



DES MOINES: Hayley Kibbe holds her 8-month-old son Beau at Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump's Iowa Caucus night gathering in Des Moines, Iowa. — AFP

VIRTUAL TIE RAISES DOUBTS: CAN HILLARY CLINTON CLOSE THE DEAL?

IOWA TOSS-UP REVIVES MEMORIES OF CLINTON'S LOSS TO OBAMA

DES MOINES: Hillary Clinton's struggle in Iowa to fend off underdog Bernie Sanders, a self-described democratic socialist, reignited questions about her ability to close the deal with Democratic voters and turned up the pressure on her high-profile White House campaign. The Democratic presidential front-runner, whose campaign ran off the rails in Iowa in 2008 against Barack Obama, was dealt another setback on Monday in the Midwestern state that begins the 2016 race for the presidency. The former secretary of state, Clinton, 68, was pushed to a virtual tie with Sanders, a 74-year-old US senator from Vermont. Next up is New Hampshire, which holds its primary on Feb 9. Sanders has been leading in opinion polls there and has an advantage because it neighbors his home state. A Clinton loss would start to set off alarm bells with her supporters.

"She has had every possible structural and organizational advantage and Sanders fought her to a draw," said Dan Schnur, director of the Jesse M Unruh Institute of Politics at the University of Southern California. "This is almost a moment by moment rerun of 2008," Schnur said. "The difference is her competition is not as tough this time." Clinton insisted at her post-caucus rally that she was the candidate who could unify her party and prevail against a Republican challenger in the Nov. 8 election but the sense of disappointment was palpable. Her subdued, six-minute speech contrasted with the ebullient tone of Sanders' 16-minute speech.

With no clear victory to announce, Clinton's campaign scrapped a plan to have her daughter Chelsea and her husband, former President Bill Clinton, introduce her. They stood alongside her instead, with Bill Clinton wearing his campaign logo badge upside-down. Aides removed the TelePrompster at the last minute, supporters at the Drake University rally told Reuters, in a further indication of last-minute changes in plans. While the race in Iowa had tightened in recent weeks, her aides had appeared to draw some confidence from a Des Moines Register/Bloomberg politics poll over the weekend that showed Clinton with a three-percentage-point lead over Sanders among likely caucus-goers. Into the early hours of yesterday morning, Clinton and Sanders remained separated by less than a single percentage point. The race was so tight that several precincts were forced to decide whether Clinton or Sanders got the winning votes - and one more delegate - by a coin toss, following the state Democratic Party's advice. The MSNBC television network finally called the race for Clinton at nearly 3 a.m. CST (0900 GMT), and Clinton's Iowa state director Matt Paul issued a statement declaring victory with "no uncertainty."

Opinion polls show Clinton still faces an enthusiasm gap with Sanders and her Republican rivals, whose race attracted a record turnout in Iowa. Voters have persistent doubts about her honesty and trustworthiness after months of controversy over her use of a private email server for government work while

secretary of state. Sanders, who launched his campaign nine months ago with a small, sparsely attended news conference on Capitol Hill, has excited liberal activists with an anti-establishment message that calls for eradicating income inequality, breaking up the big banks and providing free college tuition.

A popular movement

Iowa was a good state to test that message, given the heavy liberal bent of the Democratic activists who dominate the caucus process. Entrance polls of Iowa caucus-goers showed 68 percent described themselves as very or somewhat liberal. Fundraising figures reported on Sunday by Sanders underscored the extent to which his campaign has grown into a popular movement. Clinton has raised more than Sanders' her campaign brought in \$109 million last year compared to his \$73.5 million. But 75 percent of his haul came from donations of \$200 or less, in contrast to only 18 percent of Clinton's, and far more of Clinton's donors have hit the \$2,700 donation limit.

Still, Sanders faces significant challenges when the Democratic nominating contest moves to the more diverse states of Nevada and South Carolina before expanding to 11 states on March 1, "Super Tuesday," including seven in the South where Clinton's advantage with African-American voters could begin to pay off. "Iowa was built for Bernie Sanders," said Democratic strategist Joe Trippi, who nevertheless said the strong showing by Sanders means "this race goes on longer than Clinton wanted it to." — Reuters

ENTRANCE POLLS: DEMOCRATS DIVIDED BY AGE AND IDEOLOGY

WASHINGTON: Democratic caucus-goers were deeply divided by age and ideology, with younger participants in the Iowa caucus supporting Vermont Sen Bernie Sanders and older voters turning out for former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, entrance polling showed in a too-close-to-call race between the two candidates. Republicans who said they want a candidate who shares their values propelled Texas Sen Ted Cruz to victory on the GOP side, according to the survey of those arriving at caucus sites conducted by Edison Research for The Associated Press and television networks. Here's a closer look at the attitudes of the electorate:

Deeply divided Democrats

More than 8 in 10 Democratic participants under 30 supported Sanders, as did 6 in 10 of those between 30 and 44. But nearly 6 in 10 caucus-goers between 45 and 64 and 7 in 10 of those 65 and older came out to support Clinton. Sanders has worked hard to appeal to younger voters with his populist campaign focused on issues including income inequality and affordable college. A majority of caucus attendees who identified as Democrats came to support Clinton. But among the 2 in 10 Democratic caucus-goers identifying as independents, 7 in 10 favored Sanders.

