

Community Comment
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The slog to the Presidency

This seems way early to me. It's not even the end of summer yet and the Iowa caucuses are still months away. But except for the market dropping 1000 points in minutes, the race for the top job is going full speed ahead. The democratic field seems predictable so far; Mrs. Clinton leads the pack with a surprising showing from an independent Senator from Vermont. Bernie Sanders has drawn big crowds and is closing the gap with Hillary. I find using a single first name for a qualified candidate for the Presidency disrespectful. I find it true for Jeb too. Now there is talk of Vice President Joe Biden getting into the fray. ~~Whether they amount to anything or not, the e-mails will dog her until she can explain~~ why she used her own account. By the way, many have done so in the past. But this issue has clearly painted her as less than trustworthy and that has opened doors for others. Even though she would shatter a huge symbolic glass ceiling, this has damaged her campaign. Her name and age are also a mixed blessing.

On the republican side, there are just so many that they can't fit on a stage for a debate. If you watched the first debate, the debate was with the moderator far more than each other. On paper, the field looks pretty good. We have current governors, senators, a first generation Cuban American, a former senator, a former surgeon, and two wealthy business people. We even have another son of a former President. ~~One would have thought this group of candidates would have been somewhat easy to put in order. And one would have been wrong.~~

Not many people took a Donald Trump bid for the White House seriously. But, at least for the time being, you did that at your own peril. Mr. Trump seems to have hit a chord with enough of the Republican base that he polls far ahead of the pack. More than that, he is setting the topics that frame the issues for the Republican primaries.

For example; his stand on illegal immigration is blunt. It is simply that they have to go. This blunt talk is attractive until you ask some question. Do you break up families if there are children that are American citizens? How would you find the 9 to 18 million and ~~deport them? How much would this cost and who and how would we pay for this?~~ That's just a start. And it opened up another issue that was created by the 14th Amendment to the Constitution, those born in America are citizens. He says this has to go too. It's in the Constitution so it has to be ratified by the states. This would take years and would be a difficult issue to deal with.

What Mr. Trump seems to do well is to speak his mind in the most simplistic way possible. My problem with that is simple. The World, the 300plus million of us, the growing Hispanic population, and our form of government are not simple. Our founders

didn't make it complicated, it just is. Our Republic and our version of representative democracy is messy and anything but simple. It's part of why this government works. We need serious people to run for office and serious voters to elect them.

~~This has been Sam Pennisi for community comment.~~