

Presidential race headed into 2016 primary

By Taylor Forrest
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As 2015 comes to a close, it is natural to look back on the year and reminisce about the good, the bad, and the ugly. Although with 2016 looming in the near future, most people look forward, hoping to redefine, refresh and refocus themselves.

Except this year we aren't just making another new resolution to lose those 15 pounds, or promising ourselves to work just a little harder than we did last year. No we are also electing a new political leader. A new head honcho in town, a new administration, a new leader, a brand new president.

In 2015 polished politicians, as well as several unconventional candidates, threw their hats in the ring for the presidential race. This resulted in a numerous array of candidates more than twenty strong.

The GOP candidates still standing as we round the corner into 2016 are: Donald Trump (real estates mogul), Ben Carson (retired neurosurgon), Marco Rubio (United States senator), Ted Cruz (United States senator), Jeb Bush (former governor of Florida), Chris Christie (governor of New Jersey), Carly Fiorina (former business executive), Rand Paul (United States senator), Lindsey Graham (United States senator), Mike Huckabee (former governor of Arkansas), John Kasich (governor of Ohio), Rick Santorum (former United States senator), Jim Gilmore (former governor of Virginia) and George Pataki (former governor of New York).

The Democratic candidates still standing are: Hillary Rodham Clinton (former secretary of state, first lady, New York senator), Bernie Sanders (United States senator) and Martin O'Malley (former governor of Maryland).

It's been a race filled with remarks about who's hair looks the best, calling prisoners of war losers, a call for building walls, Saturday Night Live appearances and declarations for a social revolution. It might be because of these bizarre happenings and enormous numbers that have led this race to be highly publicized and draw more public attention.

While we still have a little less than a year before votes are actually placed, this is a vital time for candidates on both sides to focus on the primary elections and receive donations. Especially, with the Iowa Caucus taking place directly after the turn of the year in February.

As a college student, you might ask yourself, "Why should I care about this race, or politics for that matter? It doesn't affect me." But you couldn't be more wrong. For many of us, this will be the first time that we get to use our voice to

integrate ourselves and become a part of the electorate. Most of us are a part of the millennial generation, growing up in a technological world often described as "confident individuals, but entitled and often-times narcissistic." Furthermore, in a study conducted by Pew Research, 50 percent of millennials claim to be politically unaffiliated, but don't worry, 55 percent of them have posted a "selfie" to some form of a social media site.

Pew Research center also released a report that as of 2015, millennials have taken over and now outnumber the baby boomers. So this is our time, as a majority, to make a difference in the world we live in. Start 2016 with the resolution to stay informed and vote in our next presidential election. That's making a difference.

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Strong on immigration, wants to make America great again.
35.1%



Champions Women's rights, wants to make secondary education more affordable
56.6%



Against Abortion and Closing Guantanamo Bay
13.9%



Self-declared socialist, wants to make secondary education more affordable
31.7%



Moderate Republican that is soft on Immigration
12.6%



Wants to rebuild the American dream
4%

