

February 7, 2020

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Iowa Caucus Post Mortem (pun intended)

It appears that the precinct chairs responsible for tallying the Iowa Democratic Caucus results took a page from the Punxsutawney Phil playbook. But contrary to Phil, who didn't see his shadow thus suggesting an early spring, perhaps the glare of the lights from the national media cast shadows on the caucus counters leading to delayed results. After all, the problem is being blamed on a faulty smartphone app that was supposed to tally the results created by a company called Shadow Inc.

According to CNN, Pete Buttigieg holds a slim lead over Bernie Sanders in the Iowa caucuses with the Iowa Democratic Party announcing on Thursday night that 100% of precincts are reporting. The former South Bend, Indiana, mayor leads the Vermont senator by one-tenth of one percentage point in the all-important state delegate equivalent count. Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren, former Vice President Joe Biden and Minnesota Sen. Amy Klobuchar are trailing behind Buttigieg and Sanders. The Democratic candidates have until 1 p.m. ET/12 p.m. CT on today to file a request for a canvass or a recount.

Iowa's caucuses have had a reasonably good record in recent history in picking the eventual winner of the Democratic nomination: Al Gore in 2000, John Kerry in 2004, President Obama in 2008 and Hillary Clinton in 2016. The caucuses have been less predictive among Republicans in recent years. Sen. Ted Cruz narrowly defeated Donald Trump in the 2016 caucuses, and 2012 nominee Mitt Romney lost the state by a small margin that year to then-Sen. Rick Santorum. Nonetheless, the caucus chaos may result in the end of what some have called a "quirky, quaint tradition," and result in a more traditional primary for the state.

