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Edward Marcus: Presidential primaries are almost here — Watch Trump go down

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Primaries are supposed to be democracy in action. Unfortunately, what really happens is that candidates work on getting out their vote, those people they believe are committed to them. There is no mass push to get everyone out to vote. The real test of a primary, therefore, is not how good you are as a candidate but how strong is your ground game. Millions of dollars have and will be spent to get out the vote, not in a generic sense, but only for a specific candidate.

You may be the best candidate but if you do not have the ground game, the ability to get out your supporters, you are dead in the water. The turnout in most primaries is typically low which gives candidates with the ability to get out their vote a unique opportunity.

For **Democrats** and even most **Republicans** in Connecticut, one positive to come out of the need for a solid ground game is that **Donald Trump** does not appear to have one put together. For Trump to do well in the early primaries would ultimately be disastrous for the **Republican Party**. Trump is more outrageous every day and his campaign is based solely on mass events and free television coverage generated by his taking positions that will create immediate attention — positions that not even Trump can honestly believe.

His latest comments about **Hillary Clinton**'s bathroom break at the last democratic debate and her being "schlonged" by Obama is typical of Trump's seeking immediate coverage without any consideration of the negative fallout.

Yes, he still leads in the polls relating to the Republican race but his numbers have never gone over 40 percent. They are now back in the high twenties or low thirties depending on the individual poll. Iowa and New Hampshire should not mean all that much since the number of delegates for the Republican convention is minimal from those states, but the media coverage gives the winner an enormous boost. I don't believe Trump has the ground game to win in either state. The flavor of the week in all likelihood will be **Ted Cruz** or **Marco Rubio**. If people start thinking seriously about the next president, then it is possible that **Jeb Bush** or **Chris Christie** have a chance to come in among the top three.

In any event, the Republican field will drop to five or six candidates after Iowa and New Hampshire and I believe the Trump support then will start to dissipate.

The problem that the Republican Party has is that if Cruz picks up a substantial portion of the Trump vote of disenchanted people who are racist, anti-immigration and anti-immigrants, then Cruz could very well become the party's nominee. Cruz, many suggest, is a better choice than Trump to win the general election.

I think not.

I believe Cruz is by far the most extreme right-wing candidate in the race. Most of us have not followed Cruz closely and the positions that he has taken. If Cruz keeps his momentum and becomes the nominee, the Republican Party will have a candidate who

is against a new rapport with Cuba, against gun control, against universal healthcare, against same sex marriage . . . and so it goes. I don't believe that Cruz is any more electable than Trump. Perhaps less so when push comes to shove.

The Republican Party seems determined to have a far right candidate and therefore a nominee who cannot win in the general election. The right wing of the Republican Party today controls who will win the primaries. Trump will get dumped but will Cruz or Rubio make a better candidate come next November? We will see before too long.

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