

Presidential Prognostication: Iowa Numbers Shift the Averages

In the past week, polling has been a major storyline for the Republican presidential candidates, but most of the polls released have been reflective of the national opinion and in Iowa. There haven't been any changes to the polling numbers in New Hampshire and South Carolina since last week.

So let's take a look at the Iowa and national numbers.

Iowa

Competing polls have produced substantially different results in the first-in-the-nation caucus state. To be sure, Ted Cruz continues to rise, but it's far too early to call him the new front-runner. For sure, he is at least neck-and-neck with Donald Trump:

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

11. Rick Santorum

12-t. Lindsey Graham

12-t. George Pataki

No one has moved up or down any positions, but the margin between several candidates and their closest competitors have tightened up.

New Hampshire

As noted above, there has been no change in the New Hampshire polling averages:

1. Donald Trump

2. Marco Rubio

3. Ted Cruz

4. Ben Carson

5. Jeb Bush

6. John Kasich

7. Chris Christie

8. Carly Fiorina

9. Rand Paul

10. Mike Huckabee

11. Lindsey Graham

12. Rick Santorum

13. George Pataki

South Carolina

As noted above, there has been no change in the South Carolina polling averages:

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

Combined Average

The combined average of the three early voting states now throws the weighting more toward Iowa than New Hampshire this week, due to the lack of polling activity in the other states:

1. Donald Trump
2. Ted Cruz
3. Marco Rubio
4. Ben Carson

5. Jeb Bush
6. Chris Christie
7. John Kasich
8. Carly Fiorina
9. Rand Paul
10. Mike Huckabee
11. Rick Santorum
12. Lindsey Graham
13. George Pataki

Ben Carson is definitely beginning to slide downward, and as older polls drop out of the averages, he will continue to drop off. There's little to indicate there's been a change in his momentum.

National

A number of new national polls have shown Donald Trump's polling average, as well as his lead, are growing. Ben Carson's decline isn't as pronounced nationally as it has been in the early voting states:

1. Donald Trump
2. Ben Carson
3. Ted Cruz
4. Marco Rubio
5. Jeb Bush
6. Chris Christie
7. Carly Fiorina

8. John Kasich
9. Mike Huckabee
10. Rand Paul
11. Lindsey Graham
12. George Pataki
13. Rick Santorum

Ted Cruz is soaring in the national polls, as well. He's surpassed Marco Rubio, and has pulled virtually even with Carson. When some of the older polls drop off next week, he will likely secure second place nationally, despite trailing Trump by a considerable margin.