



A supporter of Donald Trump holds up a sign at a campaign rally in New Orleans on Friday.

Trump's GOP rivals attack his 'flexibility'

Associated Press

WARREN, Mich. — With an eye on the general election — and suddenly “flexible” on immigration — Donald Trump has backed off from some of the hardline rhetoric that has fueled his presidential campaign, at least for the moment.

“Believe it or not, I’m a unifier,” Trump offered during a raucous rally Friday in suburban Detroit. “We are going to unify our country.”

Republican adversary Ted Cruz wasn’t having it. “Donald is telling us he will betray us on everything he’s campaigned on,” he said as he campaigned in Maine, one of five states voting in weekend primaries and caucuses.

Trump’s apparent outbreak of moderation on several fronts, including the most inflammatory one, immigration, comes after a dominant Super Tuesday performance that extended his reach for the Republican nomination and as GOP establishment figures stepped up to assail him.

In the rollicking Republican debate Thursday night, Trump retreated from a position paper on his website, saying he had swung in favor of more temporary H-1B visas for skilled foreign workers. His stance against that had been one of the few specific policies he had laid out.

“I’m changing, I’m changing,” he said. “We need highly skilled people in this country.” Hours later, his campaign released a statement backing away from the new position, deepening the sense that Trump’s agenda may be less strategic than improvisational.

He spoke of compromise. “In terms of immigration — and almost anything else — there always has to be some, you know, tug and pull and deal,” Trump added. “You have to be able to have some flexibility, some negotiation.”

Cruz and others lashed out at Trump’s sudden embrace of flexibility on the central issue of his campaign. “Flexible is Washington code word that he’s going to stick it to the people,” Cruz said Friday.

Campaigning in Kansas, rival Marco Rubio said Trump has shown “constant movement” on the issue, a “pattern” the Florida senator says is “disrespectful to voters.”



Republican presidential candidate, Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Fla., takes photographs with the audience at a campaign rally in Kansas on Friday.

“He finally took a position on ... guest workers coming from abroad, and then as soon as the debate was over he changed back,” Rubio said in Topeka, Kansas. He added, “I think it indicates that this is a person who has spent zero time thinking about public policy.”

Mitt Romney, the GOP’s 2012 presidential nominee, followed up a lacerating speech against Trump by declaring Friday he would not vote for the billionaire if he became the standard-bearer in the fall.

Romney told NBC’s “Today” show he would “do everything within the normal political bounds to make sure we don’t nominate Donald Trump.” He also said, “I’m not running for president and I won’t run for president.”

Still, some members of Romney’s vast donor network said they were ready should he reconsider. Republican donor Bill Kunkler said he had recently spoken to Romney’s 2012 finance chairman, Spencer Zwick, and told him he would support Romney again.

“Mitt is the guy who will put the party before himself,” Kunkler said.

Also this week, Republican foreign-policy luminaries from diverse flanks of the party wrote an open letter opposing Trump’s candidacy, for his “hateful, anti-Muslim rhetoric,” his “embrace of the expansive use of torture” and more.

Trump is showing new sensitivity on these matters.

He said Friday he understands the U.S. is “bound by laws and treaties” and he will not order U.S. military officials to violate or disobey those laws if elected president. His statement attenuated earlier comments that he would revive waterboarding in interrogations — which is now illegal — and “a lot worse,” and that he would target the wives and children of suspected extremists.

This was a switch of sorts from the debate the night before.

“These animals over in the Middle East, that chop off heads, sitting around talking and seeing that we’re having a hard problem with waterboarding?” he offered in the debate. “We should go for waterboarding and we should go tougher than waterboarding.”

Despite the softened tone on some issues, though, Trump is still Trump.

He canceled an appearance at the American Conservative Union’s Conservative Political Action Conference, often a can’t-miss event for candidates catering to the right. It was there Friday that Ben Carson brought a formal end to his campaign for president, where he drew an adoring standing ovation and said there are “a lot of people who love me, they just won’t vote for me.”

Trump’s decision to skip the meeting, meanwhile, “sends a clear message to conservatives,” the unhappy group tweeted.



In this May 2015 file photo, a man pours water on his face during a hot summer day in Hyderabad, India.

