about 100 in Massachusetts. The Obama administration expects to take in at least 10,000 in the federal fiscal year that began in October. Experts estimate 10 to 20 percent of incoming Syrians will have war-related psychological

problems warranting treatment.

"They're in the honeymoon phase," said Richard Mollica, a psychiatry professor at Harvard Medical School who has spent decades working with torture and genocide victims. "In the first year, they're so happy to be out of that situation. They feel something wonderful is going to happen in America. It's only about two years later or so when there's a mental health crisis," he said. "It's at that point that reality hits and they really need a lot of mental health care."

### 'Unstable country'

Ahmad Alkhalaf, a 9-year-old who arrived in the Boston area this past summer for medical treatment, said he used to have restless nights when he would relive his mother's screams from the night a bomb killed three of his siblings and left him without arms. But those sounds, he said, have largely faded. "I'm fine," Ahmad said through a translator. "They're gone."

Ahmad's father, Dirgam Alkhalaf, said he recently took his son to a counselor, who found nothing concerning. They don't plan to go back. Ahmad Houssem Hallak, a 51-year-old Syrian recovering from an artillery attack that left him with speech and movement problems, said winning asylum last year hasn't eased his stress. He is working to bring over his wife and three children, who remain in Lebanon. "They live in an

unstable country," Hallak said through a translator. "It's a constant fear that I'm living in."

Such stresses - finding a job, adjusting to a new culture or dealing with life apart from family - can also contribute to mental health problems, said Bengt Arnetz, a professor at Michigan State University who has been studying trauma in Middle Eastern refugees. Failure to address them could lead some refugees to withdraw from society, increasing the chances they'll be drawn to extremist groups, Arnetz warned.

Alexandra Weber, chief program officer at the International Institute of New England, an agency contracted by the US government to resettle refugees, agreed mental health services can be improved. Many agencies, for example, don't have enough Arabic speakers, she said. But, she said, agencies are increasingly asking refugees about their emotional state as part of initial health screenings - something not done in years past. "For the first time in my career, I feel encouraged," Weber said. "In some ways, Syrians couldn't be coming at a better time." A spokesman for the US Department of Health and Human Services, which oversees the federal Office of Refugee Resettlement, declined to comment but pointed to general information on the office's website about federally funded programs for torture victims and its efforts at promoting "emotional wellness." — AP