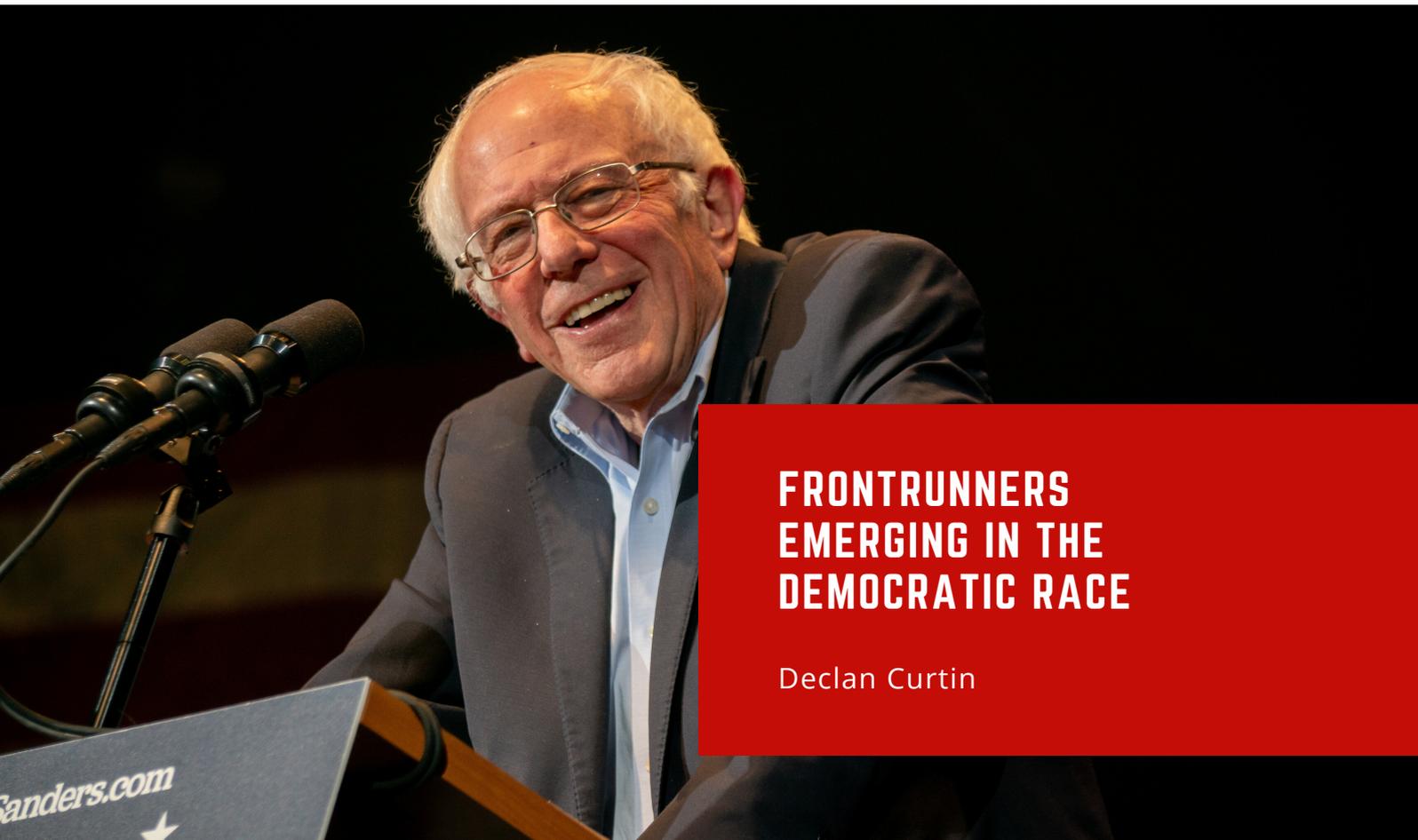


# NORTH AMERICA

The World This Week



## FRONTRUNNERS EMERGING IN THE DEMOCRATIC RACE

Declan Curtin

## BERNIE SOARS IN NEVADA

Presidential hopeful Bernie Sanders has triumphed in the Nevada Democratic Caucus, collecting over 45% of the primary vote and establishing his position as the clear frontrunner in the bid to face off against Donald Trump in November.

Nevada also proved critical for the once-apparent frontrunner Joe Biden, who secured 20% of the vote. While the former Vice-President's vote was less than half that of Sanders, the outcome essentially revitalises Biden's campaign, which has for weeks failed to meet expectations. Conversely, the campaigns of Elizabeth Warren, Amy Klobuchar and Pete Buttigieg were each dealt a blow as they trailed the frontrunners by a far greater margin than in either New Hampshire or Iowa.

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Sanders's popularity is a cause for much anxiety within the Democratic Party, who fear that Bernie's brand of "Democratic Socialism" will be too polarising for voters come the general election in November. Many Democrats are dismayed that Bernie does not align with traditional Democratic Party values and fear that he will pull the party further to the left. When Sanders was elected to the US House of Representatives in 1990, it was as an independent. However, the Democratic Party in 2020 identifies as more progressive than ever before, with 46% of voters identifying as liberal, while only 35% identify as moderate, the inverse of polls conducted fifteen years earlier. While moderate and conservative Democrats may rally against Sanders, progressives around the country are embracing his positions on healthcare reform, climate change and income inequality. This is especially true of Democrats between the ages of 18 and 27, where Sanders carries a majority of primary votes.

Democrats in South Carolina will be next to head to the polls on 29 February. Joe Biden's campaign is expected to perform well given the more moderate political leaning of the state's constituents.

All this before "Super Tuesday", the 3rd of March, when 14 states will cast their ballots and almost one third of total delegates will be decided. Super Tuesday should prove a decisive day that will ultimately determine the feasibility of many campaigns still remaining in the crowded field. One relative unknown will be the impact of Mike Bloomberg's campaign on the Super Tuesday polling. The billionaire former mayor of New York has reportedly spent over USD \$400 million on advertising in the lead-up to his late entry into the Democratic race. Choosing not to participate in the smaller caucuses and primaries up until this time, Bloomberg's campaign looks likely to flop following a disastrous debate appearance in Nevada when he faced unrelenting criticism from Elizabeth Warren in particular, who was keen to point out the former mayor's history of misogynistic behavior and discrimination against New York's minority communities.

Ultimately, Bernie Sanders has emerged as the clear front runner of the Democratic Party in the lead up to the 2020 election. However, with the vast majority of delegated still undecided, there are no safe bets between now and the Democratic Convention in July.