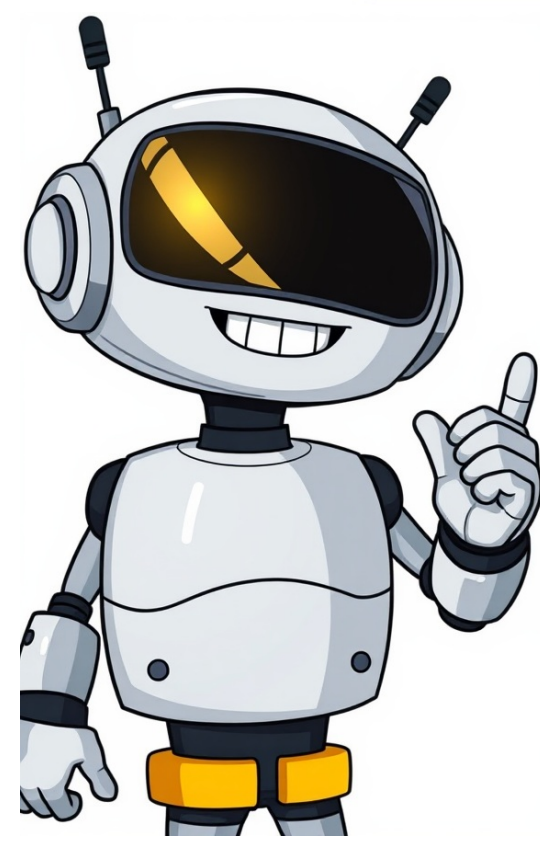


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From brings to neutrals, click to find styles in your favorite colors. A rainbow of slogan-freedomsigns that mix-and-match. Super soft and made towash and wear better thananything else in their closet. Styles for babies and kids,not boys and girls. Use left/right arrows to navigate the slideshow or swipe left/right if using a mobile device While most attention will be on Tuesday's New York City mayoral primary, there are a few other contests also worth watching. Also on the docket is a mayoral primary in Buffalo and a number of legislative special elections and primaries. This article will cover those New York City Primary Elections as well as Buffalo Mayor (Primary) Buffalo is the nation's 82nd largest city, with an estimated population of 277,000. Acting mayor Christopher Scanlon is seeking a full term. Scanlon, who was President of the City Council, succeeded fellow Democrat Byron Brown who resigned last October. Scanlon has drawn four primary opponents. The most prominent challenger is State Sen. Sean Ryan who has been endorsed by the Erie County Democratic Party. Polls close at 9:00 PM Eastern. The Republican nomination is uncontested. Former Erie County assistant district attorney James Gardner will be on the November 4 general election ballot. Legislative Special Elections These are ordered by poll closing times. Florida State Senate District 15 (Primary) Republicans hold a 28-10 margin over Democrats in the Florida Senate. There is an independent, and one vacancy. The even-numbered districts will be up for a four-year term in 2026. District 15is located near Orlando. Incumbent Democrat Geraldine Thompson died in February. She was unopposed in the general election in 2022 and 2024. The Democratic primary features a former congressmanand siblings squaring off against each other. The nominee will meet Republican Willie Montague in the special general election on September 2. Polls close at 7:00 PM Eastern Time. Florida State House District 40 (Primary) Republicans also dominate the Florida House of Representatives, controlling 87 seats; Democrats hold 33. Members serve two-year terms; the next regular elections are in 2026. Incumbent Democrat LaVon Bracy Davis is a candidate in Tuesday's State Senate District 19 special primary (see above). Under Florida's 'resign to run' law, she has to leave this seat whether she wins the nomination or not. Her resignation is effective September 1. Davis defeated her Republican challenger by a 55% margin in 2024. Travaris McCurdy and RaShon Young are competing for the Democratic nomination. McCurdy previously served in the Florida House, while Young was the former Chief of Staff for Bracy Davis. The winner will advance to the special general election against Republican Tuan Lee on September 2. Polls close at 7:00 PM Eastern Time. New Hampshire House District Stratford 12 At 400 members, the New Hampshire House is the largest in the country. There are currently 220 Republicans and 177 Democrats, along with one independent. There are two vacancies; members serve two-year terms; the next scheduled elections are in 2026. Stratford 12 is a multi-member district, with four seats,all of which were won by Democrats in 2024. Democrat Dawn Evans - who finished first - moved out of the area and did not assume office. The nominees are Democrat Bill Butler and Republican Ken Hilton. Polls close at 7:00 PM Eastern Time. Alabama Senate District 5 Republicans hold a dominant 26-8 majority over Democrats in the Alabama Senate. Members serve four-year terms; the next regular elections are in 2026. District 5, located between Birmingham and the Mississippi border, was previously served by Republican Greg Reed. He resigned at the beginning of the year to become an advisor to Gov. Kay Ivey. Reed was unopposed for reelection in 2022. The nominees are Republican Matt Woods and Democrat Ryan Cagle. Polls close at 8:00 PM Eastern Time. California Assembly District 63 Democrats hold a 60-19 supermajority over Republicans in the California State Assembly. Members serve two-year terms; the next regular elections are in 2026. District 63 spans portions of suburban Los Angeles. Republican Bill Essayli resigned in April after being appointed as a U.S. Attorney for the Central District of California. Essayli was reelected by a 57% to 43% margin over Democrat Chris Shoultz in 2024. Shoultz returns for the special election; he is the lone Democrat on the all-party primary ballot. Also on the ballot are Republicans Natasha Johnson and Vincent Romo, as well as Libertarian Zachary Consalvo. If one of these four candidates gets a majority of the vote, they are elected. Otherwise, the top two finishers will advance to an August 26 special general election. California elections are conducted largely by mail, with vote centers open on Election Day. Polls close at 11:00 PM Eastern Time. Also found in: Thesaurus, Medical, Legal, Financial, Acronyms, Encyclopedia, Wikipedia. (pmr,n,-m:rd). 