

Hotline Presidential Update

Top Hotline Presidential Campaign
Stories of the Month

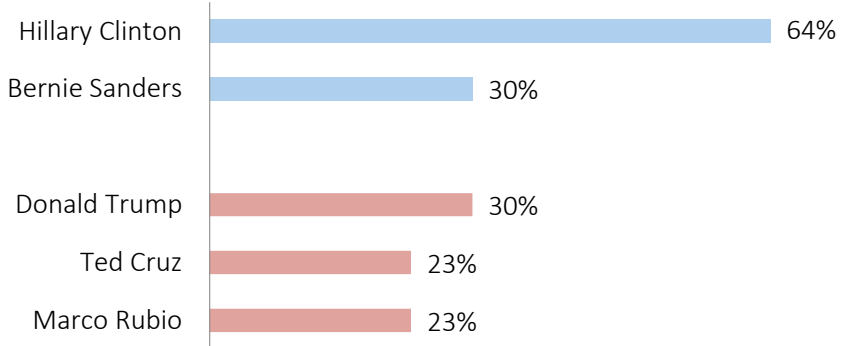
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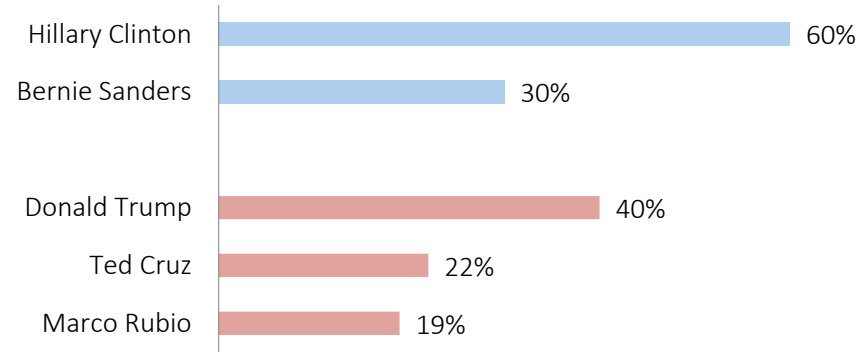
Clinton, Trump Lead in Most Recent Super Tuesday Polls in Four States

Presidential Primary Polls

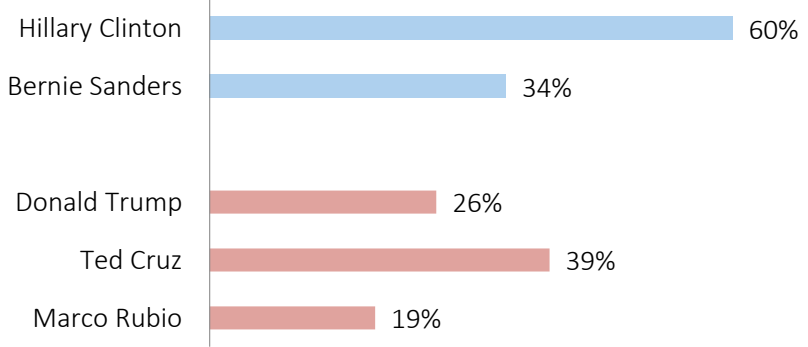
Georgia



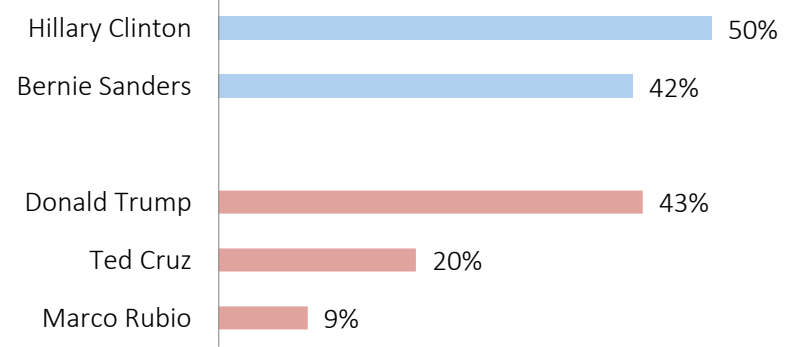
Tennessee



Texas



Massachusetts



Sources: Zach Montellaro, "Trump, Clinton Around 50% Nationwide in CNN/ORC Primaries Poll," National Journal, February 29, 2016.

Endorsements Roll in For Rubio, Trump Picks Up First Few

Recent Endorsements



Donald Trump:

- For most of the campaign Trump had no congressional or gubernatorial endorsements, but recently he has picked up endorsements from **2 Representatives, a Senator and 2 Governors**.
- Key among his endorsements are those from **Governor Chris Christie (R-NJ)**, who just dropped out of the race, and **Senator Jeff Sessions (R-AL)** from the Super Tuesday State of Alabama.
- Trump also received an endorsement from **Ku Klux Klan member David Duke**, which he initially declined to reject but has since disavowed.

