

Cruz tops Trump in Iowa caucuses; Clinton, Sanders in tight Dem race

Associated Press

DES MOINES, Iowa — Texas Sen. Ted Cruz, a fiery conservative loathed by his own party's leaders, swept to victory in Iowa's Republican caucuses Monday, overcoming billionaire Donald Trump and a stronger-than-expected showing by Florida Sen. Marco Rubio. Among Democrats, Bernie Sanders rode a wave of voter enthusiasm to a virtual tie with Hillary Clinton, long considered her party's front-runner.

Cruz's victory over Trump was a testament to his massive get-out-the-vote operation in Iowa and the months he spent wooing the state's influential conservative and evangelical leaders.

"Iowa has sent notice that the Republican nominee and next president of the United States will not be chosen by the media, will not be chosen by the Washington establishment," Cruz said.

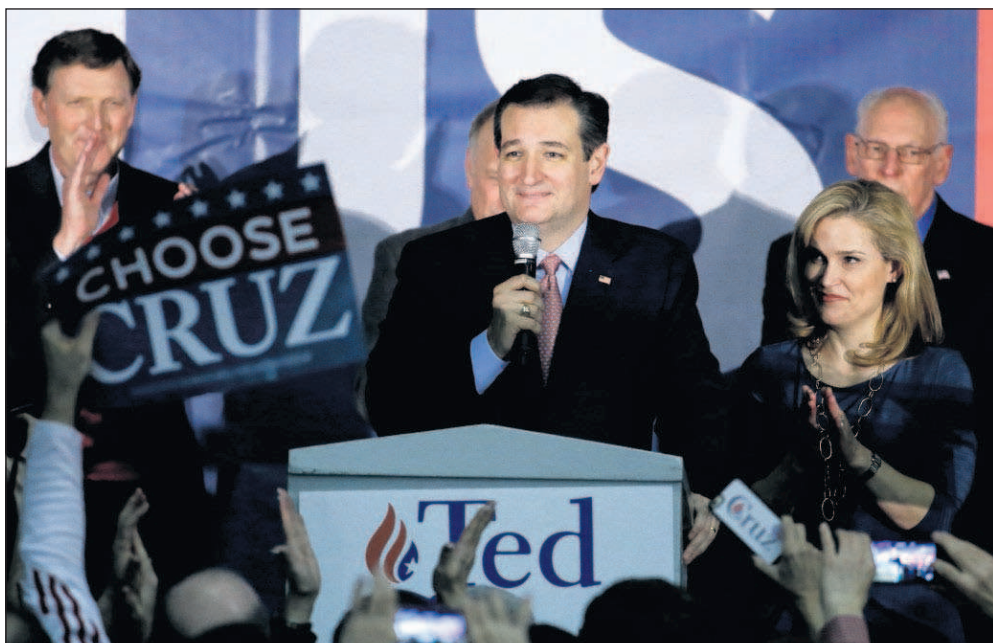
His comments were echoed by Sanders, underscoring the degree to which voter frustration with the political system has crossed party lines in the 2016 campaign.

"It is too late for establishment politics and establishment economics," said Sanders, who declared the Democratic race a "virtual tie."

Clinton took the stage at her own campaign rally saying she was "breathing a big sigh of relief" but with the Democratic race too close to call. Aware that even a slim victory over Sanders would reinstate questions about her candidacy, she foresaw a long race to come.

"It is rare that we have the opportunity we do now, to have a real contest of ideas, to really think hard about what the Democratic Party stands for and what we want the future of our country to look like," Clinton said.

Trump has shaken the Republican Party perhaps more than any other candidate,



AP Photo/Chris Carlson

Republican presidential candidate, Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas, speaks during a caucus night rally, Monday in Des Moines, Iowa.



AP Photo/Andrew Harnik

Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton, accompanied by former President Bill Clinton and their daughter Chelsea Clinton speaks at her caucus night rally at Drake University in Des Moines, Iowa, Monday.



AP Photo/Evan Vucci

Democratic presidential candidate Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., arrives for a caucus night rally on Monday in Des Moines, Iowa.

though he was unable to turn his legion of fans into an Iowa victory.

He sounded humble in defeat, saying he was "honored" by the support of Iowans. And he vowed to keep up his fight for the Republican nomination.

"We will go on to easily beat Hillary or Bernie or whoever the hell they throw up," Trump told cheering supporters.

For Clinton's supporters, the tight race with Sanders was sure to bring back painful memories of her loss to Barack Obama in 2008. Her campaign spent nearly a year building a get-out-the-vote operation in Iowa yet still seemed to be caught off guard by the enthusiasm surrounding Sanders.

A self-declared democratic socialist from Vermont, Sanders drew large, youthful crowds across the state with his calls for breaking up big Wall Street banks and his fierce opposition to a campaign finance system that he says is rigged for the wealthy.

Cruz modeled his campaign after past Iowa Republican winners, visiting all of the state's 99 counties and courting evangelical and conservative leaders. While candidates with that portfolio have often faded later in the primary season, Cruz hopes to ride his momentum to the nomination.

