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[21:00:00] BARACK OBAMA, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES: I'll be honest, I have had to bite my tongue after a lot of the nonsense I've heard people say about Hillary in this election. I can only imagine what Bill and Chelsea been going through.

The vicious, crazy attacks, the double standards applied to her, they're nothing we've ever seen before. And what makes it worse is that most of the people saying this stuff, they don't really believe it. They know better.

Don't forget, when Hillary was a senator, when she was my secretary of state, she was really popular. People saw how effective she was. How she crossed party lines to get things done.

Before she announced her candidacy for president, Republican leaders described her, and I'm quoting now, as very impressive, someone who does a magnificent job, one of the most effective secretaries of state. Well, they were right then. I agreed with Republicans then. Hillary did a great job for America. She's a big reason why we're more respected around the world. But then, when it was politically expedient, those same Republicans began tearing her down.

And look, when you're subjected to unrelenting negative fire, it takes a toll. But here's the thing about Hillary, she doesn't complain, she doesn't buckle, she brushes it off. Like the American people, she is strong and tough. And she knows that government service is not about her, it's about you, your struggles, your dreams.

Throughout her career, Hillary has followed that Methodist creed her mom taught her. Do all the good you can for all the people you can in all the ways you can, for as long as you can. And she doesn't plan on stopping now. And that's how I know she will work her heart out for you.

For everybody who's still in need of a good job or a raise, for every child who needs a sturdier ladder out of poverty, for every student who needs relief from student debt, every **immigrant** who wants to contribute to this country they love, for every American who has not yet felt the progress of this past eight years, she will work and she will deliver. She won't just tweet. But she will need your help and she'll need help in Washington.

If you want Hillary to continue the progress we've made, you need to give her allies in the Senate like Katie McGinty.

You cannot -- there she is right there. You cannot just stick Hillary with Republicans in Congress who are already promising even more unprecedented dysfunction in Washington. That would be hard to do, but they're promising it. More shut downs, more obstructions, years of hearings and investigations.

You know, gridlock is not mysterious. It's not something that happens because both sides are being equally unreasonable. It has been a stated Republican strategy since I took office. And the only way to break it is to make those who engage in it pay a price by electing more Democrats tomorrow.

Look at Katie McGinty's opponent, Pat Toomey. Don't boo. Vote. I've given them credit for working with us on background checks, that 90 percent of Americans support. But you know, that position rings hollow when he supports a Republican leader, who blocked that bill. And it doesn't come close to making up for his repeated votes to give tax cuts to the wealthy, just like Donald Trump would. To block a higher minimum wage, just like Donald Trump would. To repeal the Affordable Care Act, just like Donald Trump would.

We do not need a Trump/Toomey economy. We need someone who's never forgotten her working class roots, the daughter of a restaurant hostess and a Philadelphia beat cop, somebody who went to college with the help of scholarships and student loans. Katie McGinty won't just be with you part of the way, she'll be with you all of the way and that's why you've got to vote for her.

Katie.

AUDIENCE: Katie! Katie! Katie!

[21:05:03] OBAMA: Pennsylvania, if you think endless gridlock will help your family, you should vote Republicans, but if you believe America can do better than that, if you care about creating jobs that families can live on and child care they can afford, if you care about equal pay for women and a higher minimum wage for workers, you need to vote for Democrats up and down the ticket. People like Hillary, people like Katie McGinty, people who will roll up their sleeves and move America forward.

Listen, I know we live in a cynical time and I know elections and all the negative ads tend to heighten that cynicism.

Just last week, a journalist asked me if I still believe the optimism I expressed that night back in Boston 12 years ago, that we were more than a collection of red and blue states, that there wasn't a liberal America or a conservative America, a black America or a white America, there was just the United States of America.

He asked me if I still held on to the hope of 2008, if I still believe in change. After all, he said, the country is so divided. Hillary's in such a close race with someone who stands in total opposition for all that you've ever stood for. Maybe your vision was misguided, he suggested, or at least very naive. And it was a fair question. I had to acknowledge that I hadn't fully accounted on the instruction we'd see when I first came into office and had to save the economy. I didn't anticipate the way social media would magnify our divisions and muddy up facts. Not of us knew then how deep the great recession would cut and how many people would suffer and how it would make so many people anxious about their futures and their kids' futures, even after the economy recovered.

But despite all of that, I told him, the answer is yes. I still believe in hope. I'm still as optimistic as ever about our future and that's because of you. The American people.

In my visits to schools and factories, war theaters, national parks, and the letters you've written me and the tears you've shed over a lost loved one, I have seen again and again your goodness and your strength and your heart.

In 2008, you gave me a chance, a skinny guy with a funny name. And for these past eight years, I saw how hard you worked in the face of impossible odds. I saw the values you teach your children. I saw the way you treat strangers in need. I've seen the young men and women in uniform who meet every mission, and the military families who serve and sacrifice just as well, and the wounded warriors who never, ever quit.

You bet on me all those years ago, and I will always be grateful for the privilege you gave me to serve. But I'll be honest with you. I've always had the better odds, because I've always bet on you. And America, I'm betting on you one more time. I'm betting that tomorrow, most mom and dads across America won't cast their vote for someone who denigrates their daughters from the highest office in the land. I'm betting that most Americans won't vote for someone who considers minorities and **immigrants** and people with disabilities as inferior. Who considers people who practice different faiths as objects of suspicion. I'm betting that tomorrow, true conservatives won't cast their vote for someone with no regard for the constitution. I'm betting that young people turn out to vote because your future is at stake. I'm betting that men across this country will have no problem voting for the more qualified candidate, who happens to be a woman. I'm betting that African-Americans will vote in big numbers, because this journey we've been on was never about the color of a president, but the content of his or her character. I'm betting that America will reject the politics of resentment and the politics of blame and choose a politics that says, we are stronger together. I am betting that tomorrow, you will reject fear, and you'll choose hope. I'm betting that the wisdom and decency and generosity of the American people will once again win the day. And that is a bet that I have never, ever lost.

[21:10:20] Philadelphia, in this place, where our founders forged the documents of freedom, in this place where they gave us the tools to perfect our union, if you share my faith, then I ask you to vote. If you want a president who shares our faith in America, who has lived that faith in America, who will finally shatter a glass ceiling and be a president for each and every one of us, then I am asking you to work as hard as you can this one last day to elect my, fellow Americans, this fighter, this stateswoman, this mother, this grandmother, this patriot, our next president of the United States of America, Hillary Clinton!

It's going to be permanently there for you.

HILLARY CLINTON, (D) PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE: Hello, Philadelphia! Oh, thank you! I am so grateful to be here tonight to spend this time with all of you here in this historic spot. And to all the volunteers, the activists, the union organizers of the hard hats I see in the audience tonight. Thank you for coming out for one last rally before Election Day tomorrow.

And personally, I am so happy to be finishing this campaign with my husband and my daughter by my side. We've been traveling across the country, separately, trying to cover as much ground as possible and talk to as many voters as we can, but I'm really glad that we're all together tonight in Philadelphia with you.

And how great was it to have Jon Bon Jovi and Bruce Springsteen with us?

But in addition to all of that, what is so special for me is that we have our amazing president and first lady with us, because for now nearly eight years, they have served our nation with grace, strength, brilliance, and a whole lot of cool and they have shown us again and again, as Michelle said, right here in Philadelphia, back at our convention, when others go low, we go high.

I'm pretty sure, as they said tonight, that the best way to thank them is to do something really important tomorrow, to vote. Every single one of you and every person you know, because as the president just pointed out, there is a clear choice in this election. A choice between division or unity, between an economy that works for everyone or only those at the top, between strong, steady leadership or a loose cannon who could put everything at risk. So make no mistakes, our core values, our being tested in this election.

We know enough about my opponent, we know who he is. The real question for us is what kind of country we want to be and what kind of future we want to build for our children.

I'm proud that I had the chance to serve in President Obama's cabinet. And I am proud that I could watch the extraordinary service of our first lady. And one thing I know is that like them, I love America and I know you do, too. We love this country. We love what it stands for, not that we are blind to its flaws, its problems, its challenges, but I believe with all my heart that America's best days are still ahead of us if we reach for them together.

We choose to believe in a hopeful, inclusive, big-hearted America. An America where everyone has a place, everyone's included, everyone has a chance to live up to their own God-given potential.