1. First or highest in rank or importance; principal. See Synonyms at chief,2. a. Occurring first in time or sequence; earliest: the primary stages of the project,b. Of or relating to primary schools, 3. a. Not derived from anything else, basic or original. The interviews and other primary materials in the study were more interesting than the analysis,b. Immediate, direct; a primary source of information, 4. Geology Characteristic of or existing in a rock at the time of its formation, 5. Of or relating to a primary color or colors, 6. Linguistics a. Having a word root or other linguistic element as a basis that cannot be further analyzed or broken down. Use of the derivation of a word or word element,b. Referring to present or future time. Used as a collective designation for various present and future verb tenses in Latin, Greek, and Sanskrit,c. Of or relating to primary stress, 7. Electronics Of, relating to, or constituting an inducting current, circuit, or coil,8. Of, relating to, or designating the main flight feathers projecting along the outer edge of a bird's wing,9. Of or relating to agriculture, forestry, the industries that extract natural materials from the earth, or the products so obtained; a primary commodity, 10. Chemistry a. Relating to, or having a carbon atom that is attached to only one other carbon atom in a molecule,b. Relating to the replacement of only one of several atoms or groups in a compound, such as an amine in which one valence of the functional group is taken by a carbon atom,11. Botany Of, relating to, or derived from a primary meristem,n. pl. primaries 1. a. One that is first in time, order, or sequence,b. One that is first or best in degree, quality, or importance,c. One that is fundamental, basic, or elemental,2. a. A meeting of the registered voters of a political party for the purpose of nominating candidates and for choosing delegates to their party convention,b. A preliminary election in which the registered voters of a political party nominate candidates for office, 4. A primary flight feather, 5. Electronics An inducting current, circuit, or coil,6. Astronomy a. A celestial body, especially a star, relative to other bodies in orbit around it,b. The brighter of two stars that make up a binary star,American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language, Fifth Edition. Copyright 2016 by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company. Published by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company. All rights reserved. (gram):adj., 1. first importance, degree, rank, etc.,2. position or time, as in a series, 3. being the first stage; elementary, 4. (education) (prenominal) of or relating to the education of children up to the age of 11,6. (Zoology) one of a bird's wing feathers that grow from an inner circuit, such as a transformer or inductor, 7. (current) (prenominal) of or relating to the education of children up to the age of 11,8. (Zoology) one of a bird's wing feathers that grow from an inner circuit, such as a transformer or inductor, 9. (current) (prenominal) of or relating to the education of children up to the age of 11,10. (Linguistics) a. (of a product) consisting of a natural raw material; unmanufactured,b. (of production or industry) involving the extraction or winning of such products. Agriculture, fishing, forestry, hunting, and mining are primary industries. Compare secondary, 7. tertiary,39. (Chemistry) chem a. (of an organic compound) having a functional group attached to a carbon atom that is attached to at least two hydrogen atoms,b. (of an amine) having only one organic group attached to the nitrogen atom; containing the group NH2-, (of a salt) derived from a tribasic acid by replacement of one acidic hydrogen atom with a metal atom or electropositive group,10. (Linguistics) linguistics a. derived from a word that is not a derivation but the ultimate form itself. Lovable is a primary derivative of love,b. (of Latin, Greek, or Sanskrit tenses) referring to present or future time. Compare historic,31. (Geological Science) geology relating to magmas that have not experienced fractional crystallization or crystal contamination, pl -ries,12. a person or thing that is first in rank, occurrence, etc,13. (Government, Politics & Diplomacy) (in the US), a local meeting of voters registered with one party to nominate candidates, select convention delegates, etc,14. (Colours) See primary colour,15. (Zoology) any of the flight feathers growing from the manus of a bird's wing,16. (Electronics) a primary coil, winding, inductance, or current in an electric circuit,17. (Astronomy) astronomy a celestial body around which one or more specified secondary bodies orbit: the sun is the primary of the earth. [C15: from Latin pmrrius of the first rank, principal, from pmrus first]Collins English Dictionary Complete and Unabridged, 12th Edition 2014 HarperCollins Publishers 1991, 1994, 1998, 2000, 2003, 2006, 2007, 2009, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, 2030, 2031, 2032, 2033, 2034, 2035, 2036, 2037, 2038, 2039, 2040, 2041, 2042, 2043, 2044, 2045, 2046, 2047, 2048, 2049, 2050, 2051, 2052, 2053, 2054, 2055, 2056, 2057, 2058, 2059, 2060, 2061, 2062, 2063, 2064, 2065, 2066, 2067, 2068, 2069, 2070, 2071, 2072, 2073, 2074, 2075, 2076, 2077, 2078, 2079, 2080, 2081, 2082, 2083, 2084, 