



JANUARY, FEBRUARY, MARCH
2016

Programs dealing with community issues for KWES-TV, Midland, Texas

JANUARY, FEBRUARY, MARCH

The following issues were identified as significant and covered by KWES-TV to better serve the community and act in the public's best interest as required by the Federal Communications Commission.

1. Criminal Activity
2. Oil Industry
3. Education
4. Water
5. Politics
6. City and County
7. Equality
8. Health

KWES-TV News Programs locally produced to provide significant coverage of community issues

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| Early Sunrise | Monday – Friday | 5 a.m. – 7 a.m. |
| NewsWest9 @ 4 | Monday-Friday | 4 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. |
| NewsWest9 @ 5 | Monday-Friday | 5:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. |
| NewsWest9 @ 6 | Monday-Friday | 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. |
| NewsWest9 @ 10 | Monday-Friday | 10:00 p.m. – 10:30 p.m. |
| NewsWest 9 Weekend | Saturday | 6:00 –p.m. & 10:00 p.m. |
| NewsWest9 Sunday | Sunday | 10:00- 10:30 p.m. |

The above news programming is locally produced and presents news, weather and sports.

Quarterly Description of NewsWest9 KWES-TV programs providing the most significant treatment of community issues.

CAUGHT ON CAM

A weekly series by NewsWest9 reporter Caitlin Williams that showcases a few unsolved crimes in our viewing area. Material for this segment is provided by the Odessa Police Department.

CRIMESTOPPERS

A weekly report that airs on Sunday night. This information is provided by the Midland Police Department and the Odessa Police Department.

Network programs dealing with community issues

Early Today Monday – Friday 4:30 a.m. – 5:00 a.m.

This business news and consumer show gives viewers breaking news and stock market information for the domestic and foreign exchanges.

Today Show Monday – Friday 7:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

This four-hour network program provides the latest in international and domestic news, weather and sports. It includes interviews with current newsmakers from world politics, business, media, entertainment and sports news. KWES-TV NewsWest9 provides local two minute news updates at 7:26, 7:56, 8:26, 8:56, 9:26, 9:56 and 10:26.

Nightly News Monday – Sunday 5:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

This is NBC network programming with investigative reporting on issues facing the American public.

Texas Country Reporter

Saturday 6:30 p.m.

This syndicated program features a couple with stories of local interest on history, businesses and issues throughout the state of Texas.

1. Criminal Activity

KWES-TV seeks opportunities to report on local issues involving crime. NewsWest9 also works with area law enforcement to show viewers how to stay safe.

2. Oil Industry

NewsWest9 has a number of stories related to the gas and oil industry in west Texas. The stories include issues about the ups and downs in the price of oil and how it directly affects the community.

3. Education

NewsWest9 covers school board meetings. The newsroom engages viewers with stories of interest to parents, students, faculty and staff whose tax dollars support area school systems.

4. Water

NewsWest9 reports on issues related to drought, water quality and long-term supply. Big Spring has a number of concerns regarding older water pipelines.

5. Politics

NewsWest9 covers issues and concerns related to our elected officials. This includes extensive coverage during an election.

6. City and County

NewsWest9 covers stories regarding various cities and counties in our 27 county coverage area. This includes stories from council meetings, commissioners court meetings and non-profits in our coverage area.

7. Equality

NewsWest9 covers issues of importance to our minority audiences. This includes Equal Employment, allegations of racism and cultural activities on interest to our diverse coverage areas.

8. Health

NewsWest9 covers stories regarding health and care for our viewers. KWES-TV provides daily reports on health related topics of interest to our viewers.

West Texas View with Johnnie Lou Boyd

Sundays 5 a.m.

This weekly locally produced show informs area viewers about health and wellness and other community issues.

EARLY TODAY

Monday-Friday

4:00-4:30am

This business news and consumer driven show gives viewers breaking business news and stock market action for the domestic and foreign exchanges.

TODAY SHOW

Monday-Friday

7:00-11:00am

This four-hour network program provides the latest in international and domestic news, weather reports and interviews with newsmakers from the world of politics, business, media, entertainment, and sports. WSFA provides local news updates at various times.

TODAY SHOW-Weekend

Saturday, 6:00-8:00am & Sunday, 7:00-8:00am

Weekend editions continue the "Today" tradition of covering breaking news, interviewing newsmakers, reporting on a variety of popular culture and human-interest stories, covering topics related to health and finance, and presenting the latest sports and weather information.

NBC NIGHTLY NEWS

Monday-Sunday

5:30-6:00pm

"NBC Nightly News with Lester Holt" provides reports and analysis of the day's most newsworthy national and international events. It offers solution-driven programming that delves into the toughest issues facing our society today.

MEET THE PRESS

Sunday

8:00-9:00am

This one-hour network news program consists of three interview segments with guests of national and international political importance, followed by an expanded roundtable discussion at the end of each broadcast.

DATELINE NBC Friday 7:00-8:00pm and Other Varying Days/Times

This network program has pioneered a unique approach to prime time news programming, with its multi-broadcast franchise. With this schedule, the one-hour news magazine enables NBC News to present its best reporting, investigative features, and newsmaker profiles in a consistent and comprehensive manner.

PSA's

NBC airs "The More You Know" 10-second PSA's Monday – Sunday on various topics ranging from prejudices, teen violence, judging, parental involvement, drugs and alcohol.

"The More You Know's" comprehensive website (themoreyouknow.com) provides in-depth referral information, in connection with the on-air public service announcements. Content includes: video of all current public service announcements, a general campaign overview, message boards, kids' pages and referral information by topic to partnering agencies referenced in the PSAs. The site includes a comprehensive list of the campaign's accolades, including Emmy and Peabody awards. In addition, a behind-the-scenes story with clips from talent interviews can be viewed.

MEET THE PRESS (NBC)

Chuck Todd is NBC News Political Director and the moderator of "Meet the Press," the flagship Sunday Morning public affairs program and longest-running broadcast in television history.

1/3/16: SUNDAY EXCLUSIVES: GOV. KASICH, SEN. PAUL; ALSO – GUNS IN AMERICA: CAPT. KELLY (RET.), TEXAS LT. GOV. PATRICK

SUNDAY EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW: PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE GOV. JOHN KASICH (R-OHIO)

Presidential candidate **Gov. John Kasich (R-Ohio)** speaks with Chuck Todd about his attacks against the two other Republican establishment candidates – Gov. Christie and former Gov. Bush – as well as his strategy a month out from Iowa and New Hampshire.

SUNDAY EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW: PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE SEN. RAND PAUL (R-KY.)

Once hailed "the most interesting man in politics" by Time, presidential candidate **Sen. Rand Paul (R-Ky.)** now trails in the polls as the Iowa caucuses and New Hampshire primary loom; he joins the show from Kentucky to address the future of his presidential campaign.

THE FUTURE OF GUN CONTROL

President Obama is expected to press ahead with executive actions on gun control this month, meeting with Attorney General Loretta Lynch to discuss the measures on Monday.

Capt. Mark Kelly (Ret.), husband of former Rep. Gabrielle Giffords who was injured in a 2011 mass shooting, joins the show after having met with President Obama this past month to discuss gun control.

Meanwhile, Texas is becoming more gun-friendly with the passage of a law this week allowing openly-displayed handguns. **Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick (R-Texas)** joins the show to address the ongoing debate about the state's controversial gun culture.

ON THE TRAIL

NBC News correspondents **Kristen Welker** and **Hallie Jackson** join "Meet the Press" live from the campaign trail as presidential candidates kick off the New Year with campaigning in full swing.

THE WEEK IN POLITICS

Will the latest top-level resignations from Ben Carson's campaign hurt his efforts going forward? How will Donald Trump's promised \$2 million/week ad buy affect the race? Will Jeb Bush's shift to a ground game in swing states boost his place in the polls? The roundtable discusses all of this and more from the week in politics.

Sara Fagen, Partner, DDC; former White House Political Director for President George W. Bush

Chris Matthews, Host, MSNBC's "Hardball"

Eugene Robinson, Columnist, The Washington Post

Jennifer Rubin, Columnist, The Washington Post

1/10/16: DONALD TRUMP; WHITE HOUSE CHIEF OF STAFF DENIS MCDONOUGH

INTERVIEW WITH PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE DONALD TRUMP

After a week of disrupting his rivals' campaigns, Donald Trump speaks with Chuck Todd on the campaign trail in Iowa about his campaign, his business and his role in the Republican Party.

INTERVIEW WITH DENIS MCDONOUGH, WHITE HOUSE CHIEF OF STAFF

White House Chief of Staff Denis McDonough joins the show on set to preview the president's State of the Union address Tuesday evening.

THE GOP ESTABLISHMENT V. DONALD TRUMP

If Sen. Cruz is the "poster boy of the Republican who won't compromise within his party," as Alex Castellanos has noted, should establishment Republicans be focused more on "stop Trump" efforts or "stop Cruz" efforts? Alex Castellanos and Ben Ginsberg join the panel to discuss the state of the party.

Alex Castellanos, Republican Strategist

Ben Ginsberg, Republican Lawyer & Strategist

WEEK IN POLITICS

With gun control and birtherism at the forefront of political conversation this week, the roundtable tackles the state of politics three weeks out from the Iowa caucuses.

