



[Sanders Drops Out of the Presidential Race](#)

Senator Bernie Sanders officially ended his presidential campaign yesterday, paving the way for frontrunner and former Vice President Joe Biden's path to the Democratic nomination. Sanders performed well in the early contests of Iowa, New Hampshire, and Nevada, but has struggled in most of the primary elections since South Carolina, allowing Biden to gain a substantial lead in the number of total pledged delegates. In a video address announcing his decision, Sanders concluded that he was dropping out of the race because he no longer had a viable path to the nomination. This latest development leaves Biden as the presumptive Democratic nominee to challenge President Trump in the November general election.

Sanders' 2020 presidential bid started off strong. He accrued the highest number of votes in the first round of the Iowa caucuses and ended up narrowly losing the overall contest to former South Bend Mayor Pete Buttigieg. Sanders followed that with decisive victories in New Hampshire and Nevada, and appeared to be the clear frontrunner early on in the race for the Democratic presidential nomination. However, the fourth contest, the presidential primary election in South Carolina, looks to have ended up being the turning point in the race. Former Vice President Joe Biden won the state handily and rode that momentum into the March 3rd Super Tuesday contests and beyond, eventually building a seemingly insurmountable pledged delegate lead over Sanders. Biden was also aided by the consolidation of the moderate Democratic vote, as candidates like Pete Buttigieg and Amy Klobuchar both dropped out of the race and endorsed him. As a result, Biden was able to garner a significant victory on Super Tuesday – the most prized and important date in the primary calendar – where he won 10 of the 14 elections up for grabs on that date and never looked back.

In a live-streamed video address announcing that he would be dropping out of the race, Sanders stated that in addition to his significant deficit in the pledged delegate race, the ongoing coronavirus pandemic had also hastened his decision to suspend his campaign. He argued that continuing his presidential bid would only distract from efforts to combat the outbreak and the damage it has done to the American economy, saying "I cannot in good conscience continue to mount a campaign that cannot win and which would interfere with the important work required of all of us in this difficult hour." In his remarks, Sanders also signaled that he would still seek to hold sway over the Democratic Party's platform, pointing to policies that have gained traction across the country in recent years – like a \$15 minimum wage – as evidence that his progressive platform is winning. He also vowed to push forward with 'Medicare for All,' saying that the coronavirus crisis has exemplified how fragile our health care system is.

Sanders had indicated prior to his withdrawal that he would support the ultimate Democratic nominee in the general election if it was not himself, emphasizing that his top priority is defeating President Trump. After dropping out, Sanders congratulated Biden stating that he is "a very decent man who I will work with to move our progressive ideas forward." Biden also paid tribute to Sanders following his announcement saying "Bernie has done something rare in politics. He hasn't just run a political campaign; he's created a movement...That's a good thing for our nation and our future."