Clinton was favored by 6 in 10 moderates and Sanders by 6 in 10 of those who said they are very liberal, while those who were somewhat liberal narrowly favored Clinton. Women were more likely to support Clinton, while men were more likely to support Sanders. Six in 10 non-white participants supported Clinton, but they accounted for just 1 in 10 caucus attendees. Clinton won strong support among those who wanted a candidate who could beat the Republican nominee and who had experience, while Sanders was supported by large margins among those wanting a candidate who is honest or cares about people like them.

Values count

More than 4 in 10 Republicans arriving at caucus sites said the candidate quality that mattered most in their vote was that the candidate shares their values. Among those who said so, Cruz won the support of nearly 4 in 10, versus just 2 in 10 for Rubio and less than 1 in 10 for Trump. Trump edged out Cruz to gain the support of the 2 in 10 wanting a candidate who can bring needed change, while Rubio was the top choice of the 2 in 10 who said they want a candidate who can win in November. Two-thirds of those who wanted a candidate who "tells it like it is" supported Trump, but that quality lagged

behind the others as the most desirable. Cruz was the top choice among very conservative caucus-goers, while Trump was the top choice of moderates. Those who said they were somewhat conservative split between Rubio and Trump, followed by Cruz.

Voter discontent

Four in 10 Republicans say they are angry and half say they're dissatisfied with the federal government. Angry caucus-goers were split between Trump and Cruz as their top candidate. GOP caucus-goers were split between those wanting an outsider versus someone with political experience. Trump was the top candidate of those who preferred an outsider, while those preferring someone with experience were split between Rubio and Cruz. Trump and Cruz both have been trying to tap into voter discontent on the campaign trail.

Biggest issues

Government spending was the top issue for just over 3 in 10 Republicans, followed closely by the economy and terrorism. Just over 1 in 10 said they cared most about immigration. A third of Democratic caucus-goers said the economy is the top issue facing the nation, while about the same proportion chose health care and slightly fewer said income inequality. Less than one in 10 said terrorism is the top issue. More than half of Democratic caucus-goers want a candidate who will continue President Barack Obama's policies.

First timers and late deciders

Over 4 in 10 Democrats say they're first-time caucus attendees. Six in 10 first-timers favored Sanders, while 6 in 10 previous caucus attendees favored Clinton. Nearly half of Republicans were first-time caucus-goers, and they tended to support Trump. But Cruz supporters were slightly more likely than those supporting Trump or Rubio to say they were contacted about caucusing for their candidate.

Forty-five percent of GOP voters said they decided on a candidate in the last week, and they broke for Cruz and Rubio over Trump. The survey was conducted for AP and the television networks by Edison Research as voters arrived at 40 randomly selected sites for Democratic and Republican caucuses in Iowa. The survey includes preliminary results from interviews with 1,660 Democratic caucus-goers and 1,794 Republican caucus-goers. The survey had a margin of sampling error of plus or minus 4 percentage points for both Democrats and Republicans, with higher margins of error for subgroups. — AP

CRUZ: TEA PARTY FIREBRAND STRIKES FIRST BLOW IN IOWA

DES MOINES: Once reviled by fellow Republicans as a "wacko bird" eager to shut down the US government, Ted Cruz proved with his Iowa win that his arch-conservatism may yet propel him into the White House. He has spent months seeking to out-manuever his many rivals. When he did so Monday night, surging

past frontrunner Donald Trump as he rode a wave of enthusiastic support, it appeared to validate-if only for a few fleeting hours before the presidential race resumes-the political positions that have made Cruz such a compelling but controversial figure. Cruz, who has fought hard to maintain a prominent place for faith in American life, is battling not just for the Republican nomination. He sees himself in a battle for the very soul of the country. "Tonight is a victory for courageous conservatives across Iowa and all across this great nation," Cruz said in his caucus victory speech.

"We're seeing conservatives and evangelicals and libertarians and Reagan Democrats all coming together as one, and that terrifies Washington, DC."

As a US Senate freshman, the 45-year-old Texan-an intellectual proponent of a grassroots movement that has simmered for years under the Republican mainstream-has barely three years under his belt in national politics. But in the 2016 presidential race, his outsider status has played well with the right-wing base furious with what he derides as the "mushy middle" GOP establishment unwilling to play hardball against US President Barack Obama. For Democrats, Cruz is a dangerous demagogue they love to hate.

To religious conservatives, he is a patriot, a thinking man's champion of the common folk sent to Congress-and perhaps to the White House-to disrupt the ways of the go-along-to-get-along establishment and fulfill the principles of smaller government. — AFP

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Announcement

Kuwait Municipality No. (9 / 2016)

On prequalification of Cities Cleaning Companies and Corporations

Kuwait Municipality announces opening door for registration of National, Gulf and international companies and corporations specialized in cleaning the cities to be prequalified through the relevant committee to prepare for their participation in general cleaning tenders at all areas. Therefore all city cleaning-specialized companies and corporations prequalified by Municipality or those new companies willing to get registered shall approach Tenders and contracts Department at Kuwait Municipality to obtain registration forms and conditions required against a fee of K.D 200 (Kuwaiti Dinars Two Hundred only) during official hours of work, with effect from Sunday corresponding to 31 /1/ 2016

Bearing in mind that the deadline for admission of applications is Wednesday Corresponding to 30 /3 /2016.



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Director-General
Kuwait Municipality

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