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2020 Presidential Candidates: *Educate Yourself!*

BY ETHAN LANGEMO

THE 2016 ELECTION WAS A TENSE TIME, to say the very least. The unexpected election of President Donald Trump has forced Democratic voters to realize that they are not the only force in control of the playing field and cannot afford to be overconfident. As a result, recent state and local elections across the nation have seen a turn towards the blue. According to The New York Times, while the U.S. Senate saw the Democrats lose a few seats to the Republicans, the U.S. House saw almost a complete flip-flop, with Democrats jumping 40 seats and Republicans losing 40. It will be interesting to see if the next election follows the same pattern. Here are some of the top players:

Democrats:

Senator Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY): Senator Gillibrand made her announcement January 15th. She is an advocate for women's, LGBT, and people of color's rights. She also has been instrumental in the #MeToo movement, and even called for President Trump's resignation over sexual harassment allegations.

Senator Amy Klobuchar (D-MN): Perhaps one of the most highly anticipated candidates, the senator may well be the first Minnesota Democratic nominee since Walter Mondale in 1984. She has kept a relatively moderate status on issues, making her a favorable choice between Minnesota Republicans and Democrats alike. She also became a national favorite after her interaction with Justice Kavanaugh during his hearing.

Senator Kamala Harris (D-CA): This candidate began her campaign on MLK Day. As an ex-prosecutor and previous attorney general of California, she is mainly concerned with the criminal justice system and the welfare of lower-income families.



Senator Cory Booker (D-NJ): Senator Booker released a video on his website at the beginning of February announcing his candidacy. Like Senator Harris, he is focused on reforming criminal justice, as well as marijuana legalization.

Senator Elizabeth Warren (D-MA): the ex-Harvard Law Professor announced her run in early February of this year. President Trump himself has stated that he would like to see her run for office, despite his mockery for her Native American "heritage." Her biggest issues are social and economic inequality.

Senator Bernie Sanders (D-VT): Once again, Senator Sanders has announced that he will be campaigning for the presidency. After losing to Secretary Clinton last run, there may yet be another chance for the aging socialist from Vermont. The issues he is fighting for are things like universal health care and free private colleges across the nation.

Governor John Hickenlooper: Hickenlooper was the moderate Democratic governor of Colorado from 2011 until this year. He does well with working with Colorado Republicans and thinks that he can help mend the fissure between our country's parties. He is also concerned about climate change and health care and is confident that he can beat President Trump for the seat.

Representative Beto O'Rourke (D-TX16): Another anticipated candidate from the Democrats, this representative from Texas nearly beat Republican Ted Cruz for a seat in the Senate.