Trump took second place, but Rubio, favored by more mainstream Republicans, gave him a battle even for that.

"We have taken the first step, but an important step,

ELECTION '16

Bellwether states

Wins in the early voting states of Iowa and New Hampshire often — but not always — give candidates momentum toward a party nomination.

	WON IOWA		WON NEW HAMPSHIRE	
	DEMOCRAT	REPUBLICAN	DEMOCRAT	REPUBLICAN
2012	Barack Obama*	Rick Santorum	Barack Obama*	Mitt Romney
2008	Barack Obama	Mike Huckabee	Hillary Clinton	John McCain
2004	John Kerry	George W. Bush*	John Kerry	George W. Bush*
2000	Al Gore	George W. Bush	Al Gore	John McCain
1996	Bill Clinton*	Robert Dole	Bill Clinton*	Pat Buchanan
1992	Tom Harkin	George H.W. Bush*	Paul Tsongas	George H.W. Bush*
1988	Richard Gephardt	Robert Dole	Michael Dukakis	George H.W. Bush
1984	Walter Mondale	Ronald Reagan*	Gary Hart	Ronald Reagan*
1980	Jimmy Carter*	George H.W. Bush	Jimmy Carter*	Ronald Reagan

*Incumbent, ran unopposed or without significant opposition

SOURCE: AP Election Services

dissatisfied and 4 in 10 said they were angry, according to surveys conducted by Edison Research for The Associated Press and the television networks.

Six in 10 Democratic caucus-goers wanted a candidate who would continue Obama's policies. Young voters overwhelmingly backed Sanders.

Both parties were drawing new voters. About 4 in 10 participants in each party said they were caucusing for the first time.

In Iowa, which has for decades launched the presidential nominating contest, candidates also faced an electorate that's whiter, more rural and more evangelical than many states. But, given its prime leadoff spot in the primary season, the state gets extra attention from presidential campaigns.

The caucuses marked the end of at least two candidates' White House hopes. Former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley ended his longest bid for the Democratic nomination. Former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee dropped out on the Republican side.

to winning the nomination," Rubio said at a campaign rally in Des Moines.

Candidates in both parties faced an electorate deeply frustrated with Washington. While the economy has improved under President Barack Obama, the recovery has eluded many Americans. New terror threats at home and abroad have increased national security concerns.

Voters at Republican caucuses indicated they were deeply unhappy with the way the federal government is working. Half said they were

Dems block transportation funding bill

Bill would have eliminated carbon credit system

By HILLARY BORRUD
Capital Bureau

SALEM — Democratic leaders in the Oregon House have blocked a \$340 million transportation funding bill introduced by a Wilsonville Republican.

State Rep. John Davis, R-Wilsonville, knew his bill faced long odds, given that Gov. Kate Brown and leaders in the House and Senate all said they would not attempt to pass a transportation funding bill until 2017. But Davis decided to pursue the legislation anyway, in an attempt to get a jump on projects to reduce traffic congestion and compete for a share of \$800 million in federal grants for freight projects available this year under the transportation funding bill Congress passed in December.

Davis said Democratic leaders never responded to his emails and phone call requesting a hearing on the bill, and

he finally learned the legislation would not get a hearing when he ran into Rep. Jessica Vega Pederson, D-Portland, chair of the committee where the bill was assigned.

Davis' bill would have raised money for transportation through a combination of bonds, an increase in the gas tax in the Portland metropolitan area to pay for local projects, increases in license and registration fees, and a hike in the weight mile tax for trucks.

House Democrats objected to the bill because it would have eliminated the carbon credit system created under Oregon's low-carbon fuel standard. Last year Republicans refused to vote for any transportation bill that included an increase in the gas tax, unless Democrats would agree to repeal the fuel standard.

"Last session, in 2015, I spent a lot of time and effort on both the clean fuels bill and the transportation pack-

age and really worked hard to see if there was a path forward to compromise," Vega Pederson said. "It wasn't there. We spent a lot of time on it, and a lot of hours in rooms, and really we weren't able to come up with anything that worked."

Davis said he hoped legislative hearings would have provided an opportunity to revisit the low-carbon fuels program.

"I still think legislative oversight is vital, because the (Environmental Quality Commission) has changed the facts on the ground in meaningful ways since the 2015 session through rulemaking," Davis said. In December, the commission voted to delay enforcement of the fuel standard until 2018, and commissioners said they wanted frequent updates on the supply and cost of alternative fuels and carbon credits.

Senate Democrats, who had helped negotiate a 2015 transportation funding package that ran into opposition in

the House, listed a transportation as one of their priorities for 2016.

"I don't think anybody expects a transportation package to pass this session," said Senate Majority Whip Elizabeth Steiner Hayward, D-Beaverton. "I do think a lot of people think we will have robust public conversation about it in multiple committees because I think the vast majority of us agree that without a transportation package we are going to be struggling, and it is going to be more expensive for businesses to get their goods to market. It's going to take longer for people to get to work. We are more at risk for bridge collapses not just from earthquakes but from other causes so we need to be thinking hard about how we invest in Oregon's transportation infrastructure in ways that protect our future."

