

Cook's Look Ahead: March 15 Primaries

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Two Things to Keep in Mind Ahead of the March 15 Primaries

Roadmap For This Presentation

Delegate Counts for 3 Possible March 15 Outcomes

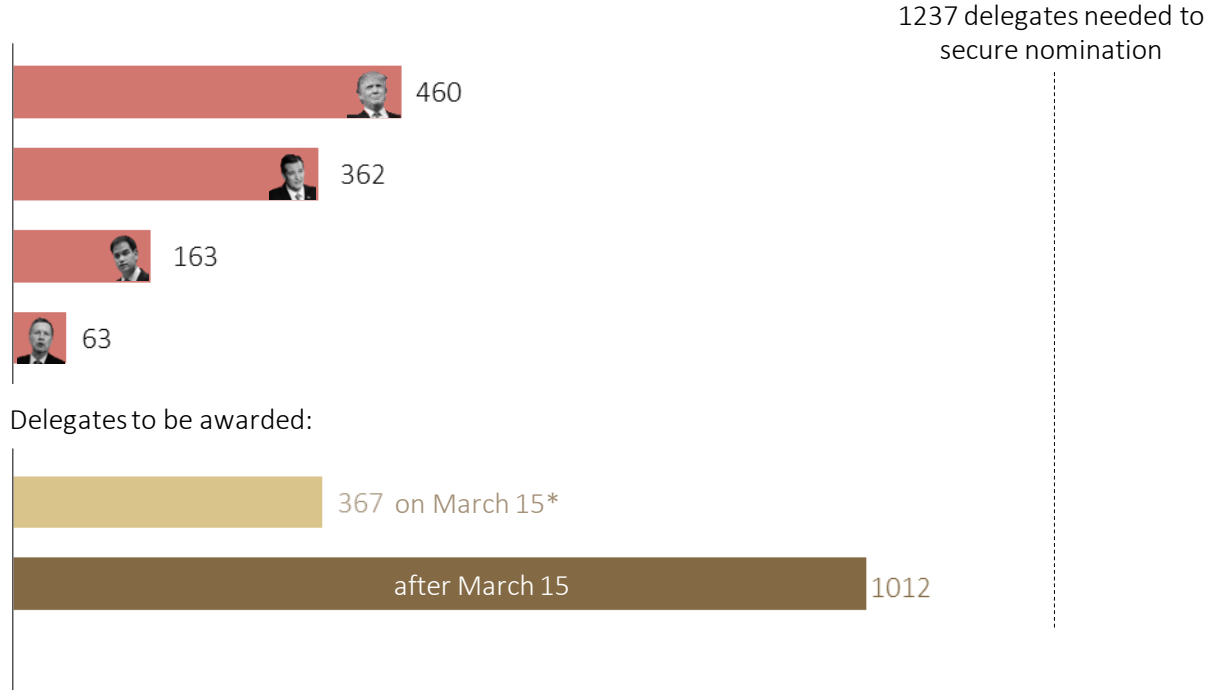
↳ ***Takeaway: Ohio Republican primary may be the make-or-break point for the “Stop Trump” movement***

Polling for head-to-head general election matchups

↳ ***Takeaway: Rubio, Cruz, and Kasich would do better against Clinton in a general election than Trump***

Trump Leads in Delegate Count, But March 15 Winner-Take-All States Will Make or Break His Momentum

