

Let's Look at the Democrats Too

As expected, a flurry of new polls in the past few days has solidified the ground-level view of the presidential campaigns in the early voting states of Iowa and New Hampshire. And while we still await new information out of South Carolina, there's been a shift in the Democrat presidential polls that is worth a look.

Iowa

In the Hawkeye State, one can only surmise the “birther” attacks by Donald Trump on Ted Cruz have had their intended result, vaulting Trump back into the lead in the three most recent polls. An earlier poll still has Cruz out in front, which results in a 14-day average that is as deadlocked as you can get:

- 1-t. Ted Cruz
- 1-t. Donald Trump
3. Marco Rubio
4. Ben Carson
5. Jeb Bush
6. Chris Christie
7. Rand Paul
8. Mike Huckabee
9. John Kasich
10. Carly Fiorina

11. Rick Santorum

The real shakeup has happened in the middle tier of the Iowa Caucus race. Rubio has surged nearly three points, as have Chris Christie and Rand Paul. Meanwhile, Ben Carson continues to slowly lose his support, and Carly Fiorina is imploding.

Caucus Turnout

Next week, we should have our first long-range look at the forecast for Caucus Night. In the meantime, there has been a little bit of change in our turnout predictions:

1. Donald Trump 44,000
2. Ted Cruz 41,500
3. Marco Rubio 12,500
4. Rick Santorum 8,000
5. Mike Huckabee 7,000
6. Rand Paul 6,000
7. Jeb Bush 4,500
8. Ben Carson 4,000
9. Chris Christie 3,500
10. Carly Fiorina 2,500
11. John Kasich 1,500

New Hampshire

In the Granite State, the big news is John Kasich's surge. It's coming at the right time, and he's hitting the road pretty hard in the first-in-the-nation primary state. It's doubtful at this time that he can catch Trump, but a top-three finish would put some extra life in his candidacy:

1. Donald Trump
2. Marco Rubio
3. John Kasich
4. Ted Cruz
5. Chris Christie
6. Jeb Bush
7. Rand Paul
8. Carly Fiorina
9. Ben Carson
10. Rick Santorum
11. Mike Huckabee

Trump's lead in New Hampshire is growing, as is the percentage of his support. Further down, however, both Carson and Fiorina seem to be losing all of their momentum.

South Carolina

In South Carolina, there has been no change in the polling averages:

1. Donald Trump
2. Ted Cruz
3. Marco Rubio
4. Ben Carson
5. Jeb Bush
- 6-t. Rand Paul

6-t. Chris Christie

8. Carly Fiorina

9-t. Mike Huckabee

9-t. John Kasich

11. Rick Santorum

Combined Average

The shuffling of the fields in Iowa and New Hampshire has had a similar effect on the combined polling averages of the GOP field:

1. Donald Trump

2. Ted Cruz

3. Marco Rubio

4. Jeb Bush

5. Chris Christie

6. Ben Carson

7. John Kasich

8. Rand Paul

9. Carly Fiorina

10. Mike Huckabee

11. Rick Santorum

National

There have been a couple of new national polls of note. Nothing has changed in terms of the top four, but the lower half of the field has changed considerably:

1. Donald Trump
2. Ted Cruz
3. Marco Rubio
4. Ben Carson
5. Jeb Bush
6. Chris Christie
- 7-t. Rand Paul
- 7-t. Carly Fiorina
9. John Kasich
10. Mike Huckabee
11. Rick Santorum

Democrats

The narrative that Hillary Clinton was the presumptive Democrat nominee has been dinged in both Iowa and New Hampshire, where Bernie Sanders is beginning to make things interesting. In Iowa, Clinton leads by a fraction of a point, , while in New Hampshire, Sanders leads, .

In the current national poll, Clinton maintains a lead of nearly 10 points, . Martin O'Malley trails far behind the front-runners in the low single digits in both of the early voting states, as well as the national polling average.