Helene Cooper, Pentagon Correspondent, The New York Times

Robert Costa, National Political Reporter, The Washington Post

Jeff Greenfield, Former Senior Political Correspondent, CBS News

Jennifer Jacobs, Chief Politics Reporter, Des Moines Register

1/24/16: SUNDAY EXCLUSIVE WITH HILLARY CLINTON; ALSO: SEN. BERNIE SANDERS, FORMER SEC. BOB GATES

SUNDAY EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH FORMER SEC. HILLARY CLINTON, PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE

Democratic presidential frontrunner Hillary Clinton joins the show from the campaign trail in Iowa to discuss the narrowing race between her and Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.), similarities in the race compared to eight years ago and more.

INTERVIEW WITH SEN. BERNIE SANDERS (I-VT.), PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE

Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) speaks with Chuck Todd about his growing momentum in the Democratic field, how he feels one week from the Iowa caucuses and the state of his presidential campaign.

INTERVIEW WITH FORMER DEFENSE SEC. ROBERT GATES

Former Defense Secretary Robert Gates joins Chuck Todd live on-set Sunday morning to discuss his new book "A Passion for Leadership."

THE WEEK IN POLITICS

Will Trump emerge triumphant from the Iowa caucuses? How would a Sanders nomination affect red state Democrats? What can we expect from Thursday's debate? The roundtable discusses all of this and more from the week in politics.

David Brooks, Columnist, The New York Times

Chris Cillizza, Political Reporter, The Washington Post

Kasie Hunt, NBC News Political Correspondent

Kristen Welker, NBC News White House Correspondent

1/31/16: SEN. TED CRUZ, SEN. BERNIE SANDERS, SEN. MARCO RUBIO INTERVIEW WITH SEN. TED CRUZ (R-TEXAS), PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE

For Sen. Ted Cruz, winning the Iowa caucuses could potentially propel him to the Republican convention as party nominee this summer. He joins Chuck Todd live Sunday morning in Des Moines to discuss the significance of Monday's caucus votes and his strategy going forward in the race.

INTERVIEW WITH SEN. BERNIE SANDERS (I-VT.) PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE

After a NBC News/Wall Street Journal/Marist poll this week showed Sen. Bernie Sanders neck-and-neck with Hillary Clinton in Iowa, Monday's nominating contest plays a crucial role in his fight for the party nomination. Sen. Sanders joins the show in Iowa to address the momentum he has gained across the country and what the future of his campaign looks like.

INTERVIEW WITH SEN. MARCO RUBIO (R-FLA.), PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE

How does Sen. Marco Rubio fare in Monday's caucuses? Does he have a third place finish as predicted by the NBC News/Wall Street Journal/Marist poll? Sen. Rubio joins Chuck Todd live in Iowa to talk about his strategy to win the Republican nomination.

THE WEEK IN POLITICS

Did Donald Trump win Thursday's debate without even showing up? Which Democratic candidate will emerge victorious from the Iowa caucuses? How will Monday's nominating contest affect the New Hampshire primary next week? The roundtable discusses all of this and more from the week in politics.

Tom Brokaw, NBC News Special Correspondent

David Brody, Chief Political Correspondent, CBN News

Jennifer Jacobs, Chief Politics Reporter, Des Moines Register

Joy-Ann Reid, MSNBC National Correspondent

2/7/16: FORMER SEC. HILLARY CLINTON, DONALD TRUMP, SEN. BERNIE SANDERS

INTERVIEW WITH FORMER SEC. HILLARY CLINTON, PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE

Former Sec. Hillary Clinton joins the show to address Thursday debate, the party's embrace of progressivism, Sen. Sanders' "artful smear" and how she feels before Tuesday's New Hampshire primary.

INTERVIEW WITH DONALD TRUMP, PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE

Republican presidential frontrunner Donald Trump sits down with Chuck Todd to discuss his narrow loss in Iowa, his plan to win the Granite State primary and more.

INTERVIEW WITH SEN. BERNIE SANDERS (I-VT.), PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE

Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) talks with Chuck Todd about his relationship with Wall Street, foreign policy, the momentum of his campaign and more.

THE WEEK IN POLITICS

Does Sen. Rubio have a chance to win New Hampshire? Will Sen. Sanders win by the margin that polls are predicting? What candidates will stay in the race after Tuesday's primary? The political roundtable discusses all of this and more.

Hugh Hewitt, Host, "The Hugh Hewitt Show"

Hallie Jackson, NBC News National Correspondent

Chris Matthews, Host, MSNBC's "Hardball"

Andrea Mitchell, NBC News Chief Foreign Affairs Correspondent; Host, MSNBC's "Andrea Mitchell Reports"

2/14/16: DONALD TRUMP, SEN. MARCO RUBIO, GOV. JOHN KASICH INTERVIEW WITH DONALD TRUMP, PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE

Republican presidential frontrunner Donald Trump speaks with moderator Chuck Todd live from Florida about his New Hampshire win, his strategy going into South Carolina and more.

INTERVIEW WITH SEN. MARCO RUBIO (R-FLA.), PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE

Amid criticism for "scripted" responses, Sen. Marco Rubio (R-Fla.) discusses his Saturday night debate performance, approach to the upcoming South Carolina GOP primary next week, released tax plan and more.

INTERVIEW WITH GOV. JOHN KASICH (R-OHIO), PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE

Following his second-place win in New Hampshire, Ohio Gov. John Kasich joins the show to address his potential to win the South, finding himself in the line of fire of former Gov. Jeb Bush and his path to Super Tuesday.

THE WEEK IN POLITICS

Is the Democratic presidential race turning into a referendum on Sen. Bernie Sanders, not former Sec. Hillary Clinton? Will Donald Trump win South Carolina? Will Sen. Sanders' relationship with President Obama be an effective South Carolina storyline? The roundtable discusses all of this and more from the week in politics.

Chris Cillizza, Political Reporter, The Washington Post

Ron Fournier, Senior Political Columnist, National Journal

Gwen Ifill, Moderator & Managing Editor, PBS "Washington Week"; Co-anchor & Managing Editor, PBS "NewsHour"

Kathleen Parker, Columnist, The Washington Post

Rev. Al Sharpton, Host, MSNBC's "Politics Nation"; Founder & President, National Action Network (NAN)

2/21/16 -TRANSCRIPT - Meet the Press:

CHUCK TODD: This Sunday morning, another big win for Donald Trump. Now the undisputed Republican frontrunner.

DONALD TRUMP: It's tough, it's nasty, it's mean, it's vicious, it's beautiful.

CHUCK TODD: But Republicans believe it's a three-man race, as Marco Rubio and Ted Cruz vie to become the chief Trump challenger.

MARCO RUBIO: And the 21st century conservative movement is the son of a bartender and a maid from Cuba.

CHUCK TODD: Meanwhile, the Bush dynasty comes to an official end.

JEB BUSH: Tonight, I am suspending my campaign.

CHUCK TODD: Trump, Rubio, and Cruz all join me this morning. Plus Hillary Clinton gets the win she so desperately needed in Nevada.

HILLARY CLINTON: Some may have doubted us, but we never doubted each other.

CHUCK TODD: While Bernie Sanders loses in the first state with a diverse electorate.

BERNIE SANDERS: We are going to see the results of one of the great political upsets in the history of the United States.

CHUCK TODD: Bernie Sanders makes his case this morning. Joining me for insight and analysis are radio talk show host Hugh Hewitt, MSNBC's Joy-Ann Reid, Amy Walter of The Cook Political Report, and Jon Ralston, the dean of the Nevada Political Press Corps and an NBC analyst. Trump, Rubio, Cruz, and Sanders. Welcome to Sunday in a post-primary and caucus edition of Meet the Press.

CHUCK TODD: Good morning. I'm wishing every Saturday had primaries, because welcome to an amazing Sunday, where everything seems a tad bit clearer this morning. Very simply, there are two headlines out of shake-up Saturday, thanks to South Carolina and Nevada. We now have that three-way Republican race that so many expected. And we now have a Democratic frontrunner, again, and her name is Hillary Clinton, again. But let's start with the Republicans. Donald Trump made it clear that he is now the Republican frontrunner.

Trump scored a big win in South Carolina, winning 33% of the vote and all 50 delegates at stake. The battle for second, a distant second, frankly, were the back and forth all night with Marco Rubio edging out Ted Cruz by just one percentage point, 23-22. Bush, Kasich, Carson, they all finished way behind. And before the night was over, of course, Jeb Bush was officially out of the race. Here are Trump, Rubio, and Cruz as the night unfolded.

DONALD TRUMP: There's nothing easy about running for president, I can tell you. It's tough, it's nasty, it's mean, it's vicious, it's beautiful. When you win, it's beautiful. And we are going to start - we are going to start winning for our country.

MARCO RUBIO: And now the children of the Reagan Revolution are ready to assume the mantle of leadership.

TED CRUZ: Tonight, despite millions and millions of dollars of false and nasty attacks, despite the entirety of the political establishment coming together against us, South Carolina has given us another remarkable result.

CHUCK TODD: By the way, no Republican has ever won South Carolina and Iowa or New Hampshire, as Trump has, without going on to win the nomination.

On the Democratic side, Hillary Clinton got the win she needed to blunt the Bernie Sanders momentum. Clinton beat Sanders 53-47, finally getting an unambiguous victory after that nail-biter in Iowa, and of course that big loss in New Hampshire. Here are Clinton and Sanders as the results in Nevada became clear.

HILLARY CLINTON: Tens of thousands of men and women with kids to raise, bills to pay, and dreams that won't die. This is your campaign.

BERNIE SANDERS: I believe that when Democrats assemble in Philadelphia in July at my convention, we are going to see the results of one of the great political upsets in the history of the United States.