There have been so many memorable moments in this election for me, and most of them revolve around the people that I've had the privilege of meeting. And last night, in Manchester, New Hampshire, I had the honor to be introduced by Kaiser Khan, whose son, Captain Khan, was killed serving our country in Iraq. Just as he did here at our convention, Mr. Khan again reminded us of the responsibility we all share to protect and defend our constitution.

You remember the story of Captain Khan, the son of **immigrants**, himself, brought here as a young child, who grew up to join the United States Army. And on that fateful day, with his unit, he saw a suspicious car and he moved toward it to try to determine whether it was a danger or not, telling his men to stay back. The car was rigged, the bomb went off, and he died protecting his men. He was awarded the Bronze Star and the Purple Heart.

And what Mr. Khan said last night is something I want us all to remember. He said, after the many derogatory and insulting comments that we've heard from Donald Trump, would his son, would Captain Khan have a place in Donald Trump's America? That's an important question for all of us, because we don't want to shrink the vision of this great country. We want to keep expanding it, so that everyone, everyone has a place to pursue your dreams, your aspirations, the future that you want to create for yourselves and everyone else.

[21:20:02] Think about that when you go to the polls tomorrow, think about how throughout our history, generations of Americans just like us, have come together to meet the tests of their time.

And yes, as President Obama said, it started right here in Philadelphia. When representatives from 13 unruly colonies came together to launch the greatest experiment the world has ever seen. Our parents and grandparents defended that democracy. They built the great American middle class. They marched for civil rights and voting rights for workers' rights and women's rights, for LBGT rights and rights for people with disabilities.

And tomorrow, we face the test of our time. What will we vote for, not just against. What will we decide is on the ballot, because although my name and my opponent's name may be on the ballot, every issue you care about is on that ballot.

If you believe that America thrives when the middle class thrives, then you have to vote. If you believe all of our kids should have good schools and good teachers, no matter what zip code they live in, then you have to vote. If you believe college should be more affordable, you have to vote. If you believe we must reform our criminal justice system so everyone has respect for the law and everyone is respected by the law, you have to vote. If you believe we need to protect out kids and pass common sense gun safety reforms, you have to vote. If you believe we must raise the minimum wage and finally guarantee equal pay for women, then you need to vote.

Now, you know, every time I say that last part about equal pay for women, my opponent accuses me of playing the woman's card. Well, you know what I say? If that's playing the woman's card, then deal me in.

So it is not just my name or Donald Trump's name on the ballot tomorrow, every issue you care about is at stake. And that is just the beginning, because we have to bridge the divides in our country. I regret deeply how angry the tone of the campaign became.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Not your fault.

CLINTON: And by the way, did any of you see those debates? Well, I stood next to Donald Trump for four and a half hours proving conclusively I have the stamina to be president and commander in chief. But I have to say ...

AUDIENCE: Hillary! Hillary! Hillary!

CLINTON: I have to say that there were so many really troubling things that my opponent has said, but probably the most horrifying was at the end of the last debate, after he has insulted everyone, more than half the population, by the way, **immigrants**, African-Americans, Latinos, POWs, Muslims, women, he then launches an attack on our democracy, refusing to say whether or not he would accept the outcome of the election. Well, let's show tomorrow there will be no question about the outcome of this election.

[21:25:14] But I also want you to know, I will be a president for all Americans. Democrats, Republicans, independents, not just the people who support me in this election, everyone, because I believe we all have a role to play in building a better, fairer, stronger America. Building on the progress that we have enjoyed under President Barack Obama over the last eight years.

I am not going to let anybody rip away the progress we've made and turn the clock back, sending us back in time where people are free to question the foundation of our country, what our founders here did, you know, they did not agree on everything, in case you haven't remembered. There were lots of contentious arguments, but they saw a higher purpose and they came together. That's what I want us to do and we can take the first step tomorrow. Please, make a plan to vote.

Pennsylvania, it all happens tomorrow. If you text the word plan, P- L-A-N to 47246, we will walk you through where to vote, when to vote, how to get there. You can do that right now. And please tell your friends, your family, your neighbors. And you can go to iwillvote.com and get all the information you need.

Every person who lives in Philadelphia lives within five blocks of your polling place, that's it, just five blocks. And the polls open at 7:00 a.m. and they close at 8:00 p.m. And remember, if you're in line at 8:00 p.m., they have to let you vote.

And so we need your help. In these last hours, we need your help, knocking on doors and making phone calls, helping to turn people out, maybe helping people who need assistance to get to the polls. You can still volunteer by going to hillaryclinton.com, because none of us want, none of us want to wake up on Wednesday morning and wish we had done more.

Years from today when your kids and grandkids ask what you did in 2016, when everything was on the line, I want you to be able to say that you did vote, you voted for an inclusive, big-hearted, open- minded country, future, that will make sure that we all keep moving together, because I do believe we are stronger together.

And you voted for an America where we build bridges, not walls. And maybe most importantly, you voted in great numbers to demonstrate conclusively, once and for all, that, yes, love the trumps hate.

Let's get out and vote, Philadelphia, tomorrow. Let's make history together. Thank you and God bless you!

ANDERSON COOPER, CNN ANCHOR: Hillary Clinton tonight making the final pitch in battleground states.

I want to get some quick reaction from the panel. We have a full panel tonight. I also want to bring you comments Donald Trump is making. We're going to bring you that to you as soon as we get it.

David Axelrod, I mean, we heard from Michelle Obama, we heard from President Obama and now we see them all coming back on stage together.

DAVID AXELROD, FORMER OBAMA SENIOR ADVISER: Yeah. Well, I heard that -- I read that they cancelled a planned fireworks display on the Hudson River tomorrow night and apparently they decided to have their fireworks display tonight. They fired up all of their biggest guns here and it speaks to the importance of Pennsylvania.

You know, I think I understand that if they block him here that that's one more wall that he can't -- that he can't climb.

[21:30:01] COOPER: And let's watch and listen to this moment.

The history of this moment, the former president of the United States, the current president of the United States, potentially, the next president of the United States, the first lady, her daughter, I mean, so much American history on that stage.

JOHN KING, CNN CHIEF NATIONAL CORRESPONDENT: Torch passing on the Democratic Party. President Obama passing the torch to Hillary Clinton, and then making reference to the Bill Clinton economy. Sixteen years ago, Bill Clinton left the White House, but think about the history there, when you talk about the Bushes in the past, the Bush dynasty, if you will.

Sixteen years after Clinton left the White House, there's a possibility of Clinton gets elected to the White House tomorrow. But it's interesting you have the two presidents there and you have the candidate there, and you have the woman, Michelle Obama, who has been, I think, the breakout star surrogate.

AXELROD: What about this tableau, you know, for all these -- for these centuries of American history, we've had 43 presidents, all white men, and on that stage, you have the first African-American president and potentially the first woman president. Pretty extraordinary.

DANA BASH, CNN CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT: And we've gotten so used to President Obama being our president, because he has been for, you know, the past eight years that you, you know, it's important, I mean, you will never, never forget the moment, obviously, when you got him elected for the first time. But it's important to take a step back and remember that. That this is the first African-American president and, you know, no matter what your politics, the fact that it is possible that she could make history tomorrow night.

COOPER: And Jon Bon Jovi. Just pointing that out in case you're wondering who that was.

VAN JONES, FORMER OBAMA ADMINISTRATOR OFFICIAL: But for me, like -- I still don't get used to it. I mean, when you came out, you know, Michelle, you know, it's still very emotional, I think, for a lot of people.

And you remember eight years ago, you know, my kids were little and he walked out there with Michelle and his kids were little and we were sitting there and everybody was crying, because 400 years. You know, 400 years. And my father had just passed away. And you know, I just wished that he could have been there to see it. The last thing that my father saw and smiled was seeing Barack Obama runs for president. And so it's -- I'm not used to it yet. I'm not used to it.

JEFFREY LORD, TRUMP SUPPORTER: I think one of the -- speaking of this tableau. One of the things that I think hits home tonight when people see this in places like Pennsylvania, Western Pennsylvania, Central Pennsylvania, they see not the things you're seeing, they see a collection of political insiders. And, in this year of rebellion against this, it's very interesting, Bruce Springsteen's line here, we've got one last chance to make it real in "thunder road". And of course, a variation of that is what Donald Trumps has been saying in these last few days. We've got one last chance to get this country back on the right track.

