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Edward Marcus: Hillary Clinton's veep — who will it be?



Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton addresses a gathering on the Boardwalk July 6 in Atlantic City, N.J. ASSOCIATED PRESS photo

By Edward Marcus

In most presidential elections, the choice for vice president is not all that important — usually you just look for someone that might have some clout in their home state and has not been involved in any scandal, at least recently.

This year's election is somewhat different since both Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump are running with substantial negatives in all of the polling to date. That makes the vice presidential choice much more vital for a winning strategy. A good call on the VP can bring up the so-called "favorable" in the polls, reduce the negatives, and potentially make the difference in this campaign.

Trump does not have many solid choices available. New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie would agree to do it, I'm sure. After all, how many Republicans want to be part of a Trump campaign when positions on issues change by the hour — and you then become tied to a demagogue (or is it demigod?)!

Other names being bandied about include Iowa freshman Sen. Joni Ernst, a virtual unknown outside of her state; former House Speaker Newt Gingrich, a man with considerable political baggage; and Alabama Sen. Jeff Sessions, another individual who is little known outside his own political circle.

Clinton, on the other hand, has multiple solid options. Some names kicked around so far include Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren; New Jersey Sen. Cory Booker; Ohio Sen. Sherrod Brown; California Gov. Jerry Brown, and former New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg.

They all have pluses and minuses. However, my favorites are Mayor Bloomberg and Sen. Booker.

Elizabeth Warren has been an outspoken Trump opponent and is willing to take him on. However, it is easy to send out press releases and Twitter comments. It is a lot tougher to do it live, and Sen. Warren just doesn't come across that well in live action news pieces. Her claim to be part Indian has not been a great selling point, and a two-woman ticket probably doesn't sell politically for some folks.

Sen. Sherrod Brown is unknown but could help win Ohio. Jerry Brown is, well, Jerry Brown. We have seen that movie before. That leaves us with Booker and Bloomberg.

Cory Booker has some roots in New Haven. He is a graduate of Yale Law School and while here, along with Sam Hecht, who now controls Pike International, New Haven's largest landlord, created the forerunner to what is now known as Eliezer an Active Society on the Yale campus. Booker has prospered in New Jersey politics, which is not easy, and did an outstanding job as mayor of Newark. In my view, he has no negatives as a U.S. senator. Booker would be a really good choice.

Bloomberg, if he would accept, would be a great vice presidential candidate. He is a "real multi-billionaire," unlike Trump (who won't produce his tax returns). And Bloomberg has always related to the needs of ordinary Americans.

Bloomberg has been tested as mayor of New York City, has a high favorable rating in the polls and a demonstrated ability to get the message out and hold his own in front of the television cameras.

Bloomberg has been a Republican and has been a Democrat. I believe he is currently considered an independent. He would be a great asset to Hillary and a sensational, outside-the-box choice for vice president.

"Hillary and Mike" has a winning sound to it!

Edward Marcus is former chairman of the Democrat State Central Committee in Connecticut, former state Senate majority leader, and principal of Branford-based Marcus Law Firm. He can be reached at 203-481-3330.

Editor's note: This column has been corrected to name the right city where U.S. Sen. Cory Booker served as mayor. He is a former mayor of Newark, N.J.