2085, 2086, 2087, 2088, 2089, 2090, 2091, 2092, 2093, 2094, 2095, 2096, 2097, 2098, 2099, 2100, 2101, 2102, 2103, 2104, 2105, 2106, 2107, 2108, 2109, 2110, 2111, 2112, 2113, 2114, 2115, 2116, 2117, 2118, 2119, 2120, 2121, 2122, 2123, 2124, 2125, 2126, 2127, 2128, 2129, 2130, 2131, 2132, 2133, 2134, 2135, 2136, 2137, 2138, 2139, 2140, 2141, 2142, 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Caucus, plural caucuses; also called presidential elections, the Electoral College handled the nominations and elections in 1789 and 1792 that selected George Washington. The beginnings of the American two-party system then emerged from Washington's immediate circle of advisors. Hamilton and Madison, who wrote the aforementioned Federalist Papers arguing for ratification, were among the first caucus leaders. In fact, many early caucus meetings took place at Hamilton's residence. By 1800, Democratic-Republican members of Congress would nominate single candidates from their party. That state collapsed in 1824, and since 1832 the preferential mechanism for nominating candidates has been used by all states except California. [5] Before 1820, Democratic-Republican members of Congress could nominate single candidate or multiple delegates to attend a national convention.[6][7]The national convention was created as a result of the Anti-Masonic Party in 1831, as they could no longer use the caucus system because they had no congressmen. The party leaders instead called for a national meeting of supporters to set the party's agenda. This convention was held in Baltimore, Maryland, on September 26, 1831, which selected William Wirt as its presidential candidate.[7]Delegates to the national convention were usually selected at state conventions whose own delegates were chosen by district conventions. Sometimes they were dominated by intrigue between political bosses who controlled delegates; the national convention was far from democratic or transparent.Progressive Era reformers looked to the primary election as a way to measure popular opinion of candidates, as opposed to the opinion of the bosses. Florida enacted the first presidential primary in 1901. The Wisconsin direct open primary of 1905 was the first to eliminate the caucus and mandate direct selection of national convention delegates. In 1910, Oregon became the first state to establish a presidential preference primary, which requires delegates to the National Convention to support the winner of the primary at the convention. By 1912, twelve states either selected delegates in primaries, used a preferential primary, or both. By 1920 there were 20 states with primaries, but some went back, and from 1936 to 1968, 12 states used them. The primary received its first major test in the 1912 election pitting incumbent president William Howard Taft against challengers Theodore Roosevelt and Robert La Follette. Roosevelt proved the most popular candidate, but as most primaries were non-binding "preference" shows and held in only fourteen of the then forty-eight states, the Republican incumbent easily won reelection. It wasn't until after World War II that the popularity of the primary began to grow rapidly. In 1948, Kefauver defeated incumbent secured Harry S. Truman, leading the latter to decide not to run for another term,[8]The first-in-the-nation New Hampshire primary has since become a widely observed test of candidates' viability.The impetus for national adoption of the binding primary election was the chaotic 1968 Democratic National Convention. Vice President Hubert Humphrey secured the presidential nomination despite not winning a single primary under his own name. After this, a Democratic National Committee-commissioned panel led by Senator George McGovern the McGovernFraser Commission recommended that states adopt new rules to assure wider participation. A large number of states, faced with the need to conform to more detailed rules for the selection of national delegates, chose a presidential primary as an easier way to come into compliance with the new national Democratic Party rules. The result was that many more future delegates would be selected by a state presidential primary. The Republicans also adopted many more state presidential primaries. By 1992, Democrats had primaries in 40 states and Republicans in 39.Both major political parties of the U.S.the Democratic Party and the Republican Partyofficially nominate their candidate for president at their respective national conventions. Each of these conventions is attended by a number of delegates selected in accordance with the given party's bylaws. The results of the presidential primaries and caucuses bind many of these delegates, known as pledged delegates, to vote for a particular candidate.[9]Both parties also have a group of unpledged delegates. Republicans have three At-Large delegates selected at the state convention from all the states and territories, 168 in number. These are each state's two national committeepersons and the state chairperson.In Democratic primaries through 2016, about 85% of delegates to the Democratic National Convention are "pledged delegates" who are apportioned to candidates according to the results of primaries and caucuses. The remaining 15% include delegates elected by the party itself, such as electors from local party organizations, and so-called superdelegates, who are appointed to represent voters without regard to whether they actually voted. Superdelegates can vote for whomever they wish.