KAYLEIGH MCENANY, TRUMP SUPPORTER: It does seem a bit tone deaf when you hear President Obama up there touting the progress we've made with ObamCare, you know, weeks after wee learned that premiums are going to go up by 120 percent in some places, touting the economic recovery when we know 24 million working age people are not in the labor force. So it's worth mentioning the historic moment, Van, absolutely ...

JONES: Yes. I agree with that. Yup.

MCENANY: But that aside, there are a lot of Americans hurting out there and they want change and they want to take the city back for the people.

JONES: Did you use the word tone deaf? I mean, I'm sorry.

PAUL BEGALA, CNN POLITICAL COMMENTATOR: For instance (ph) about the presidency, is that the more optimistic candidate wins. Watch Hillary Clinton tonight, watch that tableau with her husband, with the current president, with the first lady, and then let's watch Donald Trump, we saw Governor Pence a minute ago, who's the more optimistic candidate?

(CROSSTALK)

MCENANY: But we're talking about ... COOPER: To that point, actually, we're going to take a break and get Donald Trump speaking in New Hampshire. We'll be right back.

DONALD TRUMP, (R) PRESIDENTIAL NOMINEE: Think of this. I started on June 16th. A long time ago, from way back. Can you imagine this? And now I can say, you have one day but it's no longer one day. It's like, just, like, tomorrow morning.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

[21:38:18] COOPER: Donald Trump just wrapping up an appearance in New Hampshire. He has yet another event even later tonight in Michigan. Trump, as you know, likes to point to polls when he's ahead and the rigged system when he's not. He also says that whatever the polls say, the country should get ready for the kind of surprise Great Britain had when voters chose to leave the European Union, what became known as Brexit.

Let's talk to the panel. I mean, what about that possibility, that there is -- I mean, everybody, you know, the polls in England showed, you know, didn't -- people were surprised by the Brexit result.

AXELROD: Yeah, one thing, there's a difference in polling here ...

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Yeah.

AXELROD: ... and in Britain, there's a lot more data available to pollsters here to enrich polling. Secondly, we've got early vote, which is another in the kitchen. Thirdly, we're voting for candidates here and not simply on ...

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: That was a referendum.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Right. It was ...

AXELROD: So, on a referendum. So there are many differences. Obviously, that's in the air and people are going to be wondering about that. That's good. They'll participate. They'll watch the results and so on. But there's nothing in the data, so far, that would suggest -- any -- there's much more polling on this than there was on Brexit.

I just -- yeah, go ahead.

JONES: But, I mean, I think, you know, the fear of -- your hope, my fear, you know, your joy, my terror is that ...

AXELROD: Is that poem? Are you making a poem?

(CROSSTALK)

BEGALA: Country music too.

JONES: But I -- there are a lot of people -- the data is only as good as the polling sample. And I do think that there are a lot of people who are off the grid, both for Trump and against Trump, who may come pouring in.

[21:40:05] And so if you're going with likely voters, I think you have a -- you may have some first-time white voters of this.

MCENANY: I do think there is ...

AXELROD: This is one of the problems with public polling, because it's done random digit dialing. But the campaigns are doing more sophisticated polling off a voter list ...

BASH: Right.

AXELROD: ... where they have vote history, so they know who likely voters are. And it makes a difference. We had a big gap in 2012 between the public polls, which had the race even, and Obama's polling, which had the race at a four-point ...

BASH: But your modeling turned out to be right.

COOPER: I hate to add in some facts and data, but actually let's get John King who actually is at the magic wall with some information on the polling and then we can continue the discussion. John?

KING: Guys are having way too much fun. Why do you want facts and data? I just want to hear the rest of Van's poem.

Let me show you something, to David's point about a lot of data, this is our CNN Poll of Polls, the averaging of the five most recent national polls. So heading into the election, the night before Hillary Clinton leads by four points, 46 percent to 42 percent. This is a lot of data rolled into this.

Now, this is our CNN Poll of Polls. If you go to Real Clear Politics site, which does this all the time, in their poll of polls, they're averaging, for 98 straight days, Hillary Clinton has been on top of this race. There been one or two or three national polls showing Donald Trump ahead from time to time, individual polls have shown that. But when you've average them all in, five polls at a time, for 98 days, she has led the race. That's why a lot of people, the technical people, the people that do this for a living say it's not a Brexit situation. But that's what Donald Trump is counting on 46-42 in the national polls.

I just want to show you because we pick presidents by state, here a lot of the states getting attention today on this final day, this battleground state. And when you look at this, you say, OK, it's plus two on average in North Carolina. That's within striking distance, right? That's a turnout election. It's tied in Florida, 29 electoral votes. The best candidate will win tomorrow. Pennsylvania's five. That's where it gets a little harder. You're just on the outside of the margin there, is that possible? You know, that's Jeffrey state and he'll tell you he's expecting to defy the polls by having this giant upswing in blue collar turnout. Can it happen? Yes. Five points, that's hard. It's hard to bend an averaging of so many polls. That's just not one poll, it's an averaging of polls. That's what we're going to test tomorrow. New Hampshire is three. You see Donald Trump up there tonight because he wants those four electoral votes.

Again, this is a bunch of polls averaged out. Can you -- can a ground operation beat a three-point deficit? Yes. One of the big questions, especially when you go through each of these states, in some states, the Republican operation is better than in other states. But that's the big question tomorrow. If you're behind in the polls, you can defy them with a great operation. Donald Trump in many of these places is just counting on it being this huge, come out of the woodwork.

COOPER: Hey, John, tomorrow, just for viewers at home, I mean, when do you think we'll start to get real numbers, start to get a sense of what's actually going on?

KING: I want to go to the 2012 map when you ask this question. Number one, the polls close first in the east obviously. Some states at 7:00. We start to get some data at 6:00, from some states to different time zones, they close their polls earlier.

So, there's a few things we'll look at. One of the states I'm going to look at early on is actually the state of Virginia, because a lot of people think that Clinton will win the state of Virginia. The Trump campaign thinks it's surging at the end. But it's a state where Clinton has been consistently ahead. In the end, it's a new poll today, six points. It's been in that ballpark late in the campaign it was larger. But the reason I'm going to look at it, number one, you do have -- you see all these red areas out here? You have a lot of white working class voters, white rural voters. We'll see if the turnout in these areas is higher than it was in a pretty close Obama/Romney race.

So, even if we think Clinton is winning Virginia, we'll learn a lot about conservative Republican rural turnout. Plus, if Donald Trump is to win this race, if he's going to surprise us and come back, guess what, he's going to have to do better in the suburbs than Mitt Romney did.

And so you have the Northern Virginia suburbs here just outside of Washington, very telling. The ones close in and then as you move further out 20, 30, 40 miles away, places like here, here, you come to Prince Williams County, used to be a Republican swing county in Virginia. President Obama won it, look at that, 57-41. This has been the biggest change in American politics over the last 25 years.

Democrats taking the suburbs away from Republicans. If Donald Trump's going to win tomorrow night, we'll start to see this. Again, even he loses Virginia, if it's closer than we thought, then that bodes well for Donald Trump when you go to North Carolina, when you move on to the suburban areas of Florida, when you get to Pennsylvania, which tends to count a little slower, and when you get out to Ohio the suburbs around Cleveland, the suburbs around the Columbus.

COOPER: All right, John, come on back to the table. We'll continue the discussion with the panel. Van, what are you going to be looking at tomorrow?

JONES: You know, I'm just obsessed with this millennial vote, especially the blacks and Latinos, because they have had a hard time warming up to Hillary Clinton.

You know, there's two things. One is, you know, the heartburn from the Sanders' enthusiasts, but also around this concern about criminal justice and she was on the wrong side, et cetera.

But what I've been so excited about is some of the younger organizers have been able to found a way to break through. And part of it is talking about these local elections for district attorney, that these local D.A. races in Florida and Ohio, they've been able to get young people excited about that.

[21:45:02] Hey, listen, the prosecutor never prosecutes the cop, always prosecutes your cousin. Let's get better prosecutors in there. And that's been an effective, in this past week, effective way of getting people over the hump and a group called color of change, which I had a role in back when I was young, has really figured this out. They've using textathons (ph). I mean, they're doing all kind of creative stuff to overcome this. I'm just going to be really looking at those numbers to see if they were able to be effective.

COOPER: Jeffrey?