CHUCK TODD: This morning a packed show. We're going to hear from Donald Trump, Marco Rubio, Ted Cruz, and Bernie Sanders this morning. But we're going to begin with the Republican frontrunner. Donald Trump, who joins me live from Palm Beach, Florida. Mr. Trump, good morning and congratulations, sir.

DONALD TRUMP: Good morning. Thank you, thank you very much.

CHUCK TODD: Let me start with this idea of whether it is a three-way race. Do you believe the Republican nominations a three-way race, or do you believe this is you on your way to getting the nomination?

DONALD TRUMP: Well, I think I have a big advantage. But it's certainly a three-person race. And you have a couple of other people that are very talented there too. So we have a five-man race. And I think that it's going to be not easy. I have a big advantage. But a long way from being won.

CHUCK TODD: Well, that's very humble of you this morning. Look, it's been a dramatic week of I guess changes, position changes even by your standards. On Wednesday, you praised the healthcare mandate, by Friday you said to abolish it, on Saturday, you said Planned Parenthood did wonderful things, on Thursday you said you'd defund it. Similarly, at the debate, you called George W. Bush a liar, you sort of backtracked on that later in the week. It comes across, are you taking positions that you believe, or are you sort of, as things get heated, are you switching at the last minute? What are we to make of all this this week?

DONALD TRUMP: Well, on the mandate, if you look at the mandate, we had a situation where we were, Anderson Cooper, who's terrific, by the way, and did a terrific job, but we were talking over each other. Look, I want, we're going to repeal and replace Obamacare. Obamacare is a total and complete disaster. It's going to be gone. We're going to come up with a great healthcare plan, whether it's healthcare savings accounts, we have a lot of different things. We're going to get rid of the lines between states, we're going to have great competitive bidding. But I say all the time, you can call it anything you want. People are not going to die in the middle of the street. People are not going to die on the sidewalk if I'm president, okay?

CHUCK TODD: Well, let me get something definitive from you on this.

DONALD TRUMP: But Chuck, I say that, excuse me, I say that to packed houses with thousands and thousands of people, Republicans mostly, and I get standing ovations. I'm not going to let that happen. If I'm president, we're not going to have people dying on the streets. So you can call it whatever you want. I don't call it a mandate, I just say it's common sense.

CHUCK TODD: No, I understand that. Well, let me ask you this. Do you think that it should be a law that anybody who can afford health insurance has to have it?

DONALD TRUMP: I think, no, I think it's going to be up to them, okay? I want it to be up to them. But I'm really talking about people that can't afford it. We're not going to let people die in squalor because we are Republicans, okay? That's part of the problem with the Republicans, where somehow they got fed into this horrible position. We're going to take care of people. But no, people don't have to have it. We're going to have great plans, they're going to be a lot less expensive than Obamacare. They're going to be private. There are going to be lots of different options. We're going to have a lot of different options. Right now you have no options. You know why? Because the insurance company controlled Obama because they gave him a lot of money. That's why you have lines around the states. And you can't get competitive bidding.

CHUCK TODD: Now let's move to Planned Parenthood. You defended the other work Planned Parenthood does. And now you said you'd defund it.

DONALD TRUMP: That's right, I do. That's right, I would.

CHUCK TODD: Now, the government will say, Democrats will say the money they give to Planned Parenthood does not go to abortions. That the money they give to Planned Parenthood only goes to other women's health issues, including mammograms and things like that. If you knew that government money were only going to that, would you support funding Planned Parenthood?

DONALD TRUMP: Yeah, if it didn't have to do with abortions. Look, I understand that I have many, many friends who are women who understand Planned Parenthood better than you or I will ever understand it. And they do some very good work. Cervical cancer, lots of women's issues, women's health issues are taken care of. I know one of the candidates, I won't mention names, said, "We're not going to spend that kind of money on women's health issues." I am. Planned Parenthood does a really good job at a lot of different areas. But not on abortion. So I'm not going to fund it if it's doing the abortion. I am not going to fund it. Now they say it's 3 percent and it's 4 percent, some people say it's 60 percent. I don't believe it's 60 percent, by the way. But I think it's probably a much lower number. But Planned Parenthood does some very good work. But I would defund as long as they're doing abortions.

CHUCK TODD: All right. Let me move to the issue of Iraq. Obviously, a couple clips came out. Let me play you the Howard Stern clip in 2002.

DONALD TRUMP: Okay, sure.

DONALD TRUMP: We have an idea who the enemy is, and a lot of times, the politicians don't want to tell you that.

HOWARD STERN: Are you for invading Iraq?

DONALD TRUMP: Yeah, I guess so. You know, I wish the first time it was done correctly.

CHUCK TODD: Now, clearly, you didn't sound like an enthusiastic supporter of the war.

DONALD TRUMP: I wasn't.

CHUCK TODD: But I am curious of the second part of that quote-- The first time it was, "I wish the first time it was done correctly." What do you mean by that?

DONALD TRUMP: Well, what I mean by that is it almost shouldn't have been done. And you know, I really don't even know what I mean, because that was a long time ago, and who knows what was in my head. I think that it wasn't done correctly. In retrospect, it shouldn't have been done at all. It was sort of, you know, it was just done. It was just, we dropped bombs. Now if you look back, actually, that was probably the correct way of doing it, not going in, and not upsetting, giving them a lesson or not. I mean, I think Senior actually did a pretty good job of what he was doing. He went in, he taught them a lesson. What happened is he was taunted. Because Saddam Hussein was saying, "We drove back the Americans. The ugly Americans were driven back, the power of Iraq, the power."

Well, we weren't driven back. He just decided not, General Schwarzkopf and others said maybe let's not go in. I'm not sure, although I think Schwarzkopf actually maybe wanted to go in. I think he maybe did the right thing. I can say this, if you look at my conversation with Howard, who's a friend of mine, who's actually a very good person and a good guy, different from what you see on the radio, okay, I will tell you. But if you look at my conversation, I was a very-- that was probably the first time-- don't forget I was in business. I was a businessman. I was a real estate man and a businessman. That was the first time I think that question was ever even asked of me. That was long before the war took place. That was, you know, many, many months before the war took place. And you could see by my answer, I wasn't exactly thrilled.

Joe Scarborough just released something yesterday more on point, much nearer. And he put out a tweet saying that you know, "Trump is right, look what he just said." So you have to take a look at that. But regardless. The war in Iraq was a disaster. It was probably the worst thing. If you look at the Middle East now, all started because of that horrible decision to go into Iraq. And you know what we end up with? Nothing. We spend 2 trillion dollars, we have thousands and thousands of lives killed, and just thousands, carnage, and we have wounded warriors who I love all over the place, right? And we have nothing. And Iran is now taking over Iraq. They've been trying to for many, many decades. And now they're finally taking over Iraq. As we sit here, they're taking over Iraq. We get nothing.

CHUCK TODD: Let me give you one more issue where you sort of went counter to what is perceived as Republican orthodoxy, and that is on the issue of Israel and the Palestinians. You said Wednesday you wanted to be neutral in that dispute. Explain what neutral means, because some heard that in the pro-Israeli community and thinks, "Oh, he's going to be anti-Israel." Explain what you mean by neutral.

DONALD TRUMP: If they want me, look, no, I'm very pro-Israel. In fact, I was the head of the Israeli Day Parade a number of years ago, I did a commercial for Netanyahu when he was getting elected, he asked me to do a commercial for him, I did a commercial for him. I am. But I don't want to be-- look, the hardest thing to do is that, in terms of deals, you're a deal person, right? The ultimate deal is that deal. Israel, Palestine, if you're going to make it, that probably is the hardest deal there is to make. People are born with hatred, they're taught hatred. And I have to say, it's mostly on the one side, not on the other side. But they're taught hatred. I say this. If I'm going to be president, I'd rather be in the position, because I will try the best I can, and I'm a very good dealmaker, believe me, to try and solve that puzzle. You're not going to solve it if you're going to be on one side or another. Everyone understands that. If I'm going to solve the problem, I want to go in with a clean slate. Otherwise, you're never going to get the cooperation of the other side. So that's all I'm saying.

CHUCK TODD: Donald Trump, I'm going to leave it there. Again, congratulations on your big win. Stay safe on the trail. Thank you.

CHUCK TODD: We'll be watching on Tuesday.

DONALD TRUMP: Thank you very much.

CHUCK TODD: You got it. All right, I'm joined now by the man who came in second last night, Senator Marco Rubio of Florida. Senator Rubio, welcome back to Meet the Press, sir.

MARCO RUBIO: Thank you. Thanks for having me on.

CHUCK TODD: You got it, okay, sorry about that. Let me start with how you feel about this win - this second-place finish last night. You had every major endorsement that you could have had. And yet you still finished a distant second in South Carolina. How do you look at this as a positive and not a negative?

MARCO RUBIO: Because 65% of the people voted yesterday, and about 70% of Republicans around the country have said, "We want someone other than Donald Trump to be our nominee." And the problem is, that vote was still divided, even last night, among five other people, four other people. I think now the race is narrowing even more. And as it narrows and continues to narrow, we're going to continue to gain.

So it was a very unusual year. You usually don't have five campaigns operating full time in a state this late into the process, three states in. But I feel great that now that the choices have become less and less, more and more that new voter or alternative to Donald Trump vote, is going to coalesce around us. And obviously, we have to go out and do the work of making that happen. But, well, we feel good about that.

CHUCK TODD: But, you know, the issue that it seems like I think all Republicans have had going up against Donald Trump is whether it's been Jeb Bush, Ted Cruz, you've done it a little bit as well, you say, "He's not a real Republican on this issue, he's not a real Republican on this issue." I'm sure you just heard my interview with him. He doesn't have a lot of traditional Republican stances on issues. And yet, he's still winning. How do you ever win over his voters?

