

# Trump's career: Fans and foes, love and hate

By BERNARD CONDON  
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK — To his supporters, the business career of Donald Trump is proof he's got the decisiveness and smarts required to lead the country. To critics, his exaggerated claims, burned customers and four bankruptcies suggest a man wholly disqualified for the office.

The truth: It's complicated. Criticized by Republican rivals for his crude comments and what they call flaky conservative credentials, Trump now finds his business acumen in the political crosshairs. Florida Sen. Marco Rubio has started calling Trump a "con artist" who has been "sticking it to the little guy" as he built his empire, and says he would be "selling watches in Manhattan" if he hadn't gotten help from his millionaire father.

Trump's business record gives Super Tuesday voters inclined to praise or condemn his boardroom bona fides a way to support either view.

Gutsy, shrewd and armed with an uncanny sense of timing, Trump built a business that spans the globe, much bigger in scope and riches than when he took it over from his father. Yet some of his failures have been as spectacular as his successes, and he's stiffed creditors and has licensed his name in ways that raise questions about his judgment.

"Donald has proven himself an innovative and smart businessman," says real estate developer Don Peebles, a registered Democrat who does not plan on voting for Trump if he makes it to the general election. "I respect and admire what he's accomplished."

The fortune built by Trump's father, estimated at several hundred million dollars, came from low- and middle-income housing in Brooklyn and Queens. Trump wanted more. So he bet big on much richer Manhattan, a risk for the son of an outer-bor-



Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump gestures during a speech at a rally in Oklahoma City.

## Secret Service-media tussle at rally

RADFORD, Va. (AP) — A raucous and protest-ridden Donald Trump rally on the eve of Super Tuesday featured a verbal and physical altercation between a news media photographer and a Secret Service agent, complete with profanity, a choke hold and a body slam.

Chris Morris, the photographer who is contracted to cover the campaign for TIME, was escorted out of the tense rally amid an anti-Trump protest, and detained before being released. The Secret Service says it is investigating "the exact circumstances." The agent has not been identified.

ough builder. His timing was near perfect. He began construction in 1980 on his signature Fifth Avenue building, Trump Tower, just as New York City began a long boom following a brush with bankruptcy.

He put up more buildings, bought an airline and rolled the dice in another industry — casinos. In 1984, he opened the Trump Plaza in Atlantic City,

New Jersey, and he opened Trump's Castle the following year. In 1991, he took an especially big risk to build the Trump Taj Mahal. He personally guaranteed loans used to develop the project, putting his own fortune on the line if things went sour.

They did. As the U.S. muddled through a recession, Trump was unable to make good on billions of dollars of

debt. The bankruptcies — four in all, stretching over nearly a decade — left many casino lenders and vendors bitter. They got just pennies on each dollar they were owed.

"People forget that he left bondholders out to dry ... that these were not victimless events," says Michael D'Antonio, author of the Trump biography "Never Enough."

"When he tried to do other

kinds of business — airlines and casinos — he stumbled."

In 2001, Trump completed the 90-story residential Trump World Tower in New York City. Then, three years later, he discovered a flair for reality TV with the launch of "The Apprentice" on NBC. As his celebrity star rose, Trump moved to squeeze more dollars out of his name. He's branded everything from bottled water and suits to hotels and residential towers, striking deals to put his name on properties built and owned by others in Panama, Uruguay, Turkey, India and the Philippines.

As he has extended his brand, he's faced criticism that he's gotten careless, or worse. Rubio has focused in the past several days on Trump University, which charged students \$1,495 each for seminars that would teach them the billionaire's secrets to making it big in real estate. A lawsuit filed by the New York attorney general claims the classes fell so short of promises that it amounts to fraud.

"This is a guy who says he stands for the working class," Rubio said Saturday. "When in fact his entire business career, he's been sticking it to working-class Americans."

It's clearly struck a nerve with Trump, who on Saturday called the litigation "a small deal, very small" and told supporters he could have settled, but is continuing to fight on principle.

For a man who measures his success in dollars, Trump has managed to grow them substantially. According to Forbes magazine, Trump's wealth has risen to \$4.5 billion from \$1 billion in 1988, a 350 percent gain.

That's half of what he would have earned if he had invested in a broad U.S. stock index, and that doesn't count dividends.

Trump, by the way, says Forbes is all wrong. "I borrowed a tiny amount of money, \$1 million," he said Saturday. "I started a business. It's worth much more than \$10 billion right now."

## Trump timeline

—1978: Opens glittering \$100 million hotel at Grand Central Station in New York to replace decaying Commodore Hotel.

—1980: Breaks ground on Trump Tower, his soaring Fifth Avenue luxury condo building.

—1984: Gambles on casinos, opening Trump Plaza in Atlantic City. Trump's Castle follows a year later; next, the \$1 billion Trump Taj Mahal.

