

Clinton on brink of Dem nomination; Trump strengthens path

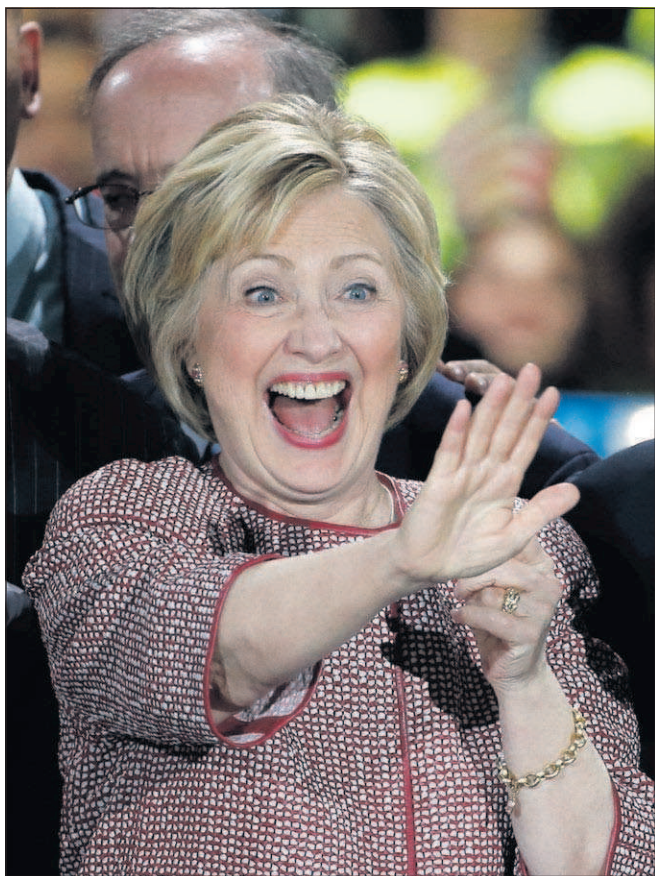
By JULIE PACE
AP White House
Correspondent

WASHINGTON — Hillary Clinton emerged from New York's presidential primary closer to clinching the Democratic nomination and becoming the first woman to reach that milestone. Republican Donald Trump strengthened his own path to the general election with a commanding victory, but has little room for error in the states ahead.

The front-runners now hope to replicate their strong showings in New York in the cluster of Northeastern states next up on the primary calendar. Clinton was scheduled to spend Wednesday campaigning in Pennsylvania, while Trump had a rally planned in Maryland, as well as Indiana.

Following her win in New York, a jubilant Clinton made clear she was moving past her unexpectedly competitive primary battle with Bernie Sanders and setting her sights on the general election.

"The race for the nomination is in the home stretch, and victory is in sight," Clinton declared to cheering supporters. She mentioned Sanders only briefly as she appealed for support from his loyal backers, and saved her toughest talk for Trump and Texas



AP Photo/Kathy Willens

Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton reacts on stage at her victory party after winning the New York state primary election, Tuesday, in New York.

Sen. Ted Cruz, deeming both "dangerous" for America.

Ready to move on

Trump, too, is eager to move past the Republican primaries. With at least 89 of New York's 95 delegates in hand,

he insisted it was "impossible" for any of his rivals to catch him and warned party leaders against trying to take the nomination away from him at the convention.

Ohio Gov. John Kasich won at least three New York del-



AP Photo/Julie Jacobson

Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump prepares to speak during a New York primary night campaign event Tuesday, in New York.

egates; Texas Sen. Ted Cruz was in danger of getting shut out. Neither has a mathematical chance of clinching the nomination before the Republican convention in July, though they hope to block Trump's path and overtake him at the GOP gathering.

Cruz panned Trump's win in New York as little more than "a politician winning his home state," then implored Republicans to unite around his candidacy.

"We must unite the Repub-

lican Party because doing so is the first step in uniting all Americans," Cruz said. A freshman senator who has clashed repeatedly with his own party, Cruz has generated only lukewarm support from GOP leaders who see him as the only option for stopping Trump.