MARCO RUBIO: Yeah. Well, a couple things happened. Number one is he'll say something over the top, and then you guys in the press will decide, "Let's not cover anything, let's just focus on the outrageous statements." So he's been very good at dominating that. And in an 11-person or 15-person field, it crowded a lot of people out. That's going to become harder to do.

The second point that I would make is look, people are really angry at Washington. And they have a right to be. It's why I ran in 2010, by the way. And it's because I didn't want my next U.S. senator to be someone who was going to go up there and do the same stuff people have been doing. But I guess our argument is it's okay to be angry and upset at Washington.

But anger alone is not going to be enough. You deserve a nominee who tells you exactly, "Here's what we're going to do," and outlines that. So you know what you're getting. So there's some level of accountability here. So my campaign is about this. We are very realistic about our challenges right now in this country.

But we're also optimistic about the future, but only if we do a few things. And I'm going to tell you exactly what those things are. And that's a big difference in this campaign between Mr. Trump's campaign and mine. And I think that's going to begin to matter a lot more now because there are less people in the race and more time to pay attention to some of that.

CHUCK TODD: Look, throughout the night, it was clear a lot of campaigns thought you had momentum, a lot of campaigns were going after you. Here's one attack ad that Cruz put up on immigration. I want to play a snippet of you - uh, of it - and get a reaction from you on the other side.

MARCO RUBIO:

We know we have to deal with the 11 million people that are here illegally.

PRESIDENT OBAMA: We have to deal with the 11 million individuals who are here illegally. The bill that Senator Rubio put forward, I think is a great place to start.

MARCO RUBIO: They still have to qualify for it, meaning--

PRESIDENT OBAMA: Passing a background check.

MARCO RUBIO: Passed a background check.

PRESIDENT OBAMA: Paying a penalty.

MARCO RUBIO: Pay a fine.

PRESIDENT OBAMA: Paying taxes.

MARCO RUBIO: Start paying taxes.

PRESIDENT OBAMA: It won't be a quick process.

MARCO RUBIO : That is a long path.

PRESIDENT OBAMA: But it will be a fair process.

MARCO RUBIO: But I do think it's fair.

CHUCK TODD: So Senator, I know you couldn't see the ad as we played, I'm sure you've heard it and I'm sure you've seen a reference to it. What part of that ad is not true?

MARCO RUBIO: It doesn't matter. First of all, people didn't care about it. This is now an attack that has now been going on in state after state, and people are processing and they understand that this is a serious issue that needs to be solved. Number two, I can put the exact same ad on about Ted Cruz.

Ted Cruz said he wanted to find a compromise. Ted Cruz said he wanted to bring 11 million people out of the shadows. Ted Cruz said that he wanted immigration reform to pass. Here's the bottom line. I tried to solve a very difficult issue, and we tried to produce the best and most conservative bill possible in a Senate controlled by Harry Reid at the time, and then send it over to the House and have them, conservatives, make it even better.

It didn't work out because the House never took it up. And so now, it's very clear that the only way forward is going to be to do it in pieces, beginning by securing our border. And that's what we'll do. When I'm president, the Senate bill is not going to be what we're operating off of. It's going to begin by focusing on securing our border first and foremost. And until you do that, you're not going to be able to do anything else.

CHUCK TODD: All right, I've got to talk process. You woke up in Tennessee this morning. That tells me - that's a little bit of a tell. That's a state obviously you think you can win on Super Tuesday. Where else do you win on Super Tuesday? Because now it's about winning. You haven't won yet. You've got to win somewhere.

MARCO RUBIO: It is. Well, I think first of all, as we understand, all of these states award delegates differently. So we have a different strategy for each of these states, depending on how they award delegates. When we get into the winner-take-all states in the middle of March, Ohio, Florida, big chunks of delegates, that's where you really need to begin to win states.

And I feel very good where we're going to be by then. So obviously, I'm not going to reveal to you today our campaign playbook, but I'm going to tell you that we're going to be in a lot of different places. Today I'm in Tennessee, I'm in Arkansas, I'll be in Nevada. We're going to contest and work very hard for those caucuses on Tuesday. And then we're going to keep moving forward in a bunch of other places. We have a national campaign. And I feel great about it, especially after last night.

CHUCK TODD: All right, Senator Marco Rubio. I'm going to leave it there. Stay safe on the trail. It's going to be a big, quick race--

MARCO RUBIO: Yes, sir.

CHUCK TODD: --over the next 23 days. Thank you. And now to the Democratic race, and a close but crucial victory for Hillary Clinton in Nevada yesterday and a big blow for my next guest, Senator Bernie Sanders. Welcome back to Meet the Press, Senator.

SEN. BERNIE SANDERS: Good to be with you.

CHUCK TODD: Let me start with something you said on Friday. You said on Friday, "It could be that 10, 20, 30 years from now, people will look back at what happened in Nevada and say, 'This was the beginning of the political revolution.'" Obviously the results didn't turn out the way you thought. What happened, sir?

SEN. BERNIE SANDERS: Well, what happened is over the last five weeks, Chuck, we came from 25 points down to five points down. As I understand it, we actually won the Latino vote yesterday, which is a big breakthrough for us. But the voter turnout was not as high as I had wanted. And what I've said over and over again, we will do well when young people, when working-class people come out. We do not do well when the voter turnout is not large. We did not do as good a job as I had wanted to bring out a large turnout.

CHUCK TODD: You know that at the last minute, there were reports that Harry Reid and the Culinary Union were working to try to beef up turnout in places where Hillary Clinton was going to do well, including right there on the Strip in Las Vegas. Do you think that made a difference?

SEN. BERNIE SANDERS: It's hard to say. But what I do know is, Chuck, that our message of a rigged economy in which people in Nevada and around this country are working longer hours for low wages, why almost all new income and wealth is going to the top one percent. And I'll tell you something else, there's issue of a corrupt campaign finance system, where big money interests and Wall Street are trying to buy elections.

Those are the issues that are resonating. Again, I wish we had had a larger voter turnout. But by the way, we did phenomenally well with young people. I think we did well with working class people. But remember, we were taking on a candidate who ran in 2008. She knew Nevada a lot better than we did, she had the names of a lot of her supporters. So I am proud of the campaign that we ran. Obviously, I wish we could have done a little bit better. But at the end of the day, I think she gets 19 delegates, we get 15 delegates, we move onto the next state.

CHUCK TODD: You know, it's interesting listening to her victory speech last night. I want to play a clip of it, because it may sound familiar to you. Here it is.

SEC. HILLARY CLINTON: Wall Street can never be allowed to threaten main street again. No bank can be too big to fail, no executive too powerful to jail.

CHUCK TODD: It's pretty clear she has ratcheted up her rhetoric on Wall Street because of your candidacy. Do you see that as a victory of sorts? That you've got her trying to--

SEN. BERNIE SANDERS: Chuck, Chuck--

CHUCK TODD: parrot your message?

SEN. BERNIE SANDERS: We're looking into the copyright issues here. Those are our words (LAUGHTER). Well, obviously I think what the secretary has recognized is the American people are extremely angry about the power of Wall Street, the greed, the illegal behavior of Wall Street.

And by the way, the fact that, you know, when a kid gets picked up with marijuana, that kid gets a police record, Wall Street executives destroy the economy, there's no prosecution against them. The American people understand that we need real change in this country, in my view, a political revolution, which says to the people on top, "You know what, you guys can't have it all."

CHUCK TODD: You know, it's interesting. The guy who had the bigger super PAC of all time had to drop out of the race. Jeb Bush outspent everybody. He it's arguably had more special interests supporting his candidacy. Isn't sort of the people already overturning Citizens United, isn't your message, and Donald Trump, who have done this without super PACs, isn't this already resonating?

SEN. BERNIE SANDERS: No, well, in some ways it is. But I think, you know, if you looked at Jeb Bush's campaign, it's more than just money. It's the nature of the candidate and the message and all that stuff. Look, but let me give you an example. Right now, we have raised, as I understand it, Chuck, more contributions from people than Hillary Clinton has. But she's now going into the super PAC that she has which comes from Wall Street and very wealthy individuals. She will be outspending us in the next number of weeks, precisely because of that super PAC. Do these things matter? Yes, they do.

CHUCK TODD: Where are you going to win next? You can't just come close. You're right, you came close in Nevada, but to win, you've got to win. In Super Tuesday, can you win a majority of the delegates on Super Tuesday? You don't have to win a majority of the state, but you need to win a majority of the delegates if you're going to win this thing.

SEN. BERNIE SANDERS: Right. Well, we're studying that issue very closely, obviously, as to where we allocate our resources and allocate my time. I think we have a good shot in Colorado, a good shot in Minnesota, a good shot in Massachusetts. I think we are looking pretty good in Oklahoma. The last poll I saw in my old state of Vermont had us at 80%, so I think we've got a shot to win there. And I think we will surprise people in some other states as well.

CHUCK TODD: Don't you have to beat her in a place like Texas or Virginia or Tennessee? A big state, to say, "You know what, I can win this nomination. I can't just come close." Don't you have to do that?

SEN. BERNIE SANDERS: No, you're right. Look, look, at the end of the day, what you're saying is true. You need delegates. And as you know, these are state by state proportional delegates go out. We're looking hard at Michigan. We think we have a pretty good shot at parts of Texas. So trust me, we are focusing very hard on trying to get as many delegates as we can.

