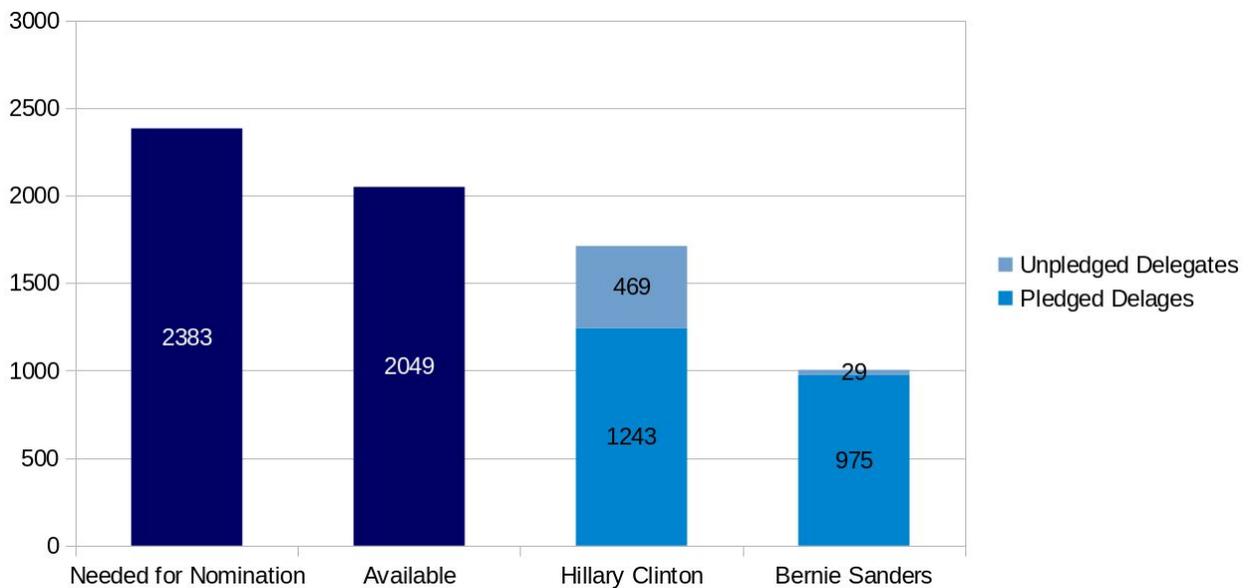


Polling Analysis of the Democratic Presidential Primaries 2016: Why Clinton is Still the Projected Nominee

Though Independent Junior Vermont Senator Bernard Sanders continues to have high levels of support, particularly with young and grassroots supporters, as well as a large amount of money left in his campaign from an abundance of donors, we must still examine if his momentum can allow for him to beat former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton. This paper will look at polling of upcoming primaries and caucuses, and use that to estimate delegate apportionment, to see if Sanders has a chance to defeat Clinton.

First, we must examine how the race stands as of the writing of this paper, between the March 26th caucuses in Alaska, Hawaii, and Washington, and the April 5th primary in Wisconsin. According to the Associated Press, Hillary Clinton has 1,243 pledged delegates (delegates awarded based on performance in primaries and caucuses) and 469 unpledged "superdelegates," who are not bound to any performance in nominating polls, totalling 1,712 delegates. Meanwhile, Bernie Sanders has 975 pledged delegates and 29 unpledged "superdelegates," totalling 1,004 delegates. In order to secure the nomination, a candidate must have 2838 delegates in total. Currently, there are 2049 delegates remaining. Clinton would need to gain 671 of those delegates, or 32.7% of the remaining delegates, to win the nomination. Bernie would need to gain 1,379 of the remaining delegates, or 67.3% of the remaining delegates, to win the nomination. This is further illustrated in the following two figures.



Source: Associated Press

Candidate	Total Delegates	Number Needed	Percent Needed
Clinton	Pledged	671	32.7%
	1,243		
Sanders	Unpledged	1,379	67.3%
	469		
	1,004		
	975		
	29		

Even when looking at the preliminary analysis of the percentage of delegates remaining that each needs, it is clear that Clinton still has approximately a 2 to 1 advantage, with Sanders needing to get twice as many delegates as Clinton in the remaining primaries and caucuses. However, it does remain a mathematical possibility for Bernie to win the required number of delegates. Therefore, it should be considered what the polling in the future contests says about who has a strong enough lead to win, as examined in the following chart. In the chart, each of the remaining contests is listed, and a polling average is listed for each candidate. The percentage is then applied to the delegate count, to give an estimation on the number of delegates each candidate will win, with the delegate count rounded to the nearest whole number.

State/Territory	Pledged Delegates	Clinton Polling	Estimated Clinton Delegates	Sanders Polling	Estimated Sanders Delegates
Wisconsin	86	46.5%*	40	44.0%*	38
Wyoming	14	None Found	N/A	None Found	N/A
New York	247	63%*	156	28.5%*	70
Connecticut	55	43.5%*	24	28%*	15
Delaware	21	None Found	N/A	None Found	N/A
Maryland	95	58.7%*	56	27.3%	26
Pennsylvania	189	55%*	104	27.5%	52
Rhode Island	24	49%*	12	40%*	10
Indiana	92	None Found	N/A	None Found	N/A
Guam	7	None Found	N/A	None Found	N/A
West Virginia	29	29%*	8	57%*	17
Kentucky	55	Insufficient Data	N/A	Insufficient Data	N/A
Oregon	61	44%**	27	39%**	24
Virgin Islands	7	None Found	N/A	None Found	N/A
Puerto Rico	60	None Found	N/A	None Found	N/A
California	475	47%*	223	38%	181
Montana	21	Insufficient Data	N/A	Insufficient Data	N/A
New Jersey	126	58.3%*	73	27.3%	34
New Mexico	34	None Found	N/A	None Found	N/A
North Dakota	18	None Found	N/A	None Found	N/A
South Dakota	20	None Found	N/A	None Found	N/A
District of Columbia	20	None Found	N/A	None Found	N/A
Total			723		467

*Source: Real Clear Politics Polling Average

**Source: DHM Research

As the chart shows, if the votes align with the polling, Clinton will have at least 52 more delegates than the necessary threshold. If we account for the margin of undecided voters in the polls causing the percentages to not add to 100, causing 197 delegates to not be counted towards either candidate, and assume that at least some support Clinton, and if we account for the likelihood that Clinton will get at least some of the 314 delegates from states and territories without any or sufficient polling data, we see that Clinton should eventually have a very comfortable margin of delegates.

Meanwhile, Sanders falls short by 912 delegates. Even if he swept the 314 delegates from states and territories without any or sufficient polling data and the 197 unallocated delegates, he still falls short by 401 delegates.

We can thus conclude that Senator Sanders has almost no real chance at this point to be the nominee for the Democratic Party. It would seem that Clinton has gotten some bern ointment.