

State of the Race: For Sanders, it's not over until it's over

By Kate Bartel

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Boston—Many have already [called](#) the 2016 presidential nominations, predicting the election will prove to be a matchup between Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump. But recent events suggest that the race may not be over yet—for either party.

Senator Bernie Sanders defeated Hillary Clinton by landslides in [all three Democratic caucuses](#) last Saturday, only furthering the underdog's prevailing argument that the nomination is not set in stone.

Sanders found solace in the largely white and overwhelmingly progressive states of the Pacific Northwest after losing to Clinton in a majority of the Southern states. With a win in Idaho under his belt from just a few days before, Sanders came in with 73 percent of the vote in Washington. Party officials in Washington estimated more than 200,000 people turned out for the Saturday caucuses, close to the record set in 2008, according to [the New York Times](#).

Sanders did even better in the Alaska caucuses with 82 percent of the vote, and in the Hawaii primaries he still came in far above Clinton with 70 percent of the vote. Worth noting is that Sanders has always done well in caucuses over primaries, which were the voting styles of Alaska and Washington. Equally unsurprising is that all three of these states have low percentages of the black and Latino vote, which were huge factors in Clinton's victories in the Southern states.

However unsurprising, Sanders' victories on Saturday are an important reminder to the Clinton campaign that the Vermont Senator still holds a majority of the millennial vote in this election. Just a day before the Washington caucuses, a [video clip](#) of a small bird landing on the candidate's podium during a Portland rally went viral, prompting the [hashtag](#) #BirdieSanders across the Internet. "This little bird doesn't know it," Sanders said. "But I think there may be some symbolism here." The crowd—of what appeared to be primarily young voters, went wild. The Sanders campaign posted the video on their YouTube page and shared it in ads to help their results in Washington.

Hillary Clinton has made attempts at strengthening her appeal to young voters by racking up on major [celebrity endorsements](#) such as Katy Perry, Lena Dunham, and Beyonce.

As of now, many young voters who feel the Bern are skeptical. Emerson College student Lauren Hoyerman believes that even if Clinton were "cooler" than Sanders, she would still not cast her ballot in favor of the former Secretary of State.

“Bernie just has everyone’s best interests at heart, and it’s hard for me to see that with Clinton,” Hoyer said. “No matter how many feminist celebrities come out supporting her.”

Clinton’s efforts to seize the millennial vote from Sanders will be tested on the April 19 primary in her home state of New York.

On the GOP side, frontrunner Donald Trump is facing the growing likelihood that he may not secure the 1,237 delegates needed to win the Republican nomination. A series of gaffes by Trump in recent days—from [stating](#) women should be punished for receiving abortions to [Tweeting](#) an unflattering photo of Heidi Cruz—have led to the New York billionaire having to release more apologies than usual in the past week.

Further, if Ted Cruz wins the Wisconsin primary on April 5, the results [could reshape](#) the entire GOP race. If Trump loses Wisconsin on Tuesday, his chances of failing to gain a delegate majority on the first convention ballot drastically increase.

Another important state for Trump is California, who has long been ignored in presidential primaries due to its late schedule of June 7. Yet with 172 delegates in play, the largest out of any state on the primary map, California could be another deciding factor in whether Donald Trump will be able to win the nomination before the July convention.

Either way, neither Hillary Clinton nor Donald Trump have their party nominations “in the bag” this year. It’s stirring up to be quite the race towards the conventions.