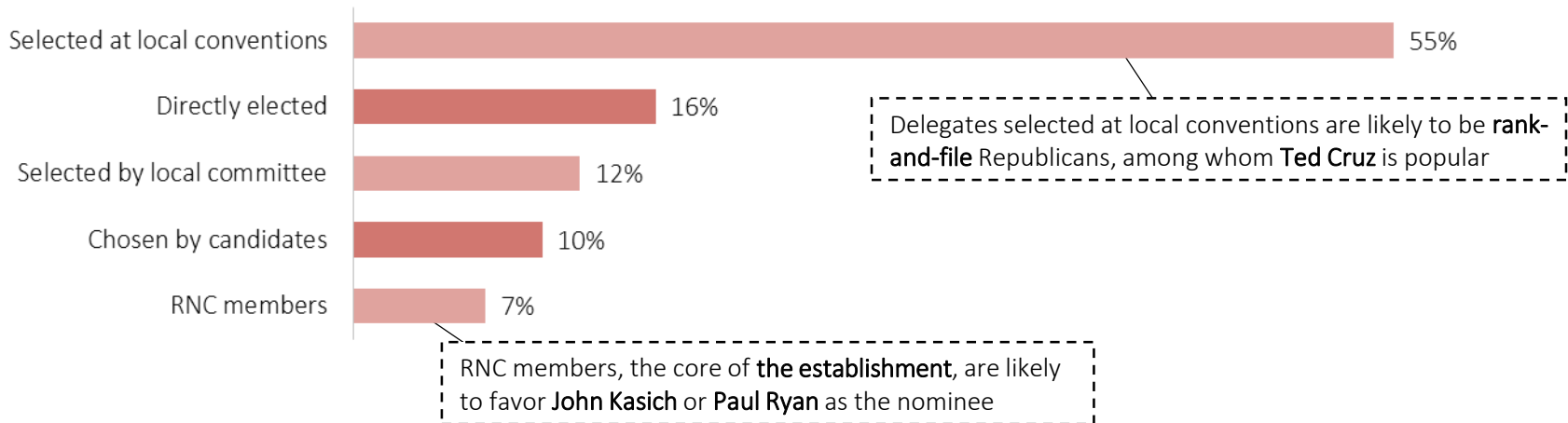


GOP Delegate Selection Favors Cruz in Contested Convention

How Delegates Are Selected For the GOP Convention

- More likely to support the candidates they are designated to
- Less likely to support the candidates they are designated to



Analysis

- Because most delegates are neither chosen by candidates nor directly elected, the winner in the first round of voting (likely Trump) will not necessarily have an advantage once delegates become unbounded after the first round of voting
- The GOP rank-and-file has more influence than the establishment in deciding a brokered convention.

Sources: Nate Silver, "Ted Cruz, Not Paul Ryan, Would Probably Win A Contested Convention," FiveThirtyEight, April 6, 2016.

Could a Non-Candidate Win the GOP Nomination?

Potential Brokered Convention Nominees



Paul Ryan

Speaker of the House

Representative from Wisconsin

According to Predictwise, betting markets give Speaker Ryan a 3% chance of winning the nomination. Ryan has denied any interest in the nomination, just as he did the speakership before he accepted the role. Ryan has a high national profile and is popular with the establishment as well as conservative grassroots.



Scott Walker

Governor of Wisconsin

Former Presidential Candidate

Scott Walker first said that in a contested convention the nominee would likely be someone not in the race, before endorsing Ted Cruz who has almost no chance of winning the nomination without a contested convention. Walker has continued to raise money and travel through his fundraising organization.



Mitt Romney

Former Governor of Massachusetts

Former GOP Presidential Nominee

Mitt Romney is the only candidate other than Ryan that Predictwise gives a chance at winning the nomination, with 1%. Romney is a twice failed Presidential candidate, so he is hardly a promising choice, especially amid the anti-establishment political climate.



Marco Rubio

Senator from Florida

Former Presidential Candidate

While Rubio is fresh off an embarrassing defeat by Trump in his native Florida, he does have the advantage of having won a state primary and delegates pledged to him, especially if candidates with no delegates turn out to be ineligible by convention rules.

Why a brokered convention is possible:

The rules of the convention have not yet been sent. A panel of 112 party officials will have the power to change the rules of the convention just days before the primary. The rules committee could alter the rules to make a non-candidate eligible.

Why it might not work:

If Trump comes close to winning half of the delegates and the delegates at the convention choose another candidate, the GOP could suffer a backlash from Trump's supporters that would be damaging to the party. Also, many voters may feel alienated by a candidate who no one voted for in a primary election.