But let me also say this. We are in this race to the convention. I think we've got some states coming down the pike that we're going to do very, very well in. I think, you know, if you look at national polling, our support is growing. So we think, Chuck, we have come a very, very long way. I think the first time I was on your show, we were probably at five percent in the polls. We're moving, we're making progress.

CHUCK TODD: All right, Bernie Sanders. I know you're in South Carolina this morning. But this race goes national in hurry. Thanks for coming on. Stay safe on the trail, sir.

SEN. BERNIE SANDERS: Thank you.

CHUCK TODD: And when we come back, how will Ted Cruz respond to another third place finish? He joins me next.

COMMERCIAL BREAK

CHUCK TODD: Welcome back. I'm joined now by the very narrow third-place finisher in South Carolina, Senator Ted Cruz. Senator, welcome back to Meet the Press.

SEN. TED CRUZ: Chuck, good morning.

CHUCK TODD: Let me start with-- a clip from your press conference that you held on Wednesday, because I have a question on the other side, but I want to show it because it seems unlike other events that you had held throughout the campaign. Here it is.

BEN CARSON: A culture exists within the Cruz camp that would allow people to take advantage of a situation like this in a very dishonest way.

SEN. MARCO RUBIO: I said he's been lying because if you say something that isn't true, and you say it over and over again, and you know that it's not true, there's no other word for it.

DONALD TRUMP: If you talk about people that lie, this Ted Cruz, this is the biggest liar I've ever seen.

CHUCK TODD: That was going to be my second question, but I'm going to go it there, you heard it there. Three different candidates have accused you of being a liar. A third, one out of three South Carolina voters thought you were running the most untruthful campaign. Has all of this hurt you? Has it stuck?

SEN. TED CRUZ: Oh listen, Chuck, what we saw with both Donald Trump and Marco Rubio, that their response, whenever you point to anything in their record, is just to yell, "Liar, liar, liar," and to get very personal and to make direct character attacks. And my approach, from the very beginning of this campaign, starting a year ago, is that I will not respond in kind. I do not intend to insult any of the candidates.

I will sing their praises, I'll sing Donald's praises and Marco's praises and everybody else's praises. But I'm going to keep the focus on substance and records. And there's a reason why they scream "Liar." Because when you point to their own records, their own voting records, their own words, they don't like their records because their records are inconsistent with what they're running on.

And you know, Donald Trump threatened to file a defamation suit against me for running a TV ad that consisted only entirely of his own words on national television. Now, that's really a remarkable theory, that it is defamation to show people what he said on national TV. I think the voters are smarter than that.

CHUCK TODD: But senator, let me, okay, now I want to play that press conference clip for you now. Because it, to me, contrasts what you just said. Here it is.

SEN. TED CRUZ: Donald has had a long career of using great wealth and power trying to bully others. Whenever anyone points to their actual record, the response of both Donald Trump and Marco Rubio is to yell the word, "Liar." Whenever anyone does as this ad does, plays the actual words of Donald Trump on national television, his response is to yell, "Liar." Their strategy is simply to yell, "Liar, liar, liar."

CHUCK TODD: You did an entire press conference. It was some 30 minutes on Wednesday. You weren't talking about the issues that you normally do talk about on the trail. You weren't the happy warrior that you just described yourself as being. It seemed as if you allowed yourself to essentially let Trump and Rubio so get under your skin that you focused on them and you've lost focus on your own message.

SEN. TED CRUZ: Oh listen, Chuck, I was then and am now very much a happy warrior, very much joyful. That press conference was simply discussing the facts, was laying out the actual facts. Not engaging in character attacks myself, just putting out, "Here are the facts, here are the evidence." And I noted, for example, that both of them were relying on fabrications.

For example, Donald Trump tweeted out to the world a quote allegedly from Senator Tom Coburn impugning my honesty. Within hours, Tom Coburn came out publicly and said, "That quote was an utter fabrication." And I said, "It's really remarkable to see two candidates, Trump and Rubio, making things up and putting things out for which there is no evidence and no basis."

But listen, Chuck. The important thing is we had an incredible evening last night. Last night, what we saw happen in South Carolina, particularly when you put Iowa, New Hampshire, South Carolina together, two things have happened. Number one, there is now only one strong conservative in this race who can win. And we see conservatives continually unite behind our campaign.

But number two, for anyone who doesn't believe that Donald Trump is the best candidate to go head to head with Hillary Clinton in November, and that's about 70 percent of Republicans nationwide who don't think Donald Trump is the right guy, our campaign is the only campaign that has beaten Donald Trump and that can beat Donald Trump. So what we're seeing is we're seeing Republicans coming to us in incredible numbers, going to TedCruz.org--

CHUCK TODD: But Senator, wait a minute.

SEN. TED CRUZ: --signing up, volunteering, contributing.

CHUCK TODD: Senator, you finished third in a state with the highest evangelical turnout that we've seen yet. And you finished third. That sort of doesn't support what you just said, that conservatives are coming together and rallying to your cause.

SEN. TED CRUZ: So Chuck, our path to victory from the beginning was always do well in the first four states, and then have a strong, strong night on Super Tuesday coming up on March 1st. In Iowa, everyone in the press said we couldn't win. We won an overwhelming victory in Iowa. In New Hampshire, everyone in the press said, "A conservative couldn't do well in a moderate New England state." We won a strong third there.

And then in South Carolina, we were effectively tied for second. A week ago, Donald was 20 points ahead. We closed that gap. And what we saw there, there were a number of very encouraging things. For one thing, we won young people in South Carolina. Our campaign was in first place with young people. By the way, we won young people in Iowa as well, and we were in second place with young people in New Hampshire.

One of the things we're seeing is young people who are optimistic, who want a future, want our constitutional rights, are coming to our campaign. And if you want to beat Donald Trump, you know, one of the clearest indications of who can beat Trump is Donald spends every waking moment attacking me. He doesn't attack any other candidates, because his campaign views us as the only real threat to him.

And that's why we're seeing so many people come around and say, "Listen, we want a real conservative. We don't want a Washington dealmaker who will support Democrats and cut deals to grow government and give into the cronyism and corporate welfare."

CHUCK TODD: Very quickly, are you going to beat Donald Trump in Texas on March 1st?

SEN. TED CRUZ: I certainly hope so. We're going to work hard to do so. And I've got to tell you, Texas, I love Texas, I can't wait in a couple of days to be home to the great state.

CHUCK TODD: Must win?

SEN. TED CRUZ: It'll be wonderful to sleep in my own bed.

CHUCK TODD: Must win I take it, for you?

SEN. TED CRUZ: Look, we hope we do well. I believe we will do well. We've got an amazing team in Texas. I love Texans. And Texas is clearly the crown jewel of Super Tuesday. We believe we're going to do very, very well in Texas, and we're going to do very well across Super Tuesday. And we're headed right now in just an hour, we're headed to Nevada to go and work to earn votes there.

CHUCK TODD: Well, speaking of the road to Super Tuesday, that's what I'm dealing with next. Anyway, Senator Ted Cruz, thanks for coming on. Stay safe on the trail, sir.

SEN. TED CRUZ: Thanks, Chuck, you too.

CHUCK TODD: When we come back, that proverbial road to Super Tuesday and the states each candidate will be focusing on.

COMMERCIAL BREAK

CHUCK TODD: All right. Time to set the road ahead. We're using Meet the Press data download to do it, because if you think things have been turbulent through now, wait till you see the next 23 days. First, the Republicans head west to Nevada on Tuesday. Democrats will go to South Carolina next Saturday.

But it's March 1st where things get fascinating, the first of a couple of Super Tuesday. Fourteen contests that day. On the GOP side, the establishment favorite Marco Rubio, he's going to be focusing in places like Massachusetts, Minnesota, and Virginia. Ted Cruz, he's going to be campaigning in the Deep South SEC states of Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia. And of course, he has got to win in his home state of Texas.

Large evangelical populations he hopes will make the difference of all those Deep South states. But I'm watching Tennessee very closely. I think this is going to be the swing state of Super Tuesday along with Virginia. Where establishment candidates have won in the South over more conservative candidates.

That's where Rubio needs to beat Trump. Trump, of course is going to be a factor everywhere, as he's proven so far. For the Democrats, we're looking already at Hillary Clinton shifting her focus to big states like Texas, where she had an event last night. Bernie Sanders, he's cherry-picking states so far. He's outspending Clinton in places like Oklahoma, Minnesota, Colorado. And he's the only one on the air in Massachusetts.

But can he beat her in a bigger state? Haven't seen it so far. Moving down the road on March 5th, could actually be a good day for both Cruz and Sanders. Why? Two of the states are caucus states, Kansas and Nebraska, which you see on the left. Heavy for the bases there, while Clinton will be focusing that day on Louisiana. It's a primary with a large African-American electorate.

Shifting gears to the 8th, all eyes will be on Michigan, where the perception that with winning will be just as important as the delegates on the line. Probably John Kasich's last stand, by the way. It is an open primary, which means in Michigan, you don't have to be registered with a party to vote in either Democrat or the Republican side. Good news potentially by the way for Sanders and Trump as well.

And then just around the corner, the other big Super Tuesday of March, March 15th. It's the closest thing we're going to get to a preview of the November battleground. We've got Florida, Illinois, Missouri, North Carolina, and Ohio, all heading to the polls that day. Could be the establishment's last stand on the Republican side to stop Trump. We'll be back in a moment on this remarkable Sunday morning with a look at the Republican race. Can Rubio or Cruz turn this into a two-man battle with Donald Trump?

