Opinion

Democratic race hard to predict

Willy Walker, Science/International Editor | March 6, 2020

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The 2020 Presidential Democratic primaries are proving to be identical to the 2016 presidential race: impossible to predict.

After more than a year of fielding over 20 of the most powerful members of the Democratic party, who come from all backgrounds, the likes of which the presidential primaries have never seen before, the left plans to take down an old white man with … an old white man. After an exciting and interesting Super Tuesday, the question remains: who will be on the blue ticket?

Five candidates remained on the ballot for Super Tuesday, but only two of them won any states. With California and Texas taken by each of the frontrunners, the remaining candidates' chances of winning are very bleak.

Fresh off endorsements by Beto O'Rourke, Pete Buttigieg and Amy Klobuchar, Joe Biden surged in the polls for the first time since voting began. Popular with moderate voters, his campaign targets rebuilding the middle class and issues surrounding gun violence. Biden went to bed that night with delegates from 10 states, including Texas.

In second place is Bernie Sanders, the self-proclaimed Democratic-Socialist with the boldest agenda, appealing to younger and first-time voters more than any other candidate. His push for universal healthcare, elimination of student loan debt with a push toward an inexpensive college expenditure and increasing taxes on the wealthy is what put him on the map. After a fairly successful start to his campaign, leading to an electric lead before Super Tuesday, Sanders now lags in the polls. Although his supporters did not receive the blowout vote they were expecting, Sanders left the evening with four states, including the prize of the night: California.

Super Tuesday was disappointing for Elizabeth Warren, who only picked up around 40 delegates. The senator from Massachusetts dropped her presidential bid on Thursday.

Before dropping out of the race on Wednesday, Michael Bloomberg spent a whopping $452 million and only won American Samoa. Realizing there was no realistic path to victory, he suspended his campaign the next day while subsequently endorsing Biden.

Yes, Tulsi Gabbard is still in this race. Will she be here for long? Since she racked up a total of one delegate on Super Tuesday, I would say no.

Being the only two candidates to have more than 100 delegates, it is clear that either Biden or Sanders will go on to challenge incumbent President Donald Trump. The question that has been looming since Nov. 9, 2016, will soon be answered: Who can beat Trump in 2020?

Currently, I would say neither.

Since the start of Trump's presidency, many leftists have been calling for unity in the party. However, cliques have started between Sanders and Biden supporters that mirror the 2016 Democratic primaries. With each side bashing the other over the next couple of months, the Democratic party may continue to be divided, no matter who the candidate is. If you do not believe me, just look at Twitter; it's a complete warzone.

Republican voters, however, are all in line for Trump, just as they were in 2016. The last thing Biden or Sanders supporters should want to do is anger their opponents. Remember, no matter whose name is on the ballot, you need them. Party division will result in the reelection of Trump.

Additionally, both candidates' health is a concern. Sanders will be 79 in November, making him 83 by the end of his first term in 2024 if elected. After Sanders suffered a heart attack during his campaign, Trump will use that as ammo to sway the moderate voting pool. Biden is no better, only 14 months younger than Sanders. In fact, Biden has shown memory problems, which have only increased during his campaign and can worsen as the months go on.

Currently, the oldest president to assume the office was Trump at the age of 70. When Ronald Reagan left office, he was younger than both Biden or Sanders will be in January of 2021. Even back in the late 1980s, Reagan was bashed by his rivals for his health issues. I can promise you that health will be at the forefront of Trump's targeting campaign.

On the flip side, Biden and Sanders have plenty of baggage to throw back at Trump: lack of affordable healthcare, the increase of the student debt deficit, the Iran incident, his hateful comments toward others and the biggest word of all — impeachment.

If the left has any hope of removing Trump from office, then they must get unified and solidified. Don't want to vote for the Democrat on the ticket in November? The great thing about the United States is that you do not have to; just do not be upset about four more years of Trump.

Additionally, not alienating other sides is key to a successful election. Both Biden and Sanders, as well as their supporters, need to remember that they are two sides of the same coin. Moderates and swing voters win elections; division wins elections for the other guy.

I am not telling you how you should vote — that is something you need to decide on your own. Just remember to look at the big picture when you enter the booth on Nov. 3. Party before candidate, or candidate before party? That is the question that will decide the outcome of thiselection.

Bernie Sanders Democratic primary Joe Biden

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