LORD: Well -- yeah. When you look at this rally tonight in Philadelphia, John is right here, when you were earlier citing some statistics from Philadelphia in 2008 in terms of the Romney vote, et cetera. I look at this -- that rally and I see people trying to prop her up, essentially, that the enthusiasm for her is not there.

And so the question that's going to translate in terms of Philadelphia is, how many people do they get out? Because if the rest of the state is, as I think it might be, surging, the only way to defeat that is to have a huge massive turnout along the lines that you were suggesting in 2012 for President Obama. I don't see that there. And that's why they're on the stage with all the glitz they can put in there to get this juiced up. The question is, have they succeeded?

MCENANY: And I also think something to look at, you know, when we talk about this Brexit effect, what does it look like? One of the most interesting facts I read today was on cnn.com that in North Carolina, there's a 42 percent surge on independent voters. That is striking.

Independent voters, we know, are breaking for Donald Trump in most national polls to the tune of 12 to 15 percent. They broke for Romney by 5 percent. I think if we see a Brexit effect, it's going to come in this swing of independents. We know 1.2 million unaffiliated voters turned out in Florida.

If we see a Brexit effect, it's going to come with the independents. And if they turned out big, it's bad news for Hillary Clinton. AXELROD: And actually not true that independents are breaking by those numbers. In fact, in the Wall Street Journal poll, Hillary Clinton was winning among independents in some other polls that just came out in the last few days. It was a few points in Trump's favor.

Mitt Romney won independents by 5 percent last time. So Romney would have to do a lot better with independents than these polls are showing.

COOPER: To Trump, Trump.

AXELROD: I mean, Trump.

(CROSSTALK)

COOPER: Paul?

BEGALA: What you're looking at is two campaigns are closing the way they want to. You know, this is not advisers or folks (inaudible). Hillary began this race with a message of "stronger together." That's what she really believes in. That tableau that I know Jeffrey thinks is propping her up, that's what she believes in.

She believes in men and women and African-American, Latinos and white, so she believes in that, in that tableau that she's got on that stage there. And that's -- so in her closing ad, she says, is America dark and divisive or hopeful and inclusive? I want to be a president for all Americans, not just those who support me. I want a stronger, fairer America. That is Hillary's closing argument.

Mr. Trump's closing argument is, our movement is about replacing a failed, corrupt, political establishment, special interest and he has pictures of George Soros, and Janet Yellen, and Lloyd Blankfein, which is a very dark and horrific and has been criticized by Dana Milbank in the "Washington Post" as anti-Semitic. That -- just for Mr. Milbank thinks. That is how Mr. Trump wants to go out in this campaign.

COOPER: We're going to take a quick break. We'll continue with the panel. We'll be right back.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

[21:52:08] COOPER: We've seen (inaudible) tonight over the last two hours. It is not over yet. Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump both holding more campaign events. Secretary Clinton would been rolling North Carolina, Donald Trump in Grand Rapids, Michigan, stay tune for that. Both making their final, final closing arguments. Whatever else happens tomorrow, this election will make history for all the votes that have already been cast.

Record early voting nationally, and a real eye-opener in Florida, CNN Politics executive editor Mark Preston is here to break it all the down. He joins us now.

So hours away from Election Day, getting some last minute data, early voted data, what is it show especially in Florida? MARK PRESTON, EXECUTIVE EDITOR, CNN POLITICS: Well, Anderson, no doubt I have some numbers for the panel to argue over after we get through this. More than 40 million in 39 states right now have cast early ballots. Of course, you know at midnight we'll see ballots cast in Dixville Notch, will be the first official votes that we will actually see.

But as you said let's look at the state of Florida right now, what John King likes to call the Latino effect right now. More than 6.4 million people have actually cast votes in Florida. And who has the lead? Democrats have the lead but they only have the lead by 2 percentage points. Why that's interesting is that if you go back to 2008, a year of most comparable data, they had a lead by a little more than 4 percentage points of the overall early ballots cast. That's very important.

Let us go into the demographics of the Florida race right now and who is casting ballots right now. If you look at right here, of course, the white vote is always going to be on top. We're looking at a little more than about a million extra votes right now that we've seen cast from 2008 to 2016 among white voters. The African-American voters, we're looking at about 90,000 more ballots cast in this election. But this is the column right here, this is when John talks about the Latino effect.

You are looking at 429,000 more Latinos have cast ballots early in 2016 than in 2008. And again, that is a concerted effort by the Democratic Party to try to get out the early vote. Twenty-nine electoral votes in Florida are alone, Anderson. You know, Barack Obama only won Florida by less than 1 percent in 2012.

COOPER: What about Colorado?

PRESTON: Yeah. So, a state that we have seen a lot of interesting, certainly, this past week, it's in Old Mill Inn vote state. But let's take a look at Colorado right here. We do not have demographic information when it comes to Colorado. We do know that 1.8 million people have already voted so far in the early vote in Colorado.

And in the lead right now, the Republican Party has a 7,000 ballot advantage over Democrats which you would think is pretty good but quite frankly, they had a 31,000 ballot advantage over Democrats when you look at 2012.

Now, what's interesting about Colorado is that when you look at the population of Colorado, 21.3 percent of the population is Hispanic, and while the state doesn't actually give us demographic information on who the voters are, you would have to think that Democrats were able to cut into the Republican lead because of the strength of the Hispanic vote.

[21:55:07] If you go back to 2012, Barack Obama won Colorado by 5.4 percent. Back in 2008, he won it by 9 percent. So, nine electoral votes right now on the CNN map, Anderson. Colorado leads Democrat. Florida we looked at it before right now, straight out battleground. Anderson? COOPER: Yeah, a lot to watch for tomorrow. Mark Preston, thanks very much.

Back with the panel in this closing final minutes. Nia, just in terms of what you're looking at tomorrow?

NIA-MALIKA HENDERSON, CNN SENIOR POLITICAL REPORTER: Yeah. I'm interested in whatever the new coalitions are. We heard so much about the Obama coalition, the Clinton campaign insists there's a new Hillary coalition. In some of the early numbers in the states suggest that the strength of not only this Latino vote, but also Asian- American voters in some of these states. Florida is up 86 percent over 2008. In terms of the Asian turnout in North Carolina is up 60 percent. And even Georgia 167 percent from 2008 to 2016.

So I think we're going to see something tomorrow that looks different than what we've seen in terms of elections, in terms of the coalitions that we've focused on. I think it's also going to be important to see how well Hillary Clinton needs to do with the white vote in some of these states in North Carolina.

Last time Obama didn't do so well with the white vote. That was really why he lost. Typically, you've got to get like 40 percent of the white vote if you're -- the Democrat is -- if Hillary Clinton able to need that nationally and in some of the states.

BASH: Whether she not need it.

HENDERSON: Yeah, or -- exactly. Yeah.

AXELROD: This message of inclusiveness that Paul talked about and the scene that you talked about Jeffrey, is meaningful to some of these suburban voters and particularly suburban women, where Hillary Clinton has been doing well. And that's something to watch tomorrow night. Does she make inroads with that suburban vote to offset some of the games that Donald Trump has made among non-college educated whites.

BASH: And can I just say that we were talking before the break about kind of how these candidates are ending the campaign. As we were watching Hillary Clinton and others, Donald Trump was speaking in New Hampshire. And part of what he said there was talking about Elizabeth Warren, the senator from Massachusetts, reverting to calling her Pocahontas.

And to me that says, somebody who has watched him -- and we all have, but I've, you know, really studied his candidacy over the past year and a half, the ups and downs, that he's fallen off the discipline wagon. And perhaps it's because he doesn't think it's going to happen.

Now, I've been texting as we've been speaking with some people who are with him saying, oh no, that's not true. He's been confident yet humble. Maybe that's true. But the fact that he is lashing out -- there's no way that was in the teleprompter. I mean, no way.

COOPER: Well, we haven't heard that particular line for quite a while.

BASH: Exactly. And that, to me, that's kind of telling.

COOPER: Although, Hillary Clinton was sort of bringing back her greatest hits.

HENDERSON: Yeah. Oh absolutely.

BASH: Yeah. No question. No question. But this is -- this ...

COOPER: It's a different story (ph).

HENDERSON: It's a different -- right. And I think it goes to show that initial speech when he talked about Mexican **immigrants** as rapists, that in some ways could be the defining moment of his campaign, and one of the reasons why he might lose tomorrow because he's **alienating** so many different groups.

(CROSSTALK)

COOPER: John?