COMMERCIAL BREAK

CHUCK TODD: Wow. Welcome back, panel is finally here to react to the four big candidate interviews on this Sunday morning. Hugh Hewitt, host of The Hugh Hewitt Show. key destination this year for Republican presidential contenders. Joy-Ann Reid of MSNBC, she's been all over the country for us these last couple of weeks. Amy Walter, editor of The Cook Political Report. And our Nevada political guru, Jon Ralston, host of Ralston Live on PBS in Nevada, who's now an NBC political analyst. Welcome to all. All right, let me just start with this. Hugh Hewitt, nobody has won New Hampshire and South Carolina back to back and had been denied the Republican nomination. Why isn't this over?

HUGH HEWITT: Because it's the last war. Donald Trump has been practicing the chords of reality politics for 11 years doing reality television. And so he's clearly the frontrunner and he is clearly dominating. But I still believe in some old rules.

I believe Marco Rubio is going to win Florida, I think Ted Cruz is going to win his Alamo in Texas. And I think a month from now, we may be back here talking about an open convention, because I think old rules apply. John Kasich's going to win Ohio as well.

CHUCK TODD: Look, if this is a three-way race, we actually have some-- you can see it in the exit poll in South Carolina. Let me put up some numbers here. We had, "The candidate who shares my values," was Ted Cruz, the leading candidate. "The candidate who was there to bring me to change," the leading candidate there was Donald Trump. And "The one that can win in November," the leading candidate was Marco Rubio.

AMY WALTER: Marco Rubio, right.

CHUCK TODD: There's your split, right there, right?

AMY WALTER: Yup.

CHUCK TODD: Trump's change, Rubio's electability, and Cruz's values.

AMY WALTER: And the difference there is that the Trump number on change is so much larger than the lead that the other two have in their lanes. And that's going to be the challenge for those other two going forward. The other challenge for Marco Rubio, and this assumption that you're just going to get all those Bush and Kasich voters.

You may. It's true, if you add up all the New Hampshire, Bush, and Kasich voters, all the South Carolina, Bush, and Kasich voters, you give those to Rubio, he wins. But he's got to show that he can go up one on one against Donald Trump and survive that.

CHUCK TODD: Who gets to the one on one?

AMY WALTERS: Right.

CHUCK TODD: And I don't know. Is Marco Rubio, he is the one guy that hasn't felt the wrath of Trump yet. Everyone else who has is either out of the race or severely damaged.

JOY-ANN REID: But he--

CHUCK TODD: Ted Cruz has been damaged.

JOY-ANN REID: Right, but Marco Rubio has felt the wrath of Chris Christie and proved that he has a glass jaw. And I think that the question is going to be could he withstand a similar barrage from Donald Trump, who is relentless in going after the people he thinks are a threat to him. And in addition to that, you know, Hugh says Marco Rubio will win Florida. That isn't really clear at this point, that Donald Trump couldn't win there too.

CHUCK TODD: I don't know if it's clear that Ted Cruz is going to win Texas, by the way.

JOY-ANN REID: Right. It's not enough to keep winning seconds and thirds. At some point, Ted Cruz has actually won on. Rubio's got to actually win a state.

CHUCK TODD: Speaking of a first, uh, three months ago, his first win was supposed to come in your home state of Nevada, Mr. Ralston.

JON RALSTON: Yeah, and--

CHUCK TODD: That's Tuesday. Is he going to win?

JON RALSTON: No, he's not going to win. He'll be lucky to finish second. Donald Trump is going to win Nevada easily. Now, of course, it's a weird process in Nevada. Isn't everything a weird process? In Nevada, where they have it on Tuesday night, different start times, turnout may be lucky to get to 10%. But Hugh talks about old rules. You guys are talking about this math.

There are no rules anymore. The old math doesn't work. Nobody knows what's going to happen. I don't know why we're all afraid to say that. But right now, who goes one on one with Trump is the key question. And it doesn't look like to me from your interviews, from anything else, that either Cruz or--

CHUCK TODD: Ain't they ready-

JON RALSTON: --they're not going to get out, right?

CHUCK TODD: Yeah.

JON RALSTON: And as long as that exists, and you know, Kasich and Carson are hanging around for a little while, as long as there's that many candidates, then Trump is going to win every race.

CHUCK TODD: Hugh, you heard Donald Trump with me today. He does not stick to Republican orthodoxy, which, you know, and this is always supposed to have been his downfall. Maybe it's his strength.

HUGH HEWITT: Well, we have a debate on Thursday night. It'll be interesting to see how he handles the Bush lie. That was his Waterloo moment, and the pope rescued him from that.

CHUCK TODD: That's right, I agree.

HUGH HEWITT: --exactly what happened.

CHUCK TODD: I agree.

HUGH HEWITT: And so we will see on Thursday night how he nuances that, as he did with you. But I do believe he is the frontrunner for a reason. He does represent a smashup of Washington D.C. He represents a total leveling of everything that people are angry about. And he has Ivanka. And I must say, she was there last night, and she is the generational bridge that he needs, because Marco Rubio, the "children of Reagan" line is a good line.

CHUCK TODD: Yeah, you know, when we're looking at this, should we assume? Go ahead.

AMY WALTER: No. I mean, the only problem with the "children of Reagan" line is it reminds you that he is the young candidate.

JOY-ANN REID: Right.

AMY WALTER: So you have to be careful about using that. But, look, I think you still have a problem here when you're going and you're looking not just that Trump is winning, but he's winning in a broad swath of voters. It's not just that he's got this one lane, oh, he only wins when there's low turnout, he only wins when conservatives, he only wins in these kinds of states. He wins enough across a broad array -

CHUCK TODD: And I saw people hanging their hat last night on the fact that yes, late deciders, he got crushed among the 40 percent of voters who were late deciders. But guess what, the early deciders they had 60 percent!

JOY-ANN REID: And not only that, but Donald Trump is actually doing what Bernie Sanders was billed as doing. He's doing new voters into the process.

CHUCK TODD: Look at the turnout in South Carolina.

JOY-ANN REID: Exactly.

CHUCK TODD: My gosh that was a huge—

JOY-ANN REID: And he's actually doing that. He is accomplishing getting, particularly white, working-class voters, who are turned off by their own party. I think one of the interesting pieces of data last night, people who were angry at their own party, at the Republican party, and who feel-- and the only other candidates that were--

HUGH HEWITT: Who does Hillary want to run against though? Who does Hillary--

JOY-ANN REID: Donald Trump.

HUGH HEWITT: You think?

CHUCK TODD: I don't think so anymore. I think Cruz.

HUGH HEWITT: I don't think so.

JOY-ANN REID: He would be stronger than the democrats think.

CHUCK TODD: I think the only-- Of the three, I think Cruz is the one she wants to run against.

JON RALSTON: That's that's it's who she wants to run against.

CHUCK TODD: And oddly, it's the easier race for her, in her mind.

JON RALSTON: You know, what's amazing watching your interview with Trump is that he's like a guy who thinks that every question is, "Okay, I asked you a question, now free-associate. Say what comes into your head." And so now he's sort of evolved, kind of evolved on the health care question, where someone he read the Cliffsnotes like we did in school when we weren't quite prepared. And since he knows the issue of portability now, someone taught him what healthcare savings accounts are. But clearly, he can't get past the rock skipping across - But it doesn't matter to his base, right?

CHUCK TODD: Doesn't matter, it doesn't matter.

JON RALSTON: It just does not matter.

CHUCK TODD: No. It's been the message that matters. I'm going to pause there. We've got to go to the Democratic side when we come back, and why Hillary Clinton's win yesterday might actually be seen in hindsight as the game changer of the Democratic race.

COMMERCIAL BREAK

CHUCK TODD: Welcome back, panel is here. Now we're going to talk about the Democratic side of things, from Shakeout Saturday, after Hillary Clinton's big Nevada win. Joy, I want to start with you. There's a new ad that Hillary has out here, second one now narrated by Morgan Freeman. I'm going to play it for you and get your reaction.

MORGAN FREEMAN: She says their names.

SEC. HILLARY CLINTON: Trayvon Martin, shot to death. Dontre Hamilton, unarmed. Sandra Bland did nothing wrong.

MORGAN FREEMAN: And makes their mothers' fight for justice her own.

CHUCK TODD: It was only nine months ago that when asked about Black Lives Matter, Hillary Clinton said, "All lives matter."

JOY-ANN REID: Yeah.

CHUCK TODD: And now, look where she is today. Look at the rhetoric she's now adopting from Bernie Sanders. You can't say she's not evolving as a candidate. And boy is she trying very hard to move to where the Democratic base is.

JOY-ANN REID: Well, I mean, you also recall that a couple months ago, she met with a lot of the mothers in Chicago, she has the endorsement of some of the moms. Bernie Sanders I think has one or two of the family members too. I'm a little uncomfortable with using the families of these dead children this way.

CHUCK TODD: You think it's too much--

JOY-ANN REID: But both of them have. I mean, both Sanders and Hillary Clinton are now--

CHUCK TODD: Eric Garner, yeah.

JOY-ANN REID: --trying to evoke the memories and use the family members of these young people in their campaign.

CHUCK TODD: Do you think it's too crass?

JOY-ANN REID: It makes me uncomfortable. But I do have to say that Hillary Clinton understands fundamentally that her candidacy is in the hands of African Americans, full stop. In Nevada, it was a 72 percent route with African Americans that carried her over the top. South Carolina, she will be saved by African Americans over age 50. And not even just all African Americans, but African Americans of a certain age, right, over 50. And she knows that that is what she needs.

CHUCK TODD: Look at the next 12 states on the Democratic side. It's something like, I want to say seven of the 12 have an African American electorate percentage of 30 percent or more.