Delegates Won, by GOP Candidate



Analysis

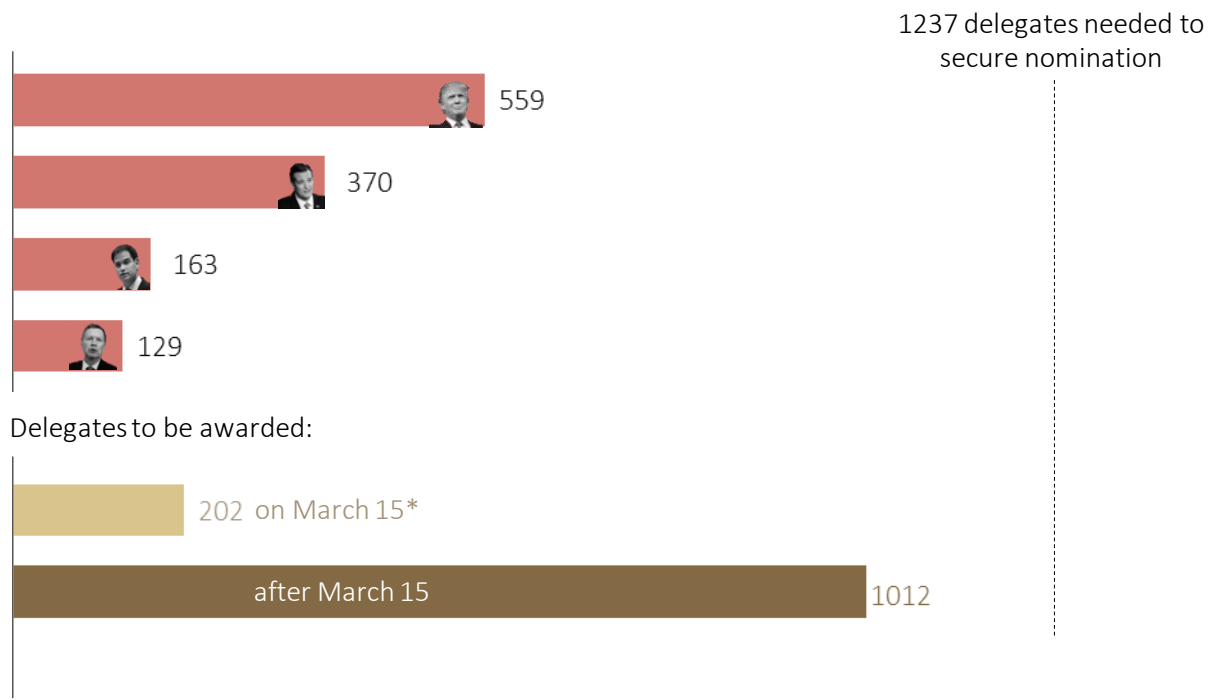
- Trump has won around **44%** of delegates awarded so far, but has not technically “sewed up” the nomination
- The **March 15 winner-take-all states will ultimately decide if Trump wins the nomination outright** or if the race remains inevitably splintered and leads to a **contested convention**

*2 of the 6 contests on March 15 award delegates on a winner-take-all basis: FL (99 delegates) and OH (66 delegates)

Source: Charlie Cook, “‘Stop Trump Tuesday’ in Florida and Ohio,” National Journal, March 10, 2016; Amy Walter, “Super Tuesday = Super for Trump,” Cook Political Report, March 2, 2016; Aaron Bycoffe and David Wasserman, “Who’s on Track For the Nomination?” FiveThirtyEight, March 11, 2016; National Journal Research 2016.

