



### Senator Sanders Narrowly Wins the New Hampshire Democratic Primary

The second nominating contest for the 2020 U.S. presidential election took place this week with the New Hampshire Democratic primary. U.S. Senator Bernie Sanders (I-VT) won the primary with 25.7% of the vote, narrowly defeating second-place finisher and former South Bend Mayor Pete Buttigieg, who finished with 24.4%. U.S. Senator Amy Klobuchar (D-MN) rounded out the top three with 19.8%, while U.S. Senator Elizabeth Warren (D-MA) and former Vice President Joe Biden finished in fourth and fifth place, respectively. Three candidates dropped out of the race following poor performances in the primary: tech entrepreneur Andrew Yang, U.S. Senator Michael Bennet (D-CO), and former Massachusetts governor Deval Patrick.

The state of New Hampshire carries 24 pledged national delegates which were up for grabs in the Democratic primary. With his victory, Senator Sanders claimed 9 delegates, former Mayor Buttigieg claimed 9 as well, while the remaining 6 were awarded to third-place finisher Senator Klobuchar. This meant that Senator Warren, former Vice President Biden, and the other candidates were unable to capture any pledged delegates in this particular primary contest. Following the first two nominating contests in Iowa and New Hampshire, the total delegate count is as follows: 23 for Buttigieg, 21 for Sanders, 8 for Warren, 7 for Klobuchar, 6 for Biden, and none for any of the remaining candidates which includes Tulsi Gabbard and Tom Steyer.

Overall, Buttigieg finished only a few thousand votes behind Sanders, who represents neighboring state Vermont in the United States' Senate and was expected to win the New Hampshire primary. While he did win, Sanders did not perform as well as he did back in 2016 against Hillary Clinton, when he won the state by a margin of more than 20 percentage points. However, this may have been partly due to the higher number of candidates running for the Democratic nomination this time around in 2020, which has resulted in a more spread-out split of the state's full electorate. Ultimately, turnout was higher in this year's New Hampshire primary than it was back in 2016 and 2008, however an important caveat to this is that there are more eligible voters now than there were in either of those two electoral cycles.

The biggest surprise of the night came from Klobuchar, who went from fifth in the Iowa caucuses to a solid third in this race. Some analysts suggested that her strong debate performance in the lead up to the New Hampshire primary boosted her results in this second nominating contest. On the other hand, Warren and Biden performed worse than expected as both finished in the single digits and significantly behind the top three.

In Sanders' speech to supporters following his victory, the senator proclaimed that it was "the beginning of the end for Donald Trump." He praised the grassroots movement that his campaign has built, while also promising to unite the party and defeat the incumbent president no matter who ends up claiming the Democratic nomination.

The race for the presidential nomination now shifts to Nevada and South Carolina, and will then be followed by Super Tuesday on March 3rd, which features the first large slate of single-day primaries including the coveted states of California and Texas.