AMY WALTER: Right.

CHUCK TODD: I mean, this is, Joy's right, this is—

AMY WALTER: She is exactly--

CHUCK TODD: And it may come across a little crass, but that's what she's doing.

AMY WALTER: Well, and the generational divide, you're exactly right, doesn't hurt as much. Because yes, she doesn't do as well with younger voters, but she doesn't need to. If you look at what happened in Nevada the other day, she lost under 45 year olds by a tremendous margin, where she picked it up was over 45 year olds who still make up a bigger percent of the electorate. And they will in South Carolina as well.

CHUCK TODD: So did Harry Reid, the most valuable player? Is Harry Reid going to be known as the person who saved Hillary Clinton's nomination?

JON RALSTON: I think he will be and he should be, I think he came back to the state.

CHUCK TODD: How about that?

JON RALSTON: He saw what was happening in the state. He saw the internal polls. Clinton was hemorrhaging. She went from a 25-point lead down to nine after New Hampshire. And it was neck and neck. Harry Reid said, "I've got to do something." He called up the head of the Culinary Union, they were being wallflowers, they weren't on the dance floor.

He said, "You've got to get these folks out to vote." Heavily Latino, they knew they would go for Clinton. And he did that with other unions too by the way Chuck, not just with the Culinary Union. But what Joy's talking about, the African American vote is forgotten because we talk so much about the Latino vote in Nevada--

CHUCK TODD: Right, but it's about half of the non-white vote.

JON RALSTON: Right.

CHUCK TODD: Not just Hispanic.

JON RALSTON: And the fact that she got three-quarters of that vote, and she had every elected official, every African elected official, except maybe one or two in her corner, campaigning for her, saying and doing all of the right things, but Harry Reid is the guy.

CHUCK TODD: Hugh, now that it looks like Hillary Clinton's back to being the favorite for the nomination, and suddenly it is Hillary Clinton that's standing there as the boogey person for the Republican party, does that change Republican voter calculus or no?

HUGH HEWITT: It does. She--

CHUCK TODD: --Changes your calculus, but does it really change the Republican calculus?

HUGH HEWITT: The former secretary of State is the nominee. She is also the Willie Sutton of classified data. And there is going to be a long-term effort of Republicans, whether it's Donald Trump, Marco Rubio, or Ted Cruz, to paint her into the corner. They have another release of data on Friday. There's one more coming. She is a tremendously flawed candidate.

CHUCK TODD: Look, she loses all the trust questions to Sanders. That-- that-- that has been a fact. Her now sitting there as the threat, where no longer it's like, "Oh my God, maybe Sanders will win," does that change the way voters think in the Republican primary about Trump?-

HUGH HEWITT: I think it does. I think voters are very sophisticated, very strategic. They know that she can be beaten. And so they will look at Donald Trump, and they will look at Marco Rubio, they will look at Ted Cruz, and maybe John Kasich and say, "Who can beat her? Who's the best matchup?" And I think that's what's going to work on Super Tuesday.

CHUCK TODD: Well, we shall see. It's what the Republican establishment hopes the voters think. And they haven't been right yet. When we come back, in less than a minute, our endgame segment, and the end of the game for the Bush dynasty.

* * * COMMERCIALS * * *

CHUCK TODD: It's being treated as an afterthought now, but guys Jeb Bush dropped out of the race last night. South Carolina put George H.W. Bush into the White House, But George W. Bush into the White House and sent Jeb Bush back to Miami.

But let me show you these money totals. Jeb Bush, you hate to say this, he's the new John Connelly. He was the biggest spender in Iowa, one delegate. He was the biggest spender in New Hampshire I think he got three more delegates there. And he was the biggest spender in South Carolina. Nothing symbolically represents the establishment downfall so far than this, does it Hugh?

HUGH HEWITT: No, and it's because he's such a good man and the rules have changed so dramatically, as John pointed out, Amy and Joy pointed out. The rules are completely different. They are not the Jeb Bush rules of the 90s, they are the reality television rules of this decade and he was not suited for it.

CHUCK TODD: Joy, this is conservative governor

JOY-ANN REID: Very.

CHUCK TODD: Arguably, his record as governor is more conservative than any current republican governor in the country.

JOY-ANN REID: More so than Kasich, more so than any—

CHUCK TODD: How did he get pained the moderate?

JOY-ANN REID: Well I think because Jeb Bush's sort of theory of the case was always that he would be painted as the grown-up, right? This theory would be that the party would go to somebody, perhaps a Sarah Palin, perhaps another sort of another gaslight candidate. And the party would come to him.

But number one, that lane is so fragmented between establishment candidates. And by the way, having lived in Florida for as long as you did as well, Jeb Bush has never really been that great of a politician. He's benefited from a lot of good luck. He torched his own campaign in '94, he had a weak Democratic opponent in '98, he benefited from the Clinton boom and got out before the Bush bust.

CHUCK TODD: But it's funny how history gets rewritten. She's right. That's now how the history of Jeb Bush is going to be rewritten. It could have been a different version of the same events--

AMY WALTER: But it was very clear, even from long before Donald Trump got in this race, when he would talk to Republicans, the number-one concern they had about Jeb Bush was whether he was too rusty for this, and whether he was going to be strong enough to stand up to Hillary Clinton. The Bush folks thought that money was going to help paper that over, they would remind people about his conservative record.

But when he went on that debate stage and totally flubbed it, and when he came on the shows and couldn't answer questions about Iraq, and when he looked like he was unsteady, it absolutely solidified the concerns that they had had all along about his skills.

JON RALSTON: You used the right words, "strong." This is the election about strength. Donald Trump looks strong to Republican voters. Jeb Bush, anyone who's been around him, he's a substantive guy, he was a conservative governor. But he doesn't project well. He's a terrible candidate, right? He was the wrong guy at the wrong time for this election. They want someone like Donald Trump who is going to say what they want to hear. Jeb Bush, they don't want to hear his policy prescriptions. They don't want to hear him talk the way he talks.

CHUCK TODD: And by the way, that money number that I just put up, all those money things, Hugh, doesn't that support what Jon said earlier, which is there are no rules anymore?

HUGH HEWITT: There are no rules.

CHUCK TODD: Because guess whose name wasn't on any of the top three of any of those three states? Donald Trump.

HUGH HEWITT: I will say one thing has changed dramatically which is this Supreme Court vacancy, and it will reshape the race on my side, because I'd rather lose an election than lose the Supreme Court. And so I think going forward, this is the narrative changer. And I don't know how the candidates respond to this, because—

CHUCK TODD: I you lose the election, you lose the court.

HUGH HEWITT: I know.

CHUCK TODD: You said--

HUGH HEWITT: But it's worth fighting for you have to put it at the center of the election.

CHUCK TODD: No, I hear you. All right, well, I've got to leave it there. That's all, what an amazing. All primaries should be on a Saturday. We'll be back next Sunday, a primary Saturday. And if it's Sunday, it's Meet the Press.

* * *END OF TRANSCRIPT* * *

2/28/16: TRUMP, CRUZ, SANDERS, KASICH; ALSO: NEW NBC NEWS/WSJ/MARIST POLL NUMBERS

INTERVIEW WITH DONALD TRUMP, PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE

Republican presidential frontrunner Donald Trump talks with Chuck Todd about his endorsement from New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie this past Friday, news from this week -- including calls for his tax returns and attacks on Trump University -- as well as his expectations for Tuesday night's primary contests.

INTERVIEW WITH SEN. TED CRUZ (R-TEXAS), PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE

Republican presidential candidate Texas Sen. Ted Cruz joins the show ahead of Super Tuesday to discuss how he'll fare in his home state and his path to the nomination.

INTERVIEW WITH SEN. BERNIE SANDERS (I-VT.), PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE

Democratic presidential candidate Sen. Bernie Sanders responds to his warning Friday from the Federal Election Commission on problems with his February campaign finance report, addresses his momentum into Super Tuesday and reacts to Saturday's South Carolina primary results.

INTERVIEW WITH GOV. JOHN KASICH (R-OHIO), PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE

Ohio Gov. John Kasich, who said "nobody's gonna win but Trump" on Super Tuesday after Thursday's Republican debate, speaks with Chuck Todd about his strategy to win voters.

NEW TEXAS, TENN. & GA. POLL NUMBERS FROM NBC NEWS/WSJ/MARIST

Ahead of Tuesday's nominating contests, a new poll from NBC News/Wall Street Journal/Marist debuts on "Meet the Press" with the latest insight from the ground in Texas, Tennessee and Georgia.

THE WEEK IN POLITICS

Will Clinton win big in Saturday's South Carolina Democratic primary? What does Gov. Christie's endorsement of Trump mean for the GOP field? Are Rubio's attacks on Trump too late? What are the possible delegate outcomes from Super Tuesday? The political panel discusses all of this and more from the week in politics.

Charlie Cook, Editor, Publisher of The Cook Political Report; Political Analyst, National Journal

Erick Erickson, Founder, Resurgent; Host, WSB Radio's "Atlanta Evening News"

Heather McGhee, President, Demos Action

Andrea Mitchell, NBC News Chief Foreign Affairs Correspondent

3/6/16: ROMNEY, GRAHAM, SPACEY; ALSO: NEW MICHIGAN POLL FROM NBC/WSJ/MARIST

INTERVIEW WITH FORMER GOV. MITT ROMNEY, 2012 REPUBLICAN PRESIDENTIAL NOMINEE

Former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney delivered a scathing speech on Thursday attacking Republican presidential frontrunner Donald Trump. He speaks with moderator Chuck Todd live Sunday morning to discuss the Republican Party's path to nomination.