Scenario: Trump Beats Rubio in Florida, but Kasich Wins in Ohio

Delegates Won if Trump Wins FL and Kasich Wins OH, by GOP Candidate



Analysis

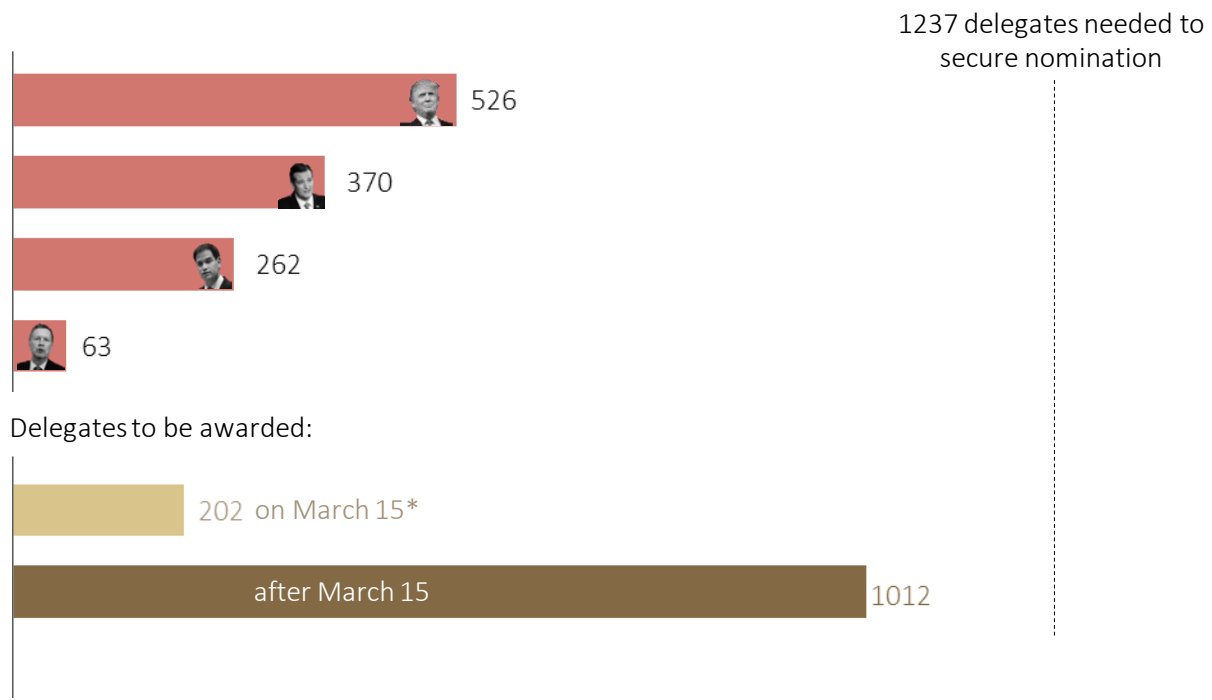
- In this scenario, Trump would have won **46%** of all delegates awarded; and he would need to win **56%** of the remaining delegates to get the nomination
- This would also be a steep challenge for Trump

*Excluding winner-take-all states: FL (99 delegates) and OH (66 delegates)

Source: Charlie Cook, "Stop Trump Tuesday' in Florida and Ohio," National Journal, March 10, 2016; Aaron Bycoffe and David Wasserman, "Who's on Track For the Nomination?" FiveThirtyEight, March 11, 2016; National Journal Research 2016.

Scenario: Rubio Wins Florida, but Trump Beats Kasich in Ohio

Delegates Won if Rubio Wins FL and Trump Wins OH, by GOP Candidate



Analysis

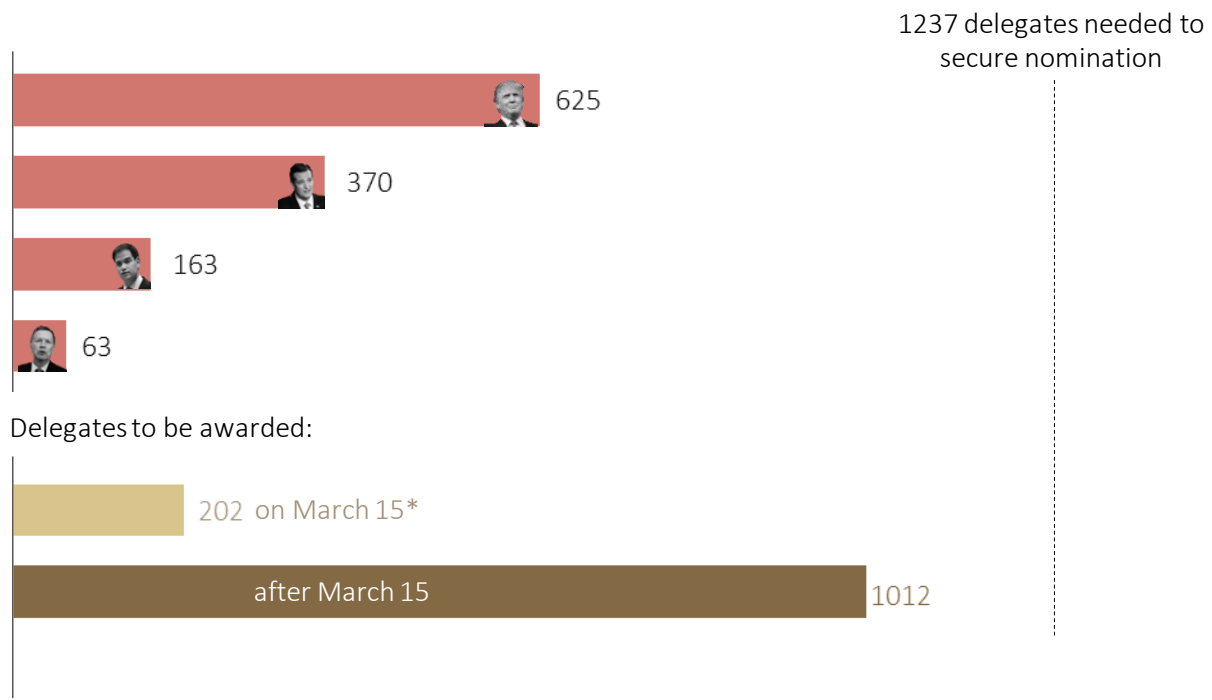
- In this scenario, Trump would have won **43%** of all delegates awarded; and he would need to win **59%** of the remaining delegates to get the nomination
- This would be a very improbable challenge

