



[Voters in Three More States Cast Ballots in the Presidential Primaries](#)

The three states of Florida, Illinois, and Arizona held their presidential primaries this week as originally planned despite the growing coronavirus crisis, while Ohio postponed its election until June. Ohio was the only state that was slated to hold its primary on Tuesday that did not end up doing so, however the four states of Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, and Maryland have also recently announced plans to postpone their contests as well. Former Vice President Joe Biden won all three states that held their elections this week, and has further increased his pledged delegate lead over Senator Bernie Sanders. Biden is now ahead by approximately 300 pledged delegates, and has strengthened his status as the clear frontrunner to win the race for the Democratic presidential nomination.

As a result of Tuesday night's primary elections, Biden now has more than half of the required delegates to clinch the Democratic presidential nomination, and it is looking to be increasingly improbable that Sanders can turn the tide and retake control of the race. In addition to winning all of the presidential primaries this week, Biden was able to do so by substantial margins – an important factor considering that pledged delegates are awarded to candidates on a proportional scale. Biden won Florida by nearly 40 percentage points, Illinois by more than 20, and the state of Arizona by double digits. This has allowed Biden to not only increase his pledged delegate lead, but in fact grow it in huge numbers, as he began the night with a lead of slightly over 150 and finished it with one of around 300 once all of the results were reported.

Following three straight election nights of multi-state losses to Biden, Senator Sanders announced that he would be assessing his campaign in the coming days and weeks. According to a senior campaign aide, Sanders will take time to huddle with his wife and also engage with a wide range of supporters to get their take on how he should move forward. In order to do this, Sanders plans to use a variety of communication methods including making phone calls, reading emails, and garnering feedback via social media platforms. Regardless of how he decides to proceed, there is no doubt that there has been a major shift in the race for the Democratic presidential nomination. Just three weeks ago, Sanders himself was the frontrunner after nearly winning Iowa and then winning the states of New Hampshire and Nevada. However, South Carolina has proved to be a turning point as Biden won big there and has ridden that momentum ever since.

The growing coronavirus crisis has also had an effect on the race for the nomination. On the eve of their scheduled presidential primary this week, Ohio postponed their election until June after the state's health director ordered that the polls be closed because of a health emergency. In addition to Ohio, several other states also announced that they would be postponing their primaries as well. Georgia moved its election from March 24th until May 19th, Kentucky from May 19th until June 23rd, Louisiana from April 4th until June 20th, and Maryland from April 28th until June 2nd. With these postponements, it appears as though this week's elections will end up being the last to take place in the month of March. Puerto Rico was set to hold its primary on March 29th, however there is a move pending approval for it to be pushed until April 26th. There are some primaries scheduled for early and late April at this point, and it remains to be seen whether they will move forward as originally planned.