"Donald Trump is a phony, a fraud. His promises are as worthless as a degree from Trump University. He's playing the American public for suckers: He gets a free ride to the White House and all we get is a lousy hat." - Former Gov. Romney in a speech Thursday

INTERVIEW WITH SEN. LINDSEY GRAHAM (R-S.C.)

South Carolina Senator Lindsey Graham, who ended his presidential bid for the Republican nomination in December, has not hidden his disdain for fellow congressman Senator Ted Cruz in the past, so it was surprising this past Super Tuesday when he indicated support for Cruz. Graham joins "Meet the Press" to address the future of the Republican Party.

"Ted Cruz is not my favorite by any means, but ... we may be in a position where we have to rally around Ted Cruz as the only way to stop Donald Trump." - Sen. Graham on CBS this past Tuesday

INTERVIEW WITH ACTOR KEVIN SPACEY, NETFLIX'S "HOUSE OF CARDS"

Actor Kevin Spacey, who plays Frank Underwood on Netflix's "House of Cards," joins Chuck Todd live in-studio Sunday morning to discuss the show's new season, which went live on Friday, and how it mirrors politics in real life.

"For those of us climbing to the top of the food chain, there can be no mercy. There is but one rule: hunt or be hunted." - Frank Underwood on "House of Cards"

NEW MICHIGAN POLL NUMBERS FROM NBC NEWS/WSJ/MARIST

New numbers from NBC News/Wall Street Journal/Marist debut on "Meet the Press" with the latest insight from the ground in Michigan ahead of the state's primary for both parties this Tuesday.

THE WEEK IN POLITICS

Is Trump unstoppable? Did Romney's Thursday speech sway Republican voters? Because the majority of Saturday's nominating contests are closed, will Senator Cruz benefit the most? The political roundtable discusses all of this and more from the week in politics.

David Brooks, Columnist, The New York Times

Stephen Henderson, Columnist, The Detroit Free Press

Mary Matalin, Republican Strategist

Kelly O'Donnell, NBC News Capitol Hill Correspondent

3/13/16: TRUMP, SEN. CRUZ, GOV. KASICH; PLUS: NEW OH, FL, IL POLL NUMBERS

INTERVIEW WITH DONALD TRUMP, PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE

Republican presidential frontrunner Donald Trump joins the show to discuss recent disturbances at his campaign events as well as his path to the nomination.

"There are two different Donald Trumps. There's the one you see on the stage and there's the one who is very cerebral, sits there and considers things very carefully." - Ben Carson in his endorsement of the candidate on Friday

INTERVIEW WITH SEN. TED CRUZ (R-TEXAS), PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE

After picking up his first congressional endorsement this week (Sen. Mike Lee) and one from the National Review, Texas Senator Ted Cruz speaks with Chuck Todd about his victories in seven states and how he'll work with his rivals against Donald Trump.

"Donald does well with voters who have relatively low information, who are not that engaged and who are angry and they see him as an angry voice." – Sen. Ted Cruz in an interview Wednesday with CBN

INTERVIEW WITH GOV. JOHN KASICH (R-OHIO), PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE

Ohio Gov. John Kasich addresses how he feels ahead of the state's primary Tuesday, rumors of home state support from Sen. Marco Rubio's campaign and his thoughts on the current state of the Republican Party.

"If you're a Republican primary voter in Ohio, and you don't want Donald Trump to be the nominee, John Kasich is your best bet." – Rubio campaign spokesperson Alex Conant

NEW OHIO, FLORIDA & ILLINOIS POLL NUMBERS FROM NBC NEWS/WSJ/MARIST

Ahead of Tuesday's nominating contests, new polls from NBC News/Wall Street Journal/Marist debut on "Meet the Press" with the latest insight from the ground in Ohio, Florida and Illinois.

THE WEEK IN POLITICS

Will the primary season last another three months? How much responsibility does a candidate bear for what happens at his or her events? What can we expect from this coming Tuesday's primaries? The roundtable discusses all of this and more from the week in politics.

Alex Castellanos, Republican Strategist

Anne Gearan, Political Correspondent, The Washington Post

Hugh Hewitt, Host, "The Hugh Hewitt Show"

Doris Kearns Goodwin, American Biographer; Author, "Lyndon Johnson and the American Dream"

3/20/16: KASICH; MCCONNELL, REID ON SCOTUS NOMINEE; SCHMIDT, STEVENS ON 'STOP TRUMP' MOVEMENT

INTERVIEW WITH GOV. JOHN KASICH (R-OHIO), PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE

After winning his home state primary earlier this week, Ohio Gov. John Kasich speaks with Chuck Todd about the 'Stop Trump' movement, his pledge earlier this week to not hold his tongue when it comes to Republican presidential frontrunner Donald Trump and his path to the party nomination.

"I'm not interested in being combative, but every once in a while, when you see something that makes your blood boil, I think you should say something about it." - Gov. Kasich in a Yahoo! News interview this week

HOW CONGRESS IS REACTING TO SCOTUS NOMINEE GARLAND

President Obama's nomination of Judge Merrick B. Garland on Wednesday has ignited debate across the aisle, as congressional Republican leaders continue to pledge they will not take any action during the president's lame duck year. Todd talks with the Senate leaders of both parties about where the fight is headed.

Senator Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.)

"It seems clear that President Obama made this nomination not with the intent of seeing the nominee confirmed but in order to politicize it for purposes of the election." - Sen. McConnell on Wednesday

Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nev.)

"Why can't the Republicans do what they're supposed to do, do their jobs?" - Sen. Reid on Thursday

BEHIND THE 'STOP TRUMP' MOVEMENT

Republican strategists Steve Schmidt and Stuart Stevens join Todd to discuss why party opponents still don't have a unified strategy to stop Trump from becoming the GOP presidential nominee.

Steve Schmidt, MSNBC Contributor; Former Strategist, 2008 McCain Presidential Campaign

Stuart Stevens, Former Strategist, 2012 Romney Presidential Campaign

"We are committed to ensuring a real conservative candidate is elected. We believe that neither Hillary Clinton nor Donald Trump, a Hillary Clinton donor, is that person." - Thursday statement from Conservatives Against Trump

THE WEEK IN POLITICS

Though the energy and math are there, will there be a unified strategy to stop Trump? What will President Obama's more active role in the Clinton v. Sanders race look like? How will Arizona, the biggest delegate prize on Tuesday, play out for the GOP? The roundtable discusses all of this and more from the week in politics.

José Díaz-Balart, Anchor, NBC News; Anchor, Telemundo's "Noticiero Telemundo" and "Enfoque"

Molly Ball, National Political Reporter, The Atlantic

Robert Costa, National Political Reporter, The Washington Post

Joy-Ann Reid, National Correspondent, MSNBC

3/27/16: SEN. SANDERS; GOV. KASICH; LEITER, ENGEL ON NATIONAL SECURITY LATEST

INTERVIEW WITH SEN. BERNIE SANDERS (I-VT.), PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE

Democratic presidential candidate Sen. Bernie Sanders is expected to fare well Saturday evening in the Washington, Hawaii and Alaska contests, but are those enough for the delegate math to play out in his favor? Sanders joins moderator Chuck Todd to discuss his showings in those states as well as his policy positions in light of this week's terror attacks in Belgium.

"At the end of the day, we can not allow the Trumps of the world to use these incidents to attack all of the Muslim people in the world. That is unfair." - Sen. Sanders Tuesday on Jimmy Kimmel Liv

SUNDAY EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH GOV. JOHN KASICH (R-OHIO), PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE

Ohio Gov. John Kasich, who has recently drawn criticism from conservatives that he is hindering the party's efforts to stop Donald Trump, joins the show to discuss his campaign efforts and how he would have responded to Tuesday's attacks as president of the United States.

"If I'm the only one that can beat Hillary in the fall, why would anybody say I should leave? I mean that's just -- that's nuts!" - Gov. Kasich on CNN Monday

LATEST IN U.S. NATIONAL SECURITY & THE FIGHT AGAINST ISIS

In the wake of Tuesday's terrorist attacks in Brussels, NBC News' Keir Simmons updates the show from Brussels; national security expert Michael Leiter and NBC News' Richard Engel discuss how the brothers who attacked the subway and the airport were listed in U.S. terror databases as well as how numerous terror plots have been thwarted in the U.K., France, Belgium and Germany.

Richard Engel, Chief Foreign Correspondent, NBC News

Michael Leiter, EVP, Leidos; Former Director, U.S. National Counterterrorism Center

Keir Simmons, Correspondent, NBC News

"We have an entire focus on foreign fighters. In fact, a month ago, here in Belgium, we had a foreign fighter search team here working with the Belgians in order to try and make sure that they were dealing appropriately with this potential at any time in the future." - Sec. Kerry to Engel Friday

THE WEEK IN POLITICS

How did the week's political dialogue develop into a battle over wives after a terrorist attack? Is Texas Sen. Ted Cruz outmaneuvering Donald Trump in the delegate hunt? Will Sanders' expected wins in Alaska, Hawaii, and Washington tomorrow night even change the delegate math? The roundtable of NBC News correspondents discusses all of this and more from the week in politics.

Ben Ginsberg, Contributor, NBC News; Republican Strategist

Hallie Jackson, Correspondent, NBC News

Andrea Mitchell, Chief Foreign Affairs Correspondent, NBC News

Katy Tur, Correspondent, NBC News

Kristen Welker, White House Correspondent, NBC News