*Excluding winner-take-all states: FL (99 delegates) and OH (66 delegates)

Source: Charlie Cook, "Stop Trump Tuesday' in Florida and Ohio," National Journal, March 10, 2016; Aaron Bycoffe and David Wasserman, "Who's on Track For the Nomination?" FiveThirtyEight, March 11, 2016; National Journal Research 2016.

Scenario: Trump Wins Both Florida and Ohio

Delegates Won if Trump Wins in Florida and Ohio, by GOP Candidate



Analysis

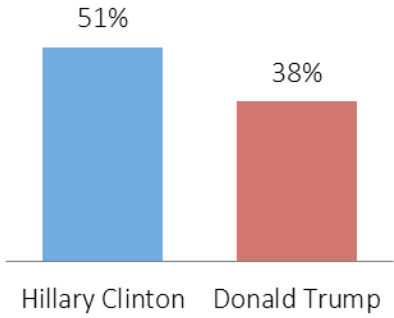
- In this scenario, Trump would have won **51%** of all delegates awarded, and would only need to win **50%** of the remaining delegates to secure the nomination
- If this happens, Trump's path to the nomination would be all but unstoppable

*Excluding winner-take-all states: FL (99 delegates) and OH (66 delegates)

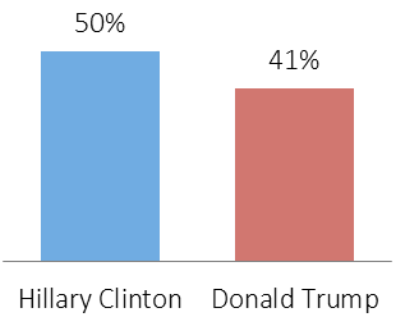
Source: Charlie Cook, "Stop Trump Tuesday' in Florida and Ohio," National Journal, March 10, 2016; Aaron Bycoffe and David Wasserman, "Who's on Track For the Nomination?" FiveThirtyEight, March 11, 2016; National Journal Research 2016.

Polling Shows that More People Would Vote for Clinton in a Clinton-Trump General Election