KING: I was going to say always like an election need to step back and like not get too deep into the polls and just let people vote. This is a sacred process, let's finish it. But I do think we're going to have the most challenging presidential transition at least of my lifetime.

HENDERSON: Yes.

KING: We have record divides whether it's on racial divide, gender divide, education divide. You have both campaigns who don't think the other candidate is legitimate. Then you have all this talk about the rigged system, you've an undermining, I think, questions about the democracy.

Whoever wins this election, including who's going to come to meet with the current president. If you imagine a Donald Trump as president elect meeting with Barack Obama in the Oval Office on a Thursday. But whoever wins, I think is going to have -- it's not just about picking a cabinet between then and inauguration trying to heal the country's ...

AXELROD: This is why tomorrow night matters.

COOPER: Right.

AXELROD: How both these candidates behave matters tomorrow night.

COOPER: Right, and what happens after. I want to thank everybody.

A reminder in this presidential election eve, tune in to CNN tomorrow -- oh, we have a minute left. I want to give you close ...

(CROSSTALK)

COOPER: Yeah.

LORD: I would just say no more turn out in the story here.

JONES: Right.

LORD: But when every story ends, as you certainly know in television, a new story begins. So, we are going to reach the end of this story of the 2016 campaign tomorrow night. And the minute somebody is declared the winner, the new story begins. What is it? What is the situation for the Republican Party?

COOPER: You just didn't like the CNN promo.

(CROSSTALK)

AXELROD: So does your campaign. So we'll be back here Thursday night talking about campaign 2016.

HENDERSON: Yes.

BASH: Bite your tongue.

COOPER: All right. We are going to go now. We going to -- be sure to stay tune to "CNN Tonight'. We brought you Hillary Clinton's speech live in this hour. Donald Trump as we said will be speaking surely in Grand Rapids, Michigan. The event scheduled for 11:00 Eastern. When it happens, you can see it right here.

[22:00:04] That does it for us. Thanks for watching. Time now for "CNN TONIGHT" with Don Lemon.

News; Domestic

**NEW\_DOCUMENT\_HERE**

Anderson Cooper, John King, Michael Smerconish, David Axelrod, Gloria Borger, Kayleigh McEnany, Jeffrey Lord, Begala, Van Jones, Michelle Kosinski, Brianna Keilar, Sara Murray

8444 speakers\_end

[20:00:12] ANDERSON COOPER, CNN ANCHOR: And good evening. Thanks for joining us.

Tonight, two hours of last-minute jockeying after nearly a year and a half of just about everything imaginable and unimaginable as well. Yes, the most unusual, most unprecedented, unlikeliest, unruliest presidential campaign ever is almost history.

At the moment, though, it's still going on and it will be well into the 11th hour tonight and probably beyond. Bon Jovi's playing now at the Clinton/Obama Bruce Springsteen rally site outside Philadelphia's Independence Hall.

Hillary Clinton arrived just a few moments ago. She and the Obamas due at the event very shortly. We'll bring you that.

Both candidates holding late events during our program and two more right around midnight or even later. We'll listen to both.

And all day, the candidates and surrogates and supporters have been hitting the battlegrounds, nearly two dozen rallies. Mike pence, Ivanka Trump, Bill Clinton, Al Gore, President Obama and more.

On top of that, new early voting numbers are in, and some are simply huge. Most people have now voted early in Florida than voted there total back in 2000. More people there. Some of the last national polls are coming in as well. Our newest CNN poll of polls now showing Hillary Clinton with a four-point lead. There's that. There's the last-minute maneuvering.

President Obama's final campaign, possibly the first woman president, possibly in Donald Trump, the most unconventional.

Any one of those story lines would be enough on any other election eve. Tonight, we've got all of the above and more.

Let's start with the state by state road to the White House. CNN "INSIDE POLITICS" anchor John King.

Both on the hunt for 270, including a heavy emphasis on Pennsylvania. Can Trump make a comeback? Can he reach the presidency without it?

JOHN KING, CNN "INSIDE POLITICS" ANCHOR: Anderson, just think about it, this time tomorrow, we'll be filling in the map, the red and the blue, we'll be counting the votes. Can Donald Trump win without Pennsylvania? Yes. Is it conceivable, though? Not really. Which is why Pennsylvania is getting so much attention.

And as we show the state, let's go back in time to 2012, 52-47. This is a state Republicans in every presidential election think we're going to get and they fall short. Donald Trump thinks he can make the difference if one of the reasons, he's campaigning in Scranton today, Lackawanna County.

Look at this, President Obama won it in 2012 with 63 percent of the vote. This is a key test tomorrow r night. Watch this county. Is Hillary Clinton getting around 60 percent? If so, she's probably on her way to a Pennsylvania victory. If not, Donald Trump is making those inroads we've been talking about with white working class voters. It's a key test.

Hillary Clinton, you mentioned, in the state, she's in Philadelphia right now, but she started the day out here, Allegheny County. Why? Again, 10 percent of the state out here, it is surrounded by red. Donald Trump will run it up in all these red areas especially the "T" in the center of the state as they call it.

Hillary Clinton needs to pad the vote in Allegheny County, and where she is tonight is absolutely critical in Center City Philadelphia, in the suburbs around it, 20 electoral votes in Pennsylvania for the Democrats to get them, they need a huge turnout in Philadelphia, they need to win the suburbs.

Anderson, the Rust Belt is key to Donald Trump's strategy. That's why the last night tug of war tonight.

COOPER: And Michigan is also obviously getting a lot of attention in the final day. Where does it factor in?

KING: Michigan has become a late target for Donald Trump. Early in the campaign, they said they would get it and then ignored it for a while. But they're back to Michigan again.

This is the 2012 map. And again, it's a state President Obama won quite comfortably by nine points. So, can Donald Trump turn it? Hasn't voted Republican for president 1988.

Both Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton focusing on Grand Rapids. Donald Trump will be there later tonight. About 6 percent of the population, out in the western Republican part of the state.

So, why is Hillary Clinton out that way? To keep the margins like this. If you can keep the margins close in the suburbs out here, you have a chance. You run it up in Detroit, but you got to keep the margins close here.

Michigan, 16 electoral votes, Donald Trump, you know, one of the reasons, Anderson, they're pushing so hard toward at the end, they're a little nervous, they might not get North Carolina. So, it's an even trade, essentially. Sixteen in Michigan, 15 in North Carolina.

COOPER: So, as final day or the full day comes to an end, let's look at the electoral map, what do we know?

KING: Let's go. And there's two very competing theories about this as we do this. Let's bring up the electoral map. This is where we have it on the final night. Hillary Clinton at 268. Donald Trump at 204.

And even most Republicans out in Nevada will tell you, they think because of early voting, that one's going do go blue. So, at this point, if you look at map, Hillary Clinton already across the finish line at 274. There are some Democrats, including sitting at the table with you tonight who think this could play out like this.

Donald Trump gets Arizona, but some Democrats think Hillary Clinton could actually run the board here in the east, small and large. Win Florida, North Carolina, New Hampshire. And end up in the ballpark of 322.

Now, this map does not include the congressional district in Nebraska and one in Maine. They count them by congressional, electoral vote. We haven't located those. But a lot of Democrats think Hillary Clinton could run the board and get into the 230s.

But here's Donald Trump's best-case scenario. Maybe she does win Nevada but he takes Arizona, he wants to take Florida, he wants to take North Carolina. If he does that, then any one of these blues, either Pennsylvania or Michigan, will get him over the top.

Here's the fallback scenario. This is why we're talking about these states today. Let's say Clinton gets North Carolina, for Donald Trump to win, he needs Pennsylvania, he needs Michigan.

[20:05:01] Now, Democrats tell you that's unlikely. They say look at the history. They say look at the organization. Donald Trump's message all day long, Anderson, has been Brexit plus-plus. That's what he's counting on.

COOPER: All right, John, come back.

I want to go to the rest of the panel. Proud Pennsylvanian Michael Smerconish joins us, anchor of CNN's "SMERCONISH". CNN senior political commentator, "Axe Files" podcaster and former Obama senior adviser, David Axelrod. Chief political analyst Gloria Borger.

Also on the left and right at your screen, Trump supporters Kayleigh McEnany and Jeffrey Lord. Jeffrey has made his name electing a political nobody named Ronald Reagan.

In the middle, Clinton supporters Paul Begala and Van Jones, we like to call them fired up and ready to go. Paul's with a pro-Clinton super PAC and Van's a former Obama senior adviser.