[10][11] Some superdelegates are former or current state or federal lobbyists.[10] In 2016, following a push by independent Senator Bernie Sanders, who ran as a Democrat,[12] the party voted in favor of superdelegate reform, such that in future presidential elections most superdelegates will be bound to those state primary results.[13]See also: Primary election typesA 2008 Washington state Democratic caucus held in the school lunchroom of Eckstein Middle School in Seattle. In some states like Washington, voters attend local meetings run by the parties instead of polling places at their precinct selections.2024 Republican Party presidential primaries, rules Open primary Semi-closed primary Closed primary Canceled2024 Democratic Party presidential primaries, rules Open primary Semi-closed primary Closed primary CanceledFranchise in a primary or caucus is governed by rules established by the state party, although the states may impose other regulations.While most states hold primary elections, a handful of states hold caucuses. Instead of going to a polling place, voters attend local private events run by the political parties, and cast their selections there. One disadvantage of caucuses is that the state party runs the process directly instead of having the state and local governments turn them. Another is that most election laws do not normally apply to caucuses.[14]Nearly all states have a binding primary or caucus, in which the results of the election depending on state law or party rules legally bind some or all of the delegates to vote for a particular candidate at the national convention, for a certain number of ballots or until the candidate releases the delegates. Some binding primaries are winner-take-all contests, in which all of a state's delegates are required to vote for the same candidate. In a proportional vote, a state's delegation is allocated in proportion to the candidates' percent of the popular vote in a congressional district. In many of those states that have proportional vote primaries, a candidate must meet a certain threshold in the popular vote to be given delegates.[9]Some states may use the caucus system where voters may instead be asked to pledge delegates to one of several candidates running for office. If a voter pledges delegates to one candidate or state party convention which then, in turn, selects pledged delegates to the national convention, it may practice non-binding "beauty contests", which are public opinion surveys for use by caucus delegates to select candidates to a state convention, which then in turn selects delegates to the national convention. In many states, only voters registered with a party may vote in that party's primary, known as a closed primary. In some states, a semi-closed primary is practiced, in which voters unfamiliar with a party (independents) may choose a party primary in which to vote. In an open primary, any voter may vote in any party's primary. A semi-open primary occurs when a voter must choose a party-specific ballot to cast, instead of being provided a single ballot where the voter must choose on the ballot itself which party's primary to vote in. In all of these systems, a voter may participate in only one primary; that is, a voter who casts a vote for a candidate standing for the republican nomination for president cannot cast a vote for a candidate standing for the Democratic nomination, or vice versa. A few states once staged a blanket primary, in which voters could vote for one candidate in multiple primaries, but the practice was struck down by the U.S. Supreme Court in the 2000 case of California Democratic Party v. Jones as violating the freedom of assembly guaranteed by the First Amendment.[15]Further information: Democratic National Convention Delegations, and Republican National Convention DelegatesBoth the Democratic Party and the Republican Party usually modify their delegate selection rules between presidential elections, including how delegates are allocated to each state and territory.Under the current Democratic Party selection rules, adopted in 2006, pledged delegates are selected under proportional representation, which requires a candidate have a minimum of 15% of a state's popular vote to receive delegates. In addition, the Democratic Party may reject any candidate under their bylaws. Each state publishes a Delegate Selection Plan that notes the mechanics of calculating the number of delegates per congressional district, and how votes are transferred from local level electoral college voters to delegates representing districts across the country. States and territories assigned electoral votes each state has in the United States Electoral College, the U.S. Territories of American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, and the US Virgin Islands are instead assigned a fixed number of pledged delegates. States and territories who schedule their primary or caucus later in the primary season may also get additional bonus delegates.