—1987: Publishes "The Art of the Deal," a New York Times best seller.

—1989: For new airline, Trump Shuttle, promises "best of everything," but loses control to lenders and eventually sells it.

—1991: First of four Trump casino bankruptcies. Trump Taj Mahal threatens his personal fortune because he personally guaranteed debt, but dealmaking spares him big loss.

—2004: Joins forces with NBC to launch "The Apprentice," the long-running reality TV show.

—2005: Expands brand into clothing and accessories with the "Donald J. Trump Signature Collection" so fans can wear Trump-branded suits, shirts, ties, cufflinks, eyewear, leather goods and belts.

—2008: Opens first property in Chicago, the 92-story Trump International Hotel & Tower.

—2009: Tells crowd of 5,000 in Miami that his new health products company, Trump Networks, will be the "biggest in the industry." Company struggles and Trump sells it four years later.

—2012: Wins right to convert Old Post Office Building in Washington into 300-room hotel, promising "one of the most luxurious in the world."

—2014: Buys Ireland's Doonbeg golf club and Scotland's Turnberry Resort, the site of several British Opens and his 17th golf course.

# Super Tuesday is the biggest prize

By CALVIN WOODWARD  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Super Tuesday is the big gulp moment for any presidential candidate who makes it that far. It's the biggest day of competition in American democracy except for Election Day itself. It's super nail-bitey, super expensive and often super-clarifying — the killer and maker of dreams.

So will it set everything straight in the chaotic presidential race? Maybe. Quite possibly not.

## Marco 'Rambo' & Co.

Five Republicans are still mixing it up, but all the following is either by or about GOP front-runner Donald Trump. The New Yorker is driving toward the Republican nomination and his rivals are trying to splatter him with everything they have.

Tuesday will answer whether Marco Rubio's debate-night transformation from bland RubioBot to Marco Rambo can begin to take down the months-long leader in preference polls and now delegates.

The fight that the Republican establishment long wanted has been engaged. Whether it's too late to stop the outsider capitalist-populist is the question.

And it's not all high-minded rhetoric by any means. Trump made fun of Rubio's ears; Rubio cracked that Trump may have wet his pants during the debate.

Similar suspense, with fewer insults, animates the Democratic race.

Hillary Clinton, the establishment pick, scored a weekend blowout in South Carolina on Saturday, looks strong in many Super Tuesday states and would become an overwhelming favorite for the nomination if she performs to expectations.

A surprise could reinvigorate Bernie Sanders, her socialist-populist rival who has tapped deep political passions but needs more actual victories, and soon.

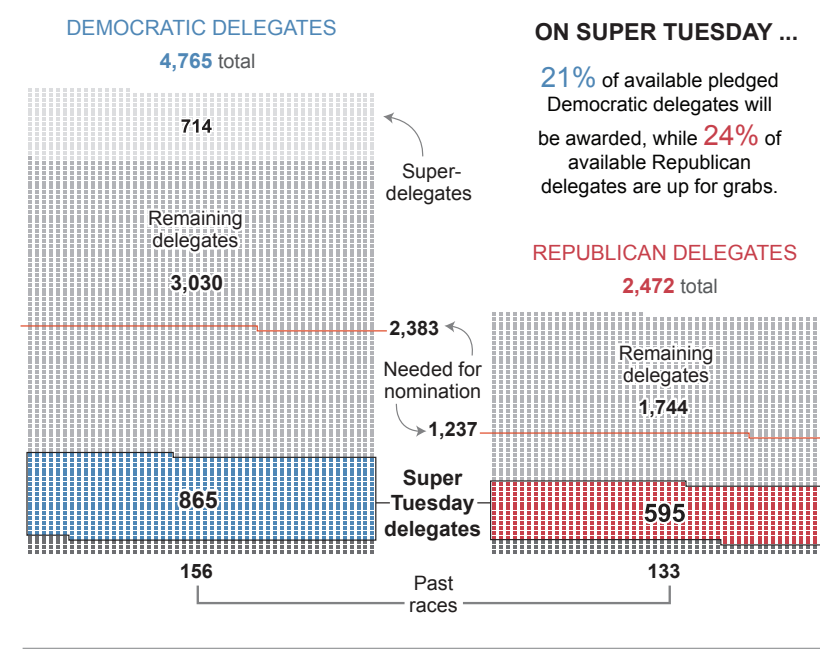
## Why it matters

Immigration policy, the swollen U.S. debt, the uneven spread of wealth and hard questions about how to approach the Islamic State, terrorism and civil liberties are all in play for voters.

So is the fate of fundamental social policy as the Supreme Court stands ideologically divided. A vacancy may not be filled until after the next president takes office in January.