Let's take a look at Philadelphia right now. This is the scene there. Before we get to the panel, a massive crowd out at this Clinton event. Bruce Springsteen is going to be playing, Bon Jovi has already played.

We're going to be hearing from Bill Clinton, Chelsea Clinton, we're told. President Obama, Michelle Obama and also Hillary Clinton. They are trying as much as possible to get out as many people as possible, in the state of Pennsylvania, in that Philadelphia area which is so critical to Democrats and to turnout.

We're going to be bringing you as much from this event and also from any Donald Trump events over the course of the next two hours and beyond tonight. Events going even past midnight tonight. CNN's going to be continuing to cover all of that.

And as we continue to look out at that scene, Gloria Borger, I mean, there is -- there is so much to talk about. I'm not even sure where to begin tonight.

Pennsylvania is obviously critical. I mean, this is why -- it's not a coincidence they picked Philadelphia.

GLORIA BORGER, CNN CHIEF POLITICAL ANALYST: No, and don't forget, Pennsylvania hasn't had early voting. This is about getting out the vote. This is about getting your voters enthusiastic and getting them to get their friends out to vote and they're certainly getting the band back together among Democrats tonight.

DAVID AXELROD, CNN SENIOR POLITICAL COMMENTATOR: Literally, Bon Jovi.

BORGER: Literally. Literally. I've never seen an incumbent president campaign the way that Barack Obama has campaigned for Hillary Clinton. These are two people who, you know, ran against each other in a very hard-fought race in 2008, were not always friends, their staff was not always friends.

And you look at the way Obama has campaigned for her, it's extraordinary. Not only because his legacy is on the line, but he also believes in what she can do for the country.

COOPER: Let's check in can Michelle Kosinski who's there in Philadelphia. Michelle, explain what we are looking at. It's really a massive crowd. How long have they been there? When did this begin?

MICHELLE KOSINSKI, CNN WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENT: Well, you know, for all of these events, and this one is no different, people start lining up several hours ahead of time. We were at an event the other day. People were waiting in line from before dawn for nine hours to see President Obama.

So he has that enthusiasm. That is clear.

Here, it was a little bit less of a wait time. It's about five hours. We just heard Jon Bon Jovi play. So, it's a festive scene even though it's cold out here tonight.

People are excited to see everyone. Of course, tonight is not just President Obama, and that's the mood, that they want to hear President Obama say good-bye essentially and pass that baton and hear from Hillary Clinton. The excitement level --

(CROSSTALK) COOPER: What is the order of events?

KOSINSKI: -- what President Obama has been trying to generate.

First, we're going to hear from Bill Clinton. We're going to hear from the president and lastly, Hillary Clinton. Michelle Obama also tonight. They're just going to try to give that final push.

You know, from President Obama, we've seen him in 16 prior campaign events. He's tried to change it up each time. He's tried to add something a little bit different.

You know, hearing Donald Trump during his appearances today say things like the system is rigged, saying that over and over again, saying that America doesn't win anymore -- these are things that legitimately irritate President Obama. I mean, you hear the annoyance in his voice when he talks about how not only Donald Trump but other Republicans say these things.

And that's contributed to his energy as he's been out on the campaign stage. Today, though, what we're hearing from the White House is he's going to make it a little bit more emotional. It's going to be a little bit different. They're talking about this being an emotional pitch to the people he's met along the way.

We know that he's already gone through several drafts of his speech tonight. And when you think back to the speech he made at the Democratic National Convention in July, how that was a little bit reminiscent, more emotional. I think that's what we're going to hear tonight, Anderson.

COOPER: Michelle Kosinski, we'll continue to check in with you. We want to bring as much as this event to you as we can tonight.

We're going to be hearing from Bruce Springsteen, obviously, Michelle was just talking about President Obama, Michelle Obama, who's been a huge boost to the Hillary Clinton campaign over the last several weeks, particularly after -- it seems like she really sort of got involved after, David Axelrod, after the "Access Hollywood" tape came out.

[20:10:09] That seemed to sort of spur Michelle Obama on in a way to come forward and get out on the campaign trail in a way we hadn't previously seen.

AXELROD: There's no doubt that was one impetus. I think she was committed before that. We saw her at the convention and she made a very compelling speech at the convention.

And the one thing about Michelle Obama is she doesn't go out there unless she wants to. I mean, she doesn't go out there without conviction and she believes in this and she believes in it not just because of her husband's legacy, but she believes that there's a choice here that is and for the country and she's -- she has been probably the most effective surrogate that Hillary Clinton has had in this campaign. COOPER: Trump rally to begin shortly. As you're seeing on the right- hand side of your screen, shortly in Manchester, New Hampshire.

Michael Smerconish, you know Pennsylvania well. What are you looking at in the state, what are you going to be looking at particularly tomorrow?

MICHAEL SMERCONISH, CNN POLITICAL COMMENTATOR: Well, first of all, knowing that I would be here with you tonight on business, I voted a week ago, but the point is well taken that --

JEFFREY LORD, CNN POLITICAL COMMENTATOR: How many times?

SMERCONISH: Only once. Only once. Just to offset you. But -- just kidding.

But unless you have a showing for cause, you can't vote early. We have a very anachronistic system. So, part of the reason all of this attention is being focused in Pennsylvania tonight is because no one has yet been able to exercise the franchise.

The observation I would make is we just televised this large rally in Scranton, Pennsylvania, for Donald Trump. Now, you're looking at another crowd in Philadelphia. It's what lies behind these crowds I think is significant.

It's a very organic effort on the part of the Trump campaign. They're counting on folks who have not been politically involved to get out there on their own initiative and cast ballots. Behind that crowd, at Independence Hall in Philadelphia, why the metrics of the Clinton campaign, very sophisticated, bringing folks out to vote and very orchestrated ward apparatus, street money, organized efforts to go knock on doors and bring folks out. So, therein lie the differences between what will happen tomorrow in Pennsylvania.

COOPER: John, how important is tonight these kind of events tonight in some of these states?

KING: Well, because there is no early voting, the events you're seeing today in Michigan, events in New Hampshire, these eves in Philadelphia, again, Clinton was in both Pittsburgh, now in Philadelphia. Donald Trump dropped into Scranton. Little hello to Vice President Biden, that's his hometown.

I want to read you some numbers. In the end, there's a lot of talk about tonight. No matter who wins tomorrows, what has happened, what have we done in this election?

We changed debates about trade. We changed debates about the corrupt system, about campaign finance. Donald Trump and Bernie Sanders in agreement on a lot of these things. So, there's a lot that's going to change no matter who wins.

But let's focus, since we don't know who's going to win yet, we've got 27, 30 hours before we know that. Look at this crowd tonight, I want to read you some numbers. Michael knows this as well as me. This is Philadelphia four years ago. Barack Obama, 557,024 votes. Mitt Romney, 91,840. That's what the Democrats have to do tomorrow in Philadelphia, because if you look at the center part of that state, and I was showing on the map, all that red, Donald Trump is going to run it up. And he's probably going to run up even more than Mitt Romney because if Michael's right and Jeffrey are right about this organic groundswell of whether they're Tea Party voters, whether they're blue collar voters, running it up for Donald Trump, the Democrats are going to have to prove they can turn that city out tomorrow, and to a lesser degree in Allegheny County.

But look at that, 557,000 to 91,000. That's what they need just in the city of Philadelphia tomorrow.

COOPER: It's interesting, though, I mean, what -- seems like the Democrats are trying to do here tonight is sort of recreate the Democratic convention a little bit. I mean, sort of try to bring the band back together, get Michelle Obama, get some of the -- you know, Bruce Springsteen, get some of that energy that they had.

AXELROD: And just to point out, this is a very efficient market because it's not just the city of Philadelphia that's going to be central to the outcome, but the suburbs of Philadelphia.

BORGER: Right.

AXELROD: And so, they're going to be speaking not just to voters in Philadelphia but also swing voters in the suburbs with who have been more than usual trending toward Hillary Clinton and particularly women which is I think -- I think why Michelle Obama's role here is very important.

BORGER: And this is going to be covered on local television, I would presume, right, right?

SMERCONISH: Oh, my God. It's being live streamed right now.

BORGER: It will be wall to wall. That's what they need.

SMERCONISH: Anderson, can I make an observation? I don't think Bruce Springsteen is just another celebrity tonight. You look at the lyrics, you look at the crowd that he reaches. Donald Trump has cut into that Springsteen constituency.