Reps	2
Senators	1
Governors	2
Total	5

Marco Rubio:

- Rubio now has a **commanding lead in endorsements among GOP candidates**, with 63 endorsements among sitting Representatives, Senators and Governors.
- In his home state of Florida, at least **20 state House Republicans, who previously backed former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush (R), will switch to Rubio**.
- The politically powerful **Kilgore family in Virginia** have also endorsed Rubio, as did **Marc Short, the Koch brothers' top political adviser** in Washington and a trusted member of their inner circle.

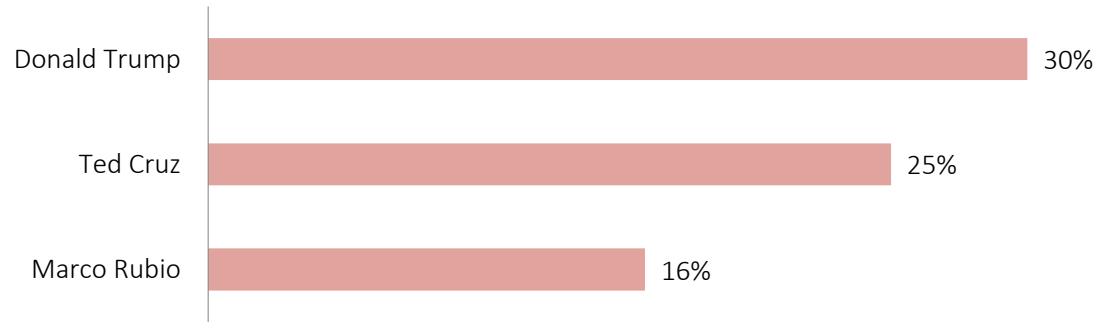


Reps	45
Senators	14
Governors	4
Total	63

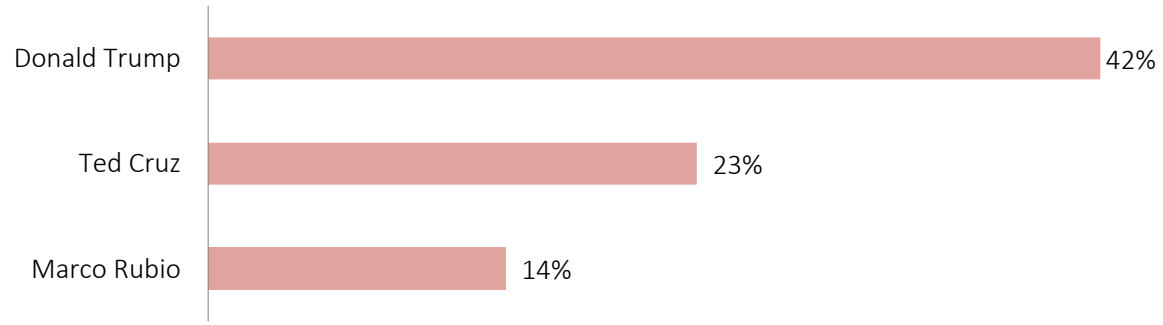
Sources: Ally Mutnick, "More Endorsements Roll In For Rubio," National Journal, February 29, 2016; National Journal, February, 2016.

Trump's Leads Among Evangelicals Nationally and in the South

National Support Among Evangelicals



Portion of Evangelical Vote, South Carolina



Analysis:

- Trump firmly leads among evangelical Christians despite having been divorced twice, bragging about affairs with married women, previously supporting abortion rights and regularly using obscene language.
- Christian conservatives around the country say evangelicals, who are just as fed up with the status quo in Washington as anyone, are drawn to Trump's strongman image and no-gray-areas view of the world—even if his values don't completely align with their own.
- Christian conservatives may be overlooking Trump's history on social issues because they aren't at the forefront of the election. In the wake of terrorist attacks at home and abroad, abortion and same-sex marriage have taken a back seat, and Trump has emerged as the first choice for GOP voters who list terrorism or foreign policy as their top concern.

Sources: Adam Wollner, "Why Evangelical Voters Are Drawn to Trump," National Journal, February 17, 2016..

Candidates Fan Out Across Super Tuesday States

Hotline Updates From Super Tuesday States



Alabama: Cruz narrowly edged out Trump (R) in the straw poll at the monthly meeting of the Madison County Republican Men’s Club in Huntsville. Rubio finished a distant third.



Minnesota: Little polling has been done in Minnesota, but a growing roster of prominent Minnesota Republicans are backing Rubio, who is hoping to net a victory in the state.



Arkansas: Arkansas Governor Asa Hutchinson has endorsed Rubio in a TV advertisement in the state.



Tennessee: Clinton is targeting black voters as part of her first television ad buy in Tennessee. Her campaign is spending at least \$100,000 on the spots running the Memphis and Nashville markets in advance of the state’s March 1 primary.



Colorado: Sanders released a TV advertisement in Colorado affirming his opposition to fracking, which he claims Clinton supports. The Sanders campaign expects to win the state.