The Capital Bureau is a collaboration between EO Media Group and Pamplin Media Group.

Omnibus housing bill unlikely to pass this session

By PARIS ACHEN
Capital Bureau

SALEM — An omnibus bill to address the state's affordable housing crisis is unlikely to pass during the Legislature's 35-day session that began Monday, according to the Senate Majority Leader Ginny Burdick, D-Portland.

"There really is a crisis out there," Burdick said. "People are being thrown out of their apartments. It's a very serious problem in Portland, so I would hope to do at least something on it, but it won't be the omnibus bill. It's just too ambitious for 35 days."

Rep. Alissa Keny-Guyer, D-Portland, chairwoman of the House Committee on Human Services and Housing, proposed the housing package after public testimony in November. The testimony highlighted that a shortage of affordable housing and no-cause evictions have exacerbated homelessness

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— Ginny Burdick, Senate Majority Leader, D-Portland

and poor living conditions in the state.

The package, which also is championed by House Speaker Tina Kotek, D-Portland, includes restricting no-cause evictions and requiring landlords to give 90 days' notice before terminating a lease or raising rent on a tenant.

It would exempt property owners from capital gains taxes when they sell their property to a housing authority.

It would yield an estimated \$5 million by increasing the state's document recording fee to \$30 from \$20.

Keny-Guyer also is seeking \$10 million for emergency housing assistance and \$17.5

million in lottery bonds to preserve affordable housing by compensating for expiring federal rental assistance contracts or matured federal loans.

Sen. Michael Dembrow, D-Portland, chairman of the Senate workforce committee, has resurrected a bill that would repeal a ban on requiring developers to include affordable housing units in their new developments. That practice is known as inclusionary zoning. He made a similar proposal last year. That proposal died in the Senate.

Dembrow's proposal received strong support during a public hearing Monday in front of the House Committee

on Human Services and Housing. Out of more than a dozen speakers, none spoke against the measure.

Burdick said lawmakers need to narrow the legislation down to one or two measures that can make the most difference. It's unclear whether lawmakers can agree on what those one or two items might be.

"I would say personally one of my biggest concerns in this regard is the issue of tenants being afraid to complain to landlords about unsafe conditions in their housing because of our no-cause eviction law in Oregon," said Senate Majority Whip Elizabeth Steiner Hayward, D-Beaverton. "They're basically very worried that if they complain about mold or poor ventilation or any of the other conditions we know contribute to poor health that they could be given a no-cause eviction notice and be out of a place to live."

Wash. bill aims to ban abortions based on gender

By RACHEL LA CORTE
Associated Press

OLYMPIA, Wash. — Washington state is among a handful of states this year where lawmakers are seeking to ban abortions sought because of the gender of a fetus, something abortion rights groups say is a veiled effort to expand restrictions to abortion in the state.

Senate Bill 6612, sponsored by Republican Sen. Ann Rivers of La Center, would make it a Class C felony, carrying a maximum penalty of up to five years in prison and/or a \$10,000 fine, for a doctor to knowingly perform or attempt an abortion solely because of the sex of the fetus. A physician would also face losing his or her medical license.

The bill, which has a public hearing Tuesday morning, notes that the United States, along with other countries, "has petitioned the United National General Assembly to declare sex-selection abortion a crime against women" and that India, Great Britain and China have all taken steps to end the practice.

"The victims of sex-selection abortion are overwhelmingly female," the bill reads. "Women are a vital part of our society and culture and possess the same fundamental human rights as men."

Rivers said she introduced the bill because several other states have already banned sex-selective abortions and she wanted to "have a collegial discussion about it."

"I don't think this bill will go anywhere, but I would like to keep the profile raised on this very important issue," she wrote in a text message.

Abortion rights groups argue that sex-selective abortion is not an issue in the United States. Rachel Berkson, executive director of NARAL Pro-Choice Washington called the Senate bill "a Trojan horse to ban abortion."

"Of course, NARAL Pro-Choice Washington has long opposed and will continue to oppose reproductive coercion in any form, and that includes societal pressure to have a child of a particular sex," Rachel Berkson, the group's executive director, said Monday.

But Berkson said that it's impossible for doctors to prove the reasons for why a woman is seeking an abortion, and she said she believes it could cause doctors to stereotype women from countries where sex-selection abortion is a known practice.

"We think this would unfairly harm them and stand in the way of their access," she said. Seven states currently ban sex-selective abortions, according to the Guttmacher Institute, an abortion rights advocacy group. According to the National Conference of State Legislatures, at least four other states, in addition to Washington, have introduced similar measures this year: Indiana, Oregon, West Virginia and Missouri.

Even if the Washington state measure progresses out of the Republican-controlled Senate, it is not likely to gain traction in the Democratic-controlled House.

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