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[The First Ballots of the 2020 Presidential Election are Cast in Iowa](#)

The first votes in the 2020 presidential campaign were cast on Monday in the Iowa caucuses, and the results were marred by overall confusion and frustration. Iowa's Democratic Party was unable to release the results after caucusing concluded and was only able to report partial results 24 hours later. Iowa Democratic Party leaders blamed the delay on the failing of an app, "Shadow," which they had commissioned to streamline the results-getting process. Despite this delay, Mayor Pete Buttigieg of South Bend, Indiana wasted no time in declaring himself the victor over the objections of his fellow candidates. The partial tallies indeed showed Buttigieg with a slim lead over Senator Bernie Sanders of Vermont, with Senator Elizabeth Warren and former-Vice President Joe Biden behind them.

Officials from Iowa's Democratic Party had commissioned the app secretly after discussions with officials from the DNC. The app was supposed to expedite the process of obtaining results but encountered user error and technical difficulties. Party leaders blamed the delay on flawed coding in the app, but caucus chairs throughout Iowa had problems downloading the app onto their smartphones and making their way through the app's multiple levels of security. When it became clear the app wasn't working as intended, caucus chairs began calling the back-up hotline as instructed by party leaders. However, the phone lines soon began jammed due to the high level of calls, and officials were unable to be connected. After the problems in Iowa, the leaders of Nevada's Democratic Party announced they would not be using the "Shadow" app, despite having made provisions to do so. For their part, the app developers expressed regret over the failings of their product.

From the precincts that have reported their results, Senator Bernie Sanders is leading the popular vote, but Mayor Buttigieg has a slim lead in state delegates. The discrepancy between the two is due to the disproportionate ratio of population to delegates in rural and urban areas of Iowa. Senator Sanders has done better than Mayor Buttigieg in urban areas and college towns, whereas Buttigieg has bested Sanders in rural counties. Rural counties have more delegates relative to population, which has aided Buttigieg.

Of the ideological differences in the Democratic primary, Mayor Buttigieg has done exceedingly well representing the moderate wing of the party, with Senator Sanders mirroring his success but for the progressive wing. In a slight surprise, former-Vice President Biden performed poorly in Iowa, winning only 15 delegates, good enough for fourth place. Senator Elizabeth Warren is currently slated to be third, with 18 delegates. Mayor Buttigieg having such a strong advantage over Vice President Biden came as a surprise, given the polls that indicated the opposite would be true.

The next Democratic primary will be held in New Hampshire on February 11th. Party leaders will be hoping that the technological fiasco that occurred in Iowa does not repeat itself. Polls from the state indicate that Senator Sanders is poised to perform well, which is not surprising considering he won the state handily in his 2016 presidential bid. Vice President Biden is polling second behind Sanders, with Senator Warren and Mayor Buttigieg rounding out the top four.