And although I know he's supportive of Democratic candidates generally, I think it was a very deliberate play. Poor Bon Jovi, he has to be the warm-up act for the Boss tonight. But that Springsteen constituency is very much in play in PA.

BORGER: But if he offers, you take it, right?

(CROSSTALK)

COOPER: Jeffrey?

LORD: The difference between the crowd you're seeing there in Philadelphia, and the Trump crowds is the Trump crowds come to see Trump, and they come there by the tens of thousands. These people are coming to see the Boss and whatever political entertainment. But they're not necessarily all voters here. They're coming for some musical entertainment.

COOPER: You don't believe the people in this crowd are going to be out voting tomorrow?

[20:15:03] LORD: Some of them, a lot of them, sure. But I'm not sure all of them are.

I mean, let be candid. I'm a fan of the Boss. If I were living there, I'd go. And I wouldn't be voting for Hillary Clinton.

One of the problems here -- I mean, I think all year, what we've been seeing is an American-style revolution, if you will, peaceful but people out in the countryside, van's going, giving me the sign here, people out in the countryside have had enough for a whole variety of things.

You mentioned Michelle Obama. Let me bring this up. I happen to like Michelle Obama. There it goes, my credibility.

AXELROD: I assume it's a prelude to something else.

LORD: Well, it is. It is. It is. And that is that one of the things that got her interested in this all of a sudden was that "Access Hollywood" tape.

BORGER: Yes.

LORD: In which the "p" word was mentioned.

And yet there is Hillary Clinton with Jay-z who has a song, specifically titled with the "P" word, filled with all sorts of epitaphs.

(CROSSTALK)

LORD: Wait, wait, wait -- which goes to the double standard and hypocrisy here, in other words, if they hear something in a private conversation that happens to be taped by a Republican, this is awful yet and they'll stand up there with hip hop star --

COOPER: I guess the question is, does somebody want Jay-Z to be president of the United States as opposed to Donald Trump who would be --

LORD: No, it goes -- no, I would disagree. The larger question is, look, hypocrisy. One rule for elites and one rule for regular folks.

COOPER: All right.

PAUL BEGALA, CNN POLITICAL COMMENTATOR: Johnny Cash sang a song, said, I shot a man in Reno just to watch him die. It doesn't mean you campaign with a murderer. There's a big difference. In his art -- by the way, I couldn't name a Jay-Z song if you gave me 100 bucks. It's not my kind of music. I'm a Johnny Cash guy.

But artists need to push the envelope and create characters and they do things like that --

LORD: What do you do to American culture when you do that?

BEGALA: But what does Johnny Cash do who I believe?

COOPER: By the way, I believe Jay-Z is greatly relieved that you're not --

(LAUGHTER)

COOPER: If you're his in his demo all of a sudden --

(CROSSTALK)

AXELROD: Ted Nugent was performing for Trump. What does he --

LORD: Right. And why did that make news?

KAYLEIGH MCENANY, CNN POLITICAL COMMENTATOR: The difference is for Jay-Z to shout these -- to shout these expletives on a stage at a political rally while the Democrats are trying to stand on a moral high ground saying we're better than that and Hillary Clinton is putting out commercials with little girls looking in the mirror --

COOPER: Ted Nugent grabbed his package at his concert, didn't he? Said I got your blue states right here?

MCENANY: But my point is, if Democrats want to put out commercials of little girls looking in the mirror, making themselves as the moral paragon of virtue, you cannot have Jay-Z on a stage shouting expletives --

AXELROD: Kayleigh, I agree with you, when Jay-Z run for president, he's going to have to answer for that. He's not the candidate for president.

MCENANY: Hillary is.

AXELROD: That's the problem.

VAN JONES, CNN POLITICAL COMMENTATOR: One thing that's interesting --

COOPER: There's Bruce Springsteen on the stage. But --

BEGALA: Who will not grab anybody's genitals.

JONES: I hope not. His or anybody else's. Part of what they're trying to do is -- you want me to take it?

COOPER: Keep going. Take it.

JONES: Part of what they're trying to do, the reason that Jay-Z is even being talked about is because they're trying to drive up that millennial participation.

COOPER: Let's listen in.

(BRUCE SPRINGSTEEN SINGING)

[20:23:19] COOPER: It's Bruce Springsteen singing his classic "Thunder Road" off the album "Born to Run."

Plenty more to talk about, plenty more to see as we bring you live events from both candidates. Secretary Clinton there in Philly. As you can see in the lower right, Trump expected in Manchester, New Hampshire, tonight on 360.

We'll be right back.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

[20:28:15] COOPER: Hillary Clinton, Donald Trump both expected to speak shortly. Hillary Clinton going from Philadelphia to Raleigh, North Carolina. Bruce Springsteen performing right now.

Donald Trump speaking shortly at this event in Manchester, New Hampshire, where running mate, Mike Pence, is talking right now. Let's listen to him.

GOV. MIKE PENCE (R), VICE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE: New Hampshire, one day from now, you must do your part to ensure that the next president to make appointments to the Supreme Court of the United States is President Donald Trump.

So, as I wrap up and I'm going to slide off the stage and the next time you see me, you'll see him. I want to leave you with a challenge. I want to leave you with a challenge. I've got a couple of things for you to do because this isn't about rallies, right?

This is about -- this is about making a difference. I mean, this is no ordinary time in the life of our nation. I'll never forget the night, it seems like just yesterday, Karen and I, we had been told the call was coming.

We prayed through it. We talked through it as a family. We knew what our answer would be.

And the phone rang, I picked up the phone, I heard that very familiar voice on the end of the line. He said, "Mike, it's going to be great."

And it has been. And it will be when we make Donald Trump the president of the United States of America.

COOPER: Mike Pence in New Hampshire.

Now, CNN's Brianna Keilar has just gotten off the Clinton plane.

Brianna, what have you been hearing about tonight, about what to expect?

BRIANNA KEILAR, CNN SENIOR POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT: Well, this is the rally of all rallies when it comes to Hillary Clinton.

[20:30:04]I mean, you can see behind me just all of these people, tens of thousands of people here in front of Independence Hall and around it. You know, Hillary Clinton, if I can show this to you, Hillary Clinton often gets knocked for not having the attendance at her rallies. She doesn't have the mega-rallies normally that Donald Trump does. And as you can see here, she certainly does tonight.

And part of that is because she's getting a little help from her friends. President Obama here, First Lady Michelle Obama here, as well as her husband, Bill Clinton and her daughter, Chelsea Clinton, as well as some star power here. Bruce Springsteen playing to the crowd here, getting them ready for sort of the main part of the evening. And we also understand that Jon Bon Jovi is here. Not going to perform he's going to fly with Hillary Clinton on her plane to Raleigh, North Carolina, and he's going to be performing there.

So, Anderson, you know, she's -- it's not just her. She is drawing a large crowd with all of these people who are here to support her.

COOPER: I think, actually, Bon Jovi actually already played there tonight Brianna, before you got there. So I know you just got off the plane. How confident is the Clinton campaign heading into ...

KEILAR: Right.

COOPER: ... these final hours, Brianna?

KEILAR: They are cautiously optimistic. I will tell you that, they feel pretty good. And part of that is because they have more pathways to 270 electoral votes than Donald Trump does. Now, you looked at the polls here in the final days and they've tightened. So that's something that has certainly a number of Democrats and Democratic supporters of Hillary Clinton's biting their nails and worried about what is going to happen tomorrow.

But when you talk to Clinton aides and they're looking at their internal poling and they're looking at early voting, where they have seen an uptick in Latino voters coming out which they think is going to play to their advantage in a major way, they're feeling pretty good about it. Of course, we're going to have to wait until tomorrow and see if they're correct.

COOPER: In terms of closing argument, what's the message the campaign is trying to get across?

KEILAR: It's two pronged in a way. Now, initially Hillary Clinton had wanted to end her campaign on a high note, because this has been such a, at times, nasty campaign that we have seen, just a brutal fight between Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump. In the end, because of the polls tightening, she wasn't able to do that as much as they had initially planned. We heard some positive notes today. She's out with positive ads over the weekend, another one out today, and she certainly was talking about this message of inclusivity and also how she wants to bring people together but at the same time, Anderson, she's making this argument against Donald Trump. She just said repeatedly, this is the third of four stops, she has said repeatedly today, Donald Trump is experientially and temperamentally unfit to be president.