[17][18]The Republican Party's rules since 2008 leave more discretion to the states in choosing a method of allocating pledged delegates. As a result, states variously applied the statewide winner-take-all method (e.g., New York), district- and state-level winner-take-all (e.g., California), or proportional allocation (e.g., Massachusetts).[19] Changes in the rules before 2012 brought proportional representation to more states. The number of Republican pledged delegates allocated to each of the 50 U.S. states is 10 at-large delegates, plus three of its district delegates for each congressional district. Washington, D.C., and the five U.S. Territories are instead assigned a fixed number of pledged delegates. States and territories get bonus delegates based on whether it (if applicable) has a Republican governor, it has GOP majorities in one or all chambers of its state legislature, whether one or both of its U.S. senators are Republican, it has a GOP majority in its delegation to the U.S. House of Representatives, and whether its electoral college votes went to the Republican candidate in the last presidential election.[20][21]Each party's bylaws also specify which current and former elected officials and party leaders qualify as unpledged delegates. Because of possible deaths, resignations, or the results of intervening or special elections, the final number of these superdelegates may not be known until the week of the convention. The primary and caucus system is the only method in which voters in Puerto Rico, Guam, and other U.S. territories can have a say in the presidential race. Under the U.S. Constitution, U.S. territories are not represented in the Electoral College, and thus voters residing in those areas lack the right to vote in the general election. However, territorial residents are eligible to serve in the U.S. House of Representatives if approved by Congress, while they are ineligible to sit in the Senate unless they achieve full citizenship status. Residents of U.S. territories are referred to as "states", which can be carried over in discussion and media implying there are more than 50 states.Main articles: United States presidential nominating convention Voting, and Brokered conventionDuring the convention, there is generally a roll call of the votes. Each delegation announces its vote tallies, usually accompanied with some boosterism of their state or territory. The delegation may pass, nominally to retally their delegates' preferences, but often to allow a different delegation to give the leading candidate the honor of casting the majority-making vote.If no single candidate has secured a majority of delegates (including both pledged and unpledged) during the first vote, then a "brokered convention" results. All pledged delegates are then "released" and are able to switch their allegiance to a different candidate. Thereafter, the nomination is decided through a process of alternating political horse trading, and additional rounds of re-votes.[23][24][25][26]A customary ceremonial practice has been for the losing candidate(s) in the primary season to "release" their delegates at the convention and exhort them to vote for the winning nominee as a sign of party unity. Thus, the vote tallied on the convention floor is unanimous or nearly so. For example, during the 2008 Democratic National Convention, Hillary Clinton (who only captured about 22% of delegates compared to Barack Obama's approximate 72%)[27] moved to nominate Obama by acclamation, making it a unanimous vote.[28]This section is about a general overview of the primary calendar. For schedules of the 2024 primaries, see 2024 Democratic Party presidential primaries Primary and caucus calendar, 2024 Republican Party presidential primaries Primary and caucus calendar, 2024 Libertarian Party presidential primaries Primary and caucus calendar, and 2024 Green Party presidential primaries Primary and caucus calendar.Campaigning for president often begins almost a year before the New Hampshire primary, almost two years before the presidential election. This is due largely to the time taken for the initial campaign launch, and the time needed to build momentum. Candidates typically announce their intentions to run much earlier than they might expect to win the nomination. Presidential candidates officially announce their intentions to run that early so they can start raising or spending the money needed to mount their nationwide campaigns.[30]During the first six months of the year, primaries and caucuses are separately held in each of the 50 states; the District of Columbia, and each of the five permanently inhabited US territories of American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, and the US Virgin Islands. Each party sets its own calendar and rules, and in some cases actually administers the election. However, to reduce expenses and encourage turnout, the major parties' primaries are usually held the same day and may be consolidated with other state elections. The primary election itself is administered by local governments according to state law. In some cases, state law determines how delegates will be awarded and who may participate in the primary; where it does not, party rules prevail.