Solid victories

But Trump's victory Tuesday was hard to dispute, the billionaire winning almost 61 percent of the popular vote, while Kasich won 25 percent and Cruz

came in third with 14 percent. On the Democratic side, Clinton clinched New York with 58 percent of the vote, while Sanders won 42 percent.

Clinton's triumph padded her delegate lead, putting her 80 percent of the way toward clinching the Democratic nomination that eluded her eight years ago. Appealing to Sanders' loyal supporters, Clinton said, "There is more that unites us than divides us."

Exit polls suggested Democrats were ready to rally around whomever the party nominates. Nearly 7 in 10 Sanders supporters in New York said that they would definitely or probably vote for Clinton if she is the party's pick.

Sanders energized young people and liberals in New York, as he has across the country, but it wasn't enough to pull off the upset victory he desperately needed to change the trajectory of the Democratic race. Still, the Vermont senator vowed to keep competing.

"We've got a shot to victory," Sanders said in an interview with The Associated Press. However, his senior adviser, Tad Devine, said later that the campaign planned to "sit back and assess where we are" after a string of contests next week.

Of the 247 Democratic delegates at stake in New York, Clinton picked up at least 135 while Sanders gained at least 104.

Oregon Independent Party gets clarity on presidential nominations

By KRISTENA HANSEN
Associated Press

PORTLAND — Gearing up for its first state-run primary election next month, the Independent Party of Oregon got some clarity this week about how it'll be allowed to pick a presidential nominee.

Registered members of the IPO party, which became Oregon's third major party last year, will pick their presidential candidate of choice through a write-in on their ballots, but whoever claims the most votes in the state's May 17 primary

won't necessarily get the party's nominee. Instead, party leaders can have the final say, under certain parameters, the Oregon Department of Justice said Monday.

It won't affect the Republican or Democratic contests, which are restricted to voters registered in those perspective parties. But it's the first time in recent memory that Oregon's primary contest will have three major parties, and the Independent Party wanted more control over who it nominates, even when it doesn't have its own presidential candidate, as

is the case this year.

"It's not aimed at being stuck with an unappetizing choice — it was aimed at the forces of the state to not interfere with the Independent Party in a manner that was totally discriminatory," said Linda Williams, party chairwoman.

While state law says the person with the most votes gets nominated or wins, the Department of Justice said there's an exception for presidential nominations, which follows a separate process. Thus, Independent Party leaders don't have to nominate the presidential candi-

date with the most write-ins, the department told the party in a memorandum.

The Oregon Secretary of State's office had expressed concerns about giving "veto power" to party leaders last month, suggesting it might be inconsistent with state election laws and asked the DOJ to weigh in.

"Now that the law is clear, the IPO is free to operate within the law," Laura Terrill, chief of staff to Secretary Jeanne Atkins, told The Associated Press. "Because of the potential for voter confusion, however, the Secretary has encouraged the IPO to make its

process clear on their website or other places where the public can be informed."

Party leaders can't pick just anyone — if Donald Trump, for instance, won the national GOP nomination, the IPO couldn't nominate Sen. Ted Cruz, the Department of Justice stated. And the party also needs the candidate's permission to be officially nominated.

Williams said Monday's memo was a victory for the IPO, saying it affords them the same rights as Republicans and Democrats who use delegates and superdelegates — not voters —

to ultimately select presidential nominees.

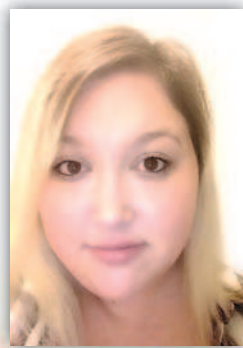
"The pushback from us was, frankly, that that was unconstitutional and illegal," said Williams, referring to Atkins' previous position on the issue. "The state cannot step in and order a political party to put somebody as their nominee."

When official write-in results are posted by early June, Williams said the IPO will narrow its options, have members weigh in on their preferences through an online process and declare its nominee by the late August deadline.

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