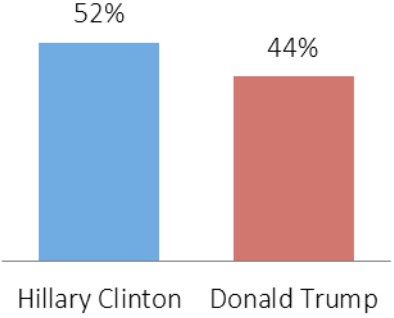
March 3-6 NBC/WSJ



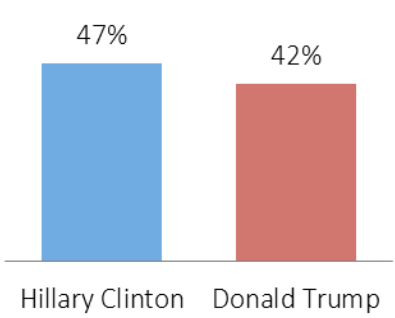
March 3-6 ABC/WaPo



Feb 24-27 CNN/ORC



Feb 15-17 Fox



Analysis

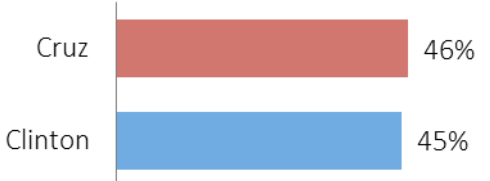
- Recent polling suggests that Clinton would have an edge over Trump in the general election
- Clinton beats Trump by at least 5% and as much as 13% in recent polling

Source: Charlie Cook, "Stop Trump Tuesday' in Florida and Ohio," National Journal, March 10, 2016; CNN/ORC International Poll, March 1, 2016; Washington Post-ABC News National Poll March 3-6, 2016; Fox News Poll: National presidential race, February 18, 2016; Andrew Rafferty, "16139 NBC_WSJ March Poll Release," Scribd, March 9, 2016.

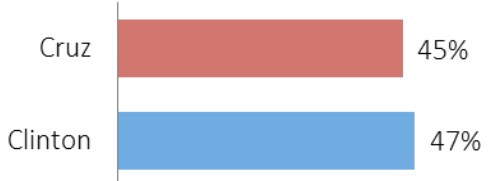
Polls Show Clinton Would Face Tough Campaign Against Non-Trump Candidates in a General Election



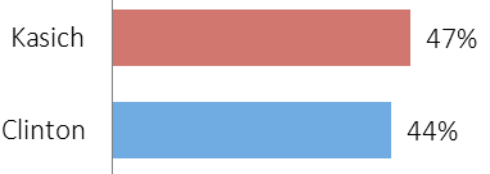
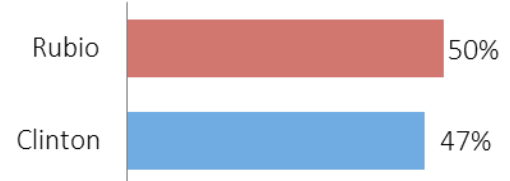
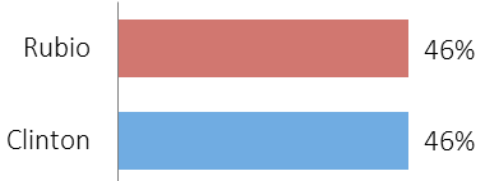
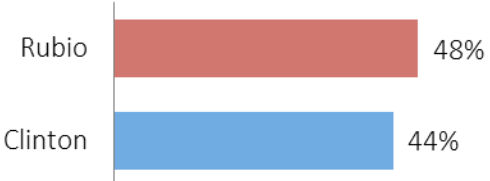
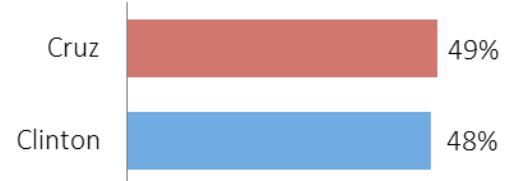
Feb 15-17 Fox News



March 3-6 NBC/WSJ



Feb 24-27 CNN/ORC



Analysis

- Polls suggest that Cruz, Rubio, and Kasich would be competitive in head-to-head matchups against Hillary Clinton and may even beat her in a general election
- This illustrates the downside of a potential Trump nomination for the Republican party

Source: Charlie Cook, "Stop Trump Tuesday' in Florida and Ohio," National Journal, March 10, 2016; CNN/ORC International Poll, March 1, 2016; Fox News Poll: National presidential race, February 18, 2016; Andrew Rafferty, "16139 NBC_WSJ March Poll Release," Scribd, March 9, 2016.

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