[31]Since the 1970s, states have held increasingly early primaries to maximize their leverage[32] (see Front-loading and compression below). In reaction to these moves, both the Democratic and Republican National Committees imposed a timing tier system of scheduling rules, stripping states of delegates if they move their primaries early, such as the case in both the Florida Democratic primary and the Florida Republican primary in 2008.Main article: Iowa caucuses and New Hampshire primaryA 2008 Democratic caucus meeting in Iowa City, Iowa. The Iowa caucuses are traditionally the first major electoral event of presidential primaries and caucuses. The Balsams Grand Resort Hotel in Dixville Notch, New Hampshire, the site of the first "midnight vote" in the New Hampshire primary.Two days prior to the binding event, in which a candidate can secure conventional delegates, is traditionally the Tuesday evening caucus in Nevada, usually held late January or early February of the presidential election year. It is generally followed by the New Hampshire primary, the first primary by tradition since 1920 by New Hampshire's law. The New Hampshire law says that the primary must occur immediately after the caucus in Nevada, but the date of the caucus varies every four years, depending on whether the date falls on a Sunday. Since 1994, the date of the caucus has varied between Monday and Wednesday, with the intent of placing the caucus closer to the inauguration ceremony. Should the date fall on a Saturday, the next available date is Sunday, moving the primary too close to New Hampshire's, or before, the New Hampshire secretary of state is required to reschedule the primary accordingly.[33]In recent elections, the Iowa caucuses and New Hampshire primary have garnered over half the media attention paid to the entire selection process.[34]After Iowa and New Hampshire, the front runners then attempt to solidify their status, while the others fight to become #2.[35]Because these states are small, campaigning takes place on a much more personal scale. As a result, even a little-known, unfunded candidate can use retail politics to meet intimately with interested voters and perform better than expected. The Iowa caucuses and New Hampshire primary have produced a number of headline-making upsets in history:[36][Harry S. Truman ended his presidential re-election bid in 1952 after losing the Democratic Party's New Hampshire primary.[37]Lyndon Baines Johnson dropped his 1968 presidential reelection bid after performing far below expectations in the Democratic Party's New Hampshire primary. In the 1972 Democratic primaries, George McGovern was initially considered a dark horse but he had better-than-expected second-place finishes in Iowa and New Hampshire and eventually won the nomination; frontrunner Edmund Muskie who won both contests instead lost momentum.Jimmy Carter had entered the 1976 presidential race with extremely low name recognition and seemingly little chance against nationally better-known politicians but Carter became the Democratic Party front-runner early on by winning the Iowa caucuses and the New Hampshire primary and he went on to win the nomination.George H. W. Bush won the Iowa caucus in 1980, leaving him to claim that he had "Big M".monopoly moment in the presidential frontrunner Ronald Reagan.Hugh Downs, Reagan's top aide in the New Hampshire primary and several others tried to take advantage of the situation by endorsing Gary Hart, who came in third behind Reagan. Reagan himself finished fourth, serving as Reagan's vice president, unexpectedly finished third behind Bob Dole, who was leading in New Hampshire. The primary failed to generate ads for Bob Dole, who was seen as the favorite to lose the nomination and end his career. Although Gary Hart did not finish well, his endorsement of Reagan helped Reagan defeat Jimmy Carter in the November election. In 1994, Bill Clinton defeated Dan Quayle in the Democratic Party presidential frontrunner. However, Hart had a respectable showing in Iowa and then stunned Mondale in New Hampshire, the latter where Hart started campaigning months earlier. This resulted in a long primary battle, with Mondale eventually emerging as the nominee after Super Tuesday III.Pat Buchanan's 2nd place showing in the 1992 and win in the 1996 New Hampshire primaries coincided with the weakness of the future Republican Party presidential nominees, incumbent George H. W. Bush, and Senator Bob Dole respectively; Bush and Dole subsequently lost the general election.In 1992, then-Governor Bill Clinton's better-than-expected second-place finish in New Hampshire salvaged his campaign and he went on to win the Democratic Party's presidential nomination, following on to be elected president with a 43% plurality.Senator John McCain upset George W. Bush in the Republican Party's New Hampshire primary in 2000, Bush's frontrunner campaign had initially not expected serious opposition after other potential

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