

## Who can beat Trump? More Democrats join the race

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(by Yaron Steinbuch, New York Post) – **Deval Patrick**, the former two-term Democratic governor of Massachusetts, announced Thursday that he will join the 2020 presidential race, injecting a new layer of uncertainty into the contest less than three months before the first [[Democratic primary election](#)].

The 63-year-old, who served as governor from 2007 to 2015, was most recently a managing director at Bain Capital, a private equity firm, and served as a CBS News contributor since September [until his announcement this week]. ...

Patrick, a former federal prosecutor with close ties to Barack Obama, said last December that he would not seek the presidency, citing the potential strain on his family, according to CBS.

In addition to Patrick, **former NYC Mayor Michael Bloomberg** [a life-long Democrat who ran and was elected in NYC as a Republican, but then became an Independent and is now running as a Democrat] has taken steps toward launching a last-minute White House run, filing candidate papers in Alabama and Arkansas.

Even 2016 nominee **Hillary Clinton** this week said in a BBC interview that she was “under enormous pressure from many, many, many people to think about it,” adding that she has no such plans but still would “never, never, never say never.”



Potential Democrat candidates Hillary Clinton,  
Michael Bloomberg, Deval Patrick

The moves reflect uncertainty about the direction of the Democratic contest with no commanding front-runner.

**Joe Biden**, who entered the race as the presumptive favorite, maintains significant support from white moderates and black voters, whose backing is critical in a Democratic primary.

But he's facing challenges from Patrick's home-state senator, **Elizabeth Warren**, and **Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders**, progressives [Sanders is a “Democratic-Socialist”] whose calls for fundamental economic change have rattled moderate

Democrats and wealthy donors.

Patrick could present himself as a possible bridge across the moderate, liberal and progressive factions — as candidates like Mayor Pete Buttigieg, Sen. Kamala Harris and Sen. Cory Booker are trying to do.

But he faces serious hurdles to raise vast amounts of money quickly and to build an organization in the traditional early-voting states that most of his rivals have focused on for the past year.

And he'll have to pivot to the expensive and logistically daunting **Super Tuesday** contests, when voters in more than 12 states and territories head to the polls. [**Super Tuesday** refers to the Tuesday in a presidential election year when the largest number of states and territories hold a presidential preference primary or caucus. In 2020, Super Tuesday will be held on March 3 – from [ballotpedia](#)]

Bloomberg's team has said they will skip the early states of Iowa, New Hampshire, Nevada and South Carolina to focus on the Super Tuesday roster.

As the first black governor of Massachusetts and only the country's second elected black governor since Reconstruction, Patrick also could run as a historic boundary breaker trying to dent Biden's support among African Americans.

Patrick has remained active in politics since his term as governor ended in 2015.

During the 2018 midterm elections, he traveled across the US in support of Democratic candidates, raising his national profile.

“He's a dynamic speaker,” Texas Democratic Chairman Gilberto Hinojosa said, recalling Patrick headlining a Texas Democratic fundraiser ahead of the midterms. “But that's the last we've heard from him.”

Patrick also campaigned for Doug Jones during Alabama's contentious 2017 special election for US Senate.

Last year, some of his supporters and close advisers launched the Reason to Believe political action committee, "a grassroots organization dedicated to advancing a positive, progressive vision for our nation in 2018 and 2020."

By December, though, Patrick cooled to the idea of a presidential run.

"After a lot of conversation, reflection and prayer, I've decided that a 2020 campaign for president is not for me," Patrick posted on his Facebook page at the time.

Patrick said he and his wife worried that the "cruelty of our elections process would ultimately splash back on people whom Diane and I love, but who hadn't signed up for the journey."

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