Satellite data shows no pause in global warming

WASHINGTON (AP) — Climate change doubters may have lost one of their key talking points: a particular satellite temperature dataset that had seemed to show no warming for the past 18 years.

The Remote Sensing System temperature data, promoted by many who reject mainstream climate science and especially most recently by Sen. Ted Cruz, now shows a slight warming of about 0.18 degrees Fahrenheit since 1998. Ground temperature measurements, which many scientists call more accurate, all show warming in the past 18 years.

“There are people that like to claim there was no warming; they really can’t claim that anymore,” said Carl Mears, the scientist who runs the Remote Sensing System temperature data tracking.

The change resulted from an adjustment Mears made to fix a nagging discrepancy in the data from 15 satellites.

The satellites are in a polar orbit, so they are supposed to go over the same place at about the same time as they circle from north to south pole. Some of the satellites drift a bit, which changes their afternoon and evening measurements ever so slightly. Some satellites had drift that made temperatures warmer, others cooler. Three satellites had thrusters and they stayed in the proper orbit so they provided guidance for adjustments.

Mears said he was “motivated by fixing these differences between the satellites. If the differences hadn’t been there, I wouldn’t have done the upgrade.”

NASA chief climate scientist Gavin Schmidt and Andrew Dessler, a climate scientist at Texas A&M, said experts and studies had shown these problems that Mears adjusted and they both said those adjustments make are supported in a study in the American Meteorological Society’s Journal of Climate.

The study refutes the

“There are people who claim there was no warming; they really cannot claim that anymore.”

— Carl Mears, Scientist, Remote Sensing System

idea of a pause in global warming, “but frankly common sense and looking at how Earth was responding over the past 18 years kind of makes this finding a ‘duh’ moment,” wrote University of Georgia meteorology professor Marshall Shepherd.

Chip Knappenberger of the Cato Institute, who doesn’t doubt that human-caused climate change is happening but does not agree with mainstream scientists who say the problem is enormous, said this shows “how messy the procedures are in putting the satellite data together.”

The other major satellite temperature data set, run by University of Alabama-Huntsville professor John Christy, shows slight warming after 1998. But if 1998 is included in the data, it sees no warming. But that should change with a warm 2016, Christy said. In fact, Christy used his measurements to determine that February 2016 was 1.5 degrees Fahrenheit above the average for the month — the largest such disparity for any month since records were first kept, in 1979.

As far as what this means for people claiming no warming, scientists don’t expect them to change.

“I don’t know what Cruz, et al., will do now,” Dessler said in an email. “I think it will be increasingly difficult for them to claim that the satellite data show now warming, although it may be possible to say that it shows ‘no significant warming.’”

Discovery of knife is latest twist in O.J. Simpson case

LOS ANGELES (AP) — More than 20 years after O.J. Simpson’s ex-wife and a friend were stabbed to death, police revealed Friday they are examining a knife that was reportedly found at the home where the former football star was living at the time.

The announcement marked yet another twist in a case that’s had more unexpected turns than television’s best crime shows. The knife was believed to have been recovered by a construction worker tearing down the house. The worker then gave it to an off-duty police officer who was working as a security guard at a filming location, police said.

It was unclear when the knife was found and how long it was held by the officer, who is now retired. The knife was being analyzed by a Los Angeles Police Department crime lab for DNA or other material that could possibly link it to the killings.

Capt. Andy Neiman stressed that the authenticity of the story was not confirmed and that investigators were looking into whether “this whole story is possibly bogus from the get-go.”

“It’s unusual how this all of a sudden becomes a huge story during this time,” Neiman added, referring to the popular “People v. O.J.

Simpson: American Crime Story” anthology that is airing on the FX television channel.

Simpson was charged and acquitted in the slayings. Even if the knife is linked to him, legal experts say he could not be criminally charged again because of protections against double jeopardy.

“If they were going to find this knife and make it useful in the murder trial, they should have found it 20

years ago, and they didn’t,” said Loyola Law School professor Laurie Levenson, a former federal prosecutor and longtime observer of the Simpson case. “It will just raise more questions about the incompetence of the investigation and probably lead to more books and more movies.”

The weapon used in the killings has been a mystery for decades. Other knives have surfaced during the case but were not linked to the crimes.



Jacob Tyler Jones



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