## The road to Super Tuesday

Voters in a dozen states head to the polls on Tuesday, March 1, with 1,460 delegates at stake. More delegates can be won on Super Tuesday than on any other day during the presidential nominating process.



SOURCE: AP Election Services

Trump's agenda lacks detail on most fronts and often seems improvised. But there's little doubt about his intended approach on several major matters.

He would try to browbeat trading partners and others into doing his will. He would be on the hook for someone carrying out mass deportations of people in the country illegally, for temporarily banning non-U.S. citizen Muslims from coming into the country and for replacing President Barack Obama's health care law with a system that does not, as he put it, leave people to die on the street.

Democrats have a choice between liberal pragmatism and liberal ambition.

Sanders preaches free college, a transformation of health care to a government-financed "Medicare-for-all" system and a breakup of big banks as part of an agenda centered on shrinking the gap between rich and poor.

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## A transition

Until now, it was ephemeral. Who's doing better and worse than expected? Who's rising and falling? Who's got,

you know, momentum?

It's mainly about the number of delegates now — the inexorable grind of arithmetic.

Until now, voters in four states have picked not much more than a sliver of the delegates who are needed to clinch the party nominations.

That changes overnight, with each party holding contests in 11 states. Democrats also vote in American Samoa.

Republicans will allocate 595 delegates from the results of Super Tuesday, nearly half of the 1,237 needed for the nomination.

Democrats will allocate 865, more than one-third of the necessary 2,383.

## What's the score?

3-1 for Trump and Clinton.

He won New Hampshire, South Carolina and Nevada. She won Iowa, Nevada and South Carolina.

Republican Ted Cruz won Iowa, Nevada and South Carolina. In the Republican delegate race: it's 82 for Trump, 17 for Ted Cruz, 16 for Rubio, 6 for John Kasich and 4 for Ben Carson.

In the Democratic race, factoring in the hundreds of superdelegates, or party insiders who can support a candidate of their choice, Clinton leads with 544 delegates, according to AP's count, while Sanders has 85.

# Rubio takes gloves off with Trump

By THOMAS BEAUMONT  
Associated Press

ATLANTA — Inviting audiences to "have a little fun," Republican presidential hopeful Sen. Marco Rubio's jabs at front-runner Donald Trump are getting personal.

In a sharp shift from policy to personal attacks on Trump, Rubio mocked everything from the billionaire businessman's tan to making subtle remarks about his manhood. He even implied that Trump wet his pants during a recent debate.

Crowds across the South have appeared receptive to the Florida senator's change in tone, exploding into cheers and laughter at the digs. But individually, many voters sheepishly smile and acknowledge that the turn is unfortunate but necessary for anyone to take down Trump.

Come what may for Rubio, his attacks on Trump, the favorite in most of this week's Super Tuesday polls, exposes a deeply-rooted antipathy for Trump among a segment of the Republican electorate.

"You've got to break Donald Trump somehow," said Elizabeth Neal, who attended a Rubio rally downtown Atlanta on Monday. "To some degree it means doing whatever it takes — even if it means getting down to his level."

In Georgia on Saturday, Rubio flipped his rhetoric from fissing on policy comparisons to ripping on Trump's appearance.

"It's amazing to me. A guy with the worst spray tan in America is attacking me for putting on makeup," Rubio told an audience of 7,000 parents with children on a Christian high school football field Saturday. The grandstands roared. "Donald Trump likes to sue people. He should sue whoever did that to his face," he added.

In Virginia on Sunday, Rubio again mocked Trump

for his complexion. Borrowing Trump's slogan, he said, "Donald is not going to 'Make America Great.' He's going to make America orange!"

The audience of 3,000 mostly college-aged students hooted and cheered when Rubio referred to Trump's hands, disproportionately small for his six-foot stature. "You know what they say about men with small hands?" Rubio cracked, pausing amid the cheers at what is often a sexual reference.

"You can't trust them! You can't trust them!" he insisted, straining to overcome the howls.

It's an occasional feature in Rubio's new shtick in the run-up to Super Tuesday's 11 Republican nominating contests, which could jeopardize the Florida senator's campaign if he fails to pull off a first place finish in at least one of those states.

It sometimes begins with Rubio pulling out his phone, saying "You guys want to have a little fun?" then reading some of Trump's notorious pronouncements on Twitter.

While it may appear that Rubio's newfound playground banter has devolved from the serious indictment of Trump's ethics and political past, Rubio aides say that the maneuver is aimed at trying to knock Trump off of his message and break through a cable and network television news barrier Trump has unwaveringly dominated.

"I suppose I could sit here and hurl personal insults," Rubio said at the top of his remarks at a downtown Atlanta hotel for the midday rally Monday, adding "OK, I've done it, like, a couple times."

A few voices in the audience began to chant: "Read Tweets, read Tweets," hinting that some of his supporters had come to enjoy the sport.

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