Texas: Cruz’ home state of Texas will play the biggest role in determining whether he can steal the nomination from Trump: ‘We have to win Texas, absolutely,’ Cruz spokesman Rick Tyler told CNN



Georgia: After Texas, Georgia has the next most delegates up for grabs; Clinton and Trump lead the in the polls by wide margins.



Vermont: Kasich talked about climate change at an event in Vermont, and said he believes humans are contributing to it, though he acknowledged “it’s an apostasy in the Republican Party to say that.”



Massachusetts: The Boston Globe released a scathing editorial titled “Massachusetts voters must stop Donald Trump,” but Trump leads the primary race their. The Globe also endorsed Hillary Clinton

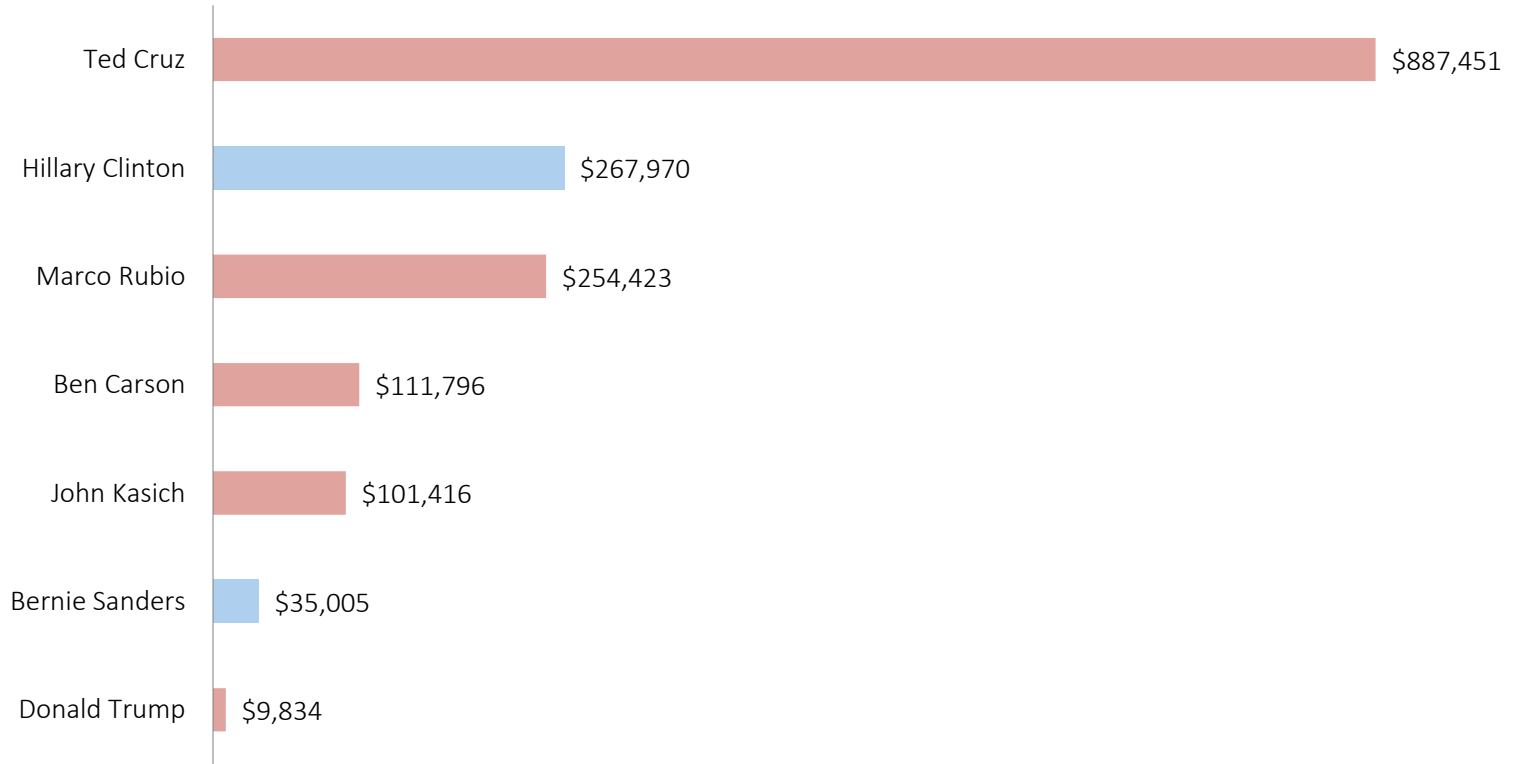


Virginia: The anti-establishment vote in Virginia seems to be fracturing, with evangelicals supporting Cruz and disaffected voters lean toward Donald Trump.”

Sources: Karyn Bruggeman, “Candidates Fan Out Across Super Tuesday States,” National Journal, February 22, 2016.

Cruz, Clinton Accepted Most Donations From Oil and Gas Industry

How Much the Campaigns Received in Donations From Oil and Gas Industry Employees



Sources: Ally Mutnick, "Cruz Leads Pack In Donations From Big Oil," National Journal, February 18, 2016; Center For Responsible Politics, February 2016.