So that is really -- that is really the, I guess, the umbrella over her argument against Donald Trump which is a key part of her closing argument here.

COOPER: All right. Brianna Keilar, thanks very much.

Now back to the Trump/Pence rally in New Hampshire. Let's check in with CNN's Sara Murray who is in Manchester. So this is where Trump got his first primary win. He's close to Clinton there in the polls. What's his final pitch to voters tonight?

SARA MURRAY, CNN POLITICAL REPORTER: Well, look, as you point out, this is sort of a nostalgic state for him where he got his first win as a presidential candidate and he is going to show up here and sort of continue trying to hammer home the message he's been hitting all day which is the notion he is the change candidate. He's certain to have some cutting attacks against Hillary Clinton. He has not held back on that all day today.

And Anderson, this is really a state where the polls have been all over in the last sort of month or so, but it's a place where they really did see Republicans begin to come home in the wake of Comey's first letter about Hillary Clinton's e-mails and the big question for them now is whether they can get over the top in New Hampshire. This is a state where people predominantly vote on Election Day. I think you're going to see Donald Trump come out and give a very vigorous pitch reminding people to show up for him tomorrow.

COOPER: And Trump's final rally tonight is in Michigan which is obviously a state that haven't voted for a Republican since 1988. Does the campaign feel like they really have a chance of pulling off a win there tomorrow?

MURRAY: They do feel like they have a shot there because they feel like Donald Trump is a different kind of Republican running in Michigan. They feel like he's the kind of Republican who can win over some union Democrats who have gone blue in the past and that could be their path to victory, but Anderson, this is also a necessity, let's be completely honest about that. Donald Trump does not have as many paths to victory as Hillary Clinton does and many, many of those paths hinge on flipping one of these blue states red. And they sort of feel like Michigan is one of their best options at this point.

Now, they have a couple other options. There is one option through New Hampshire that could get them exactly to 270, but they're trying to keep as many paths open as possible at this point. [20:35:04] COOPER: All right, Sara Murray. Sara, thanks very much. We're going to check back in with Sara throughout these two hours as well as Brianna Keilar with the Clinton campaign. We're expecting of course we'll be taking Hillary Clinton, President Obama, Michelle Obama as well. There -- you have Bruce Springsteen there thanking the crowd. Taking in the applause of the crowd.

We're told there's going do be Bill Clinton, his daughter, Chelsea, Michelle Obama, President Obama, Hillary Clinton. A huge crowd there turned out as we wait for that event and also waiting for Donald Trump to show up at his event. We'll bring you his comments as well.

John King, I mean, did seem Donald Trump kind of went off message somewhat today, I mean, on this closing day taking credit one point for release of information about Obamacare premiums which is actually something the government, those numbers get released by the government, is not something Donald Trump actually controls.

At one point he was talking about NFL ratings, I mean -- I was watching. I mean, for a guy who's been pretty much on message, it was interesting today to see it sort of go off a bit.

JOHN KING, CNN INSIDE POLITICS ANCHOR: I say on the last night of the campaign, and I hope we can have bipartisan agreement on this, we should all get these candidates a little bit of grace in the sense that they're doing four, five states a day. They've been at this for months and months and months and months and months, and guess what, when candidates get tired, they say silly things.

Yes, you're right. Donald Trump sometimes takes credit for the sunrise and sometimes takes credit that the apple pie is something we all like to eat. But it's the last day of the campaign. So I don't want to beat up on the guy way too much. But in this -- in fact -- and again, now the Democrats say, you know, this should be a warning to you and Republicans say, no, this is proof Donald Trump has learned the lesson of the campaign. In the last month or so, he has been for the most part, with some glaring exceptions, but for the most part, a traditional Republican candidate reading a speech on teleprompter, in which he talks about repealing Obamacare, cutting taxes, getting rid of regulations. Forgive me, Jeffrey, but you can close your eyes and if you didn't know the voice, it could be Marco Rubio or Jeb Bush giving that speech. And that's been interesting.

COOPER: And here's Chelsea Clinton and Bill Clinton. Let's listen in.

CHELSEA CLINTON, HILLARY CLINTON'S DAUGHTER: Good evening Philadelphia. It is so exciting to see and hear and feel so much enthusiasm this evening. It has been one of the great honors of my life to travel throughout the country over the last months on behalf of my mother's campaign. To meet the thousands of organizers who were working so hard with probably no sleep. To meet so many of the million volunteers who have been part of this campaign. And to now be here tonight with the tens of thousands of people ...

COOPER: Chelsea Clinton, former President Bill Clinton and, again, we're going to be bringing you Michelle Obama, President Obama, and Hillary Clinton as well as Donald Trump at his event.

In terms of the arguments now that both sides are making, I mean, how do you see the final argument that the Clinton campaign is trying to make?

VAN JONES, CNN POLITICAL COMMENTATOR: You know, I want to say something, there's the main argument that comes from the campaign, and from the candidates and all the big guns, but I've been talking to people at the Grassroots level trying to figure out how to unlock this millennial of color vote we were talking about Jay-Z earlier. I think the problem with Jay-Z wasn't just the language, he was talking about assaulting people, but we can leave that alone.

The reality is that we -- that some arguments are starting to work for some of these young millennials of color. I just want to brag on them. They figured out very quickly that telling young people of color that, you know, somebody died for your right to vote was a big turnoff. That they don't want to hear that. They feel like they're being guilted by their grandparents. That's a big turnoff.

But what does work is when they're telling these young people, not that, you know, somebody died a long time ago, but you might die, that you need to have a local prosecutor that will do a good job. They turned the local races around.

COOPER: Well let's listen in to former President Clinton.

BILL CLINTON, HILLARY CLINTON'S HUSBAND: ... I am so proud of our daughter, I'm grateful for her. I'm grateful for all of you who have worked for her from the beginning to today. I'm grateful to Bruce Springsteen and Jon Bon Jovi. I'm grateful to all of you. But I want you to take just one minute to think of where we are and what it means. This country began here. Right here.

With people who pledged their lives, their fortunes, their sacred honor, to form a more perfect ...

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Union!

B. CLINTON: In other words, we're stronger together. And I have watched in this campaign as our candidate lived a campaign as she has lived her life. Dedicated to making changes for other people.

[20:40:07] Proving in no matter what came all along and no matter what they have or with, no matter what obstacles were in the road, she would keep her eyes on other people. On the futures that our children are, our grandchildren, deserve. On how we could move forward together. And no matter what happens, she said, we're stronger together. That means answers are better than anger. Empowerment is better than resentment. Working together is better than fighting all the time. And it's way better to lift somebody up than put people down, that is the candidate we are for. And tomorrow the American people are going to be given a chance ...

COOPER: We're going to have more of this event. We're going to take a short break. More live coverage of the candidates as they make their final pitches to voters on this election eve. Michelle Obama, President Obama, Hillary Clinton, Donald Trump, all ahead. Stay tuned.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

COOPER: And Michelle Obama is now speaking in Philadelphia. Let's listen in.

MICHELLE OBAMA, FIRST LADY OF UNITED STATES: ... our next president. Now how amazing is that?

So I am honored to be here on the stage on the eve of this historic moment. I'm also emotional because in many ways speaking here tonight is, perhaps, the last and most important thing that I can do for my country as first lady. And let me just take a moment to thank you, to thank the people of this country for giving our family the extraordinary honor of serving as your first family.

[20:45:11] Thank you for your love. Thank you for your prayers. Thank you for welcoming us into your communities with open arts, for giving us a chance. Whether you agreed with our politics or not.

Every day, you have inspired us with your courage and your decency. And every day, we have tried to make you proud and live up to the standard of citizenship that you set. Because we know that our words and actions are a reflection to the world of who we are as a nation, and more importantly, our actions are a reflection of what behavior we hope our children will emulate. And we believe that our responsibility to you and to this country does not end when we leave the White House. That's why Barack and I have been working so hard in this election because we believe that we have a duty to ensure that this country is handed over to a leader that we all can trust.

A leader who takes this job seriously. Someone who is truly ready to be commander in chief on day one. We -- we deserve a leader who will ensure that our daughters are safe and respected and that our sons understand that truly strong men are compassionate and kind. We deserve a leader who sees the dignity and humanity in all of us and who will encourage us to see the better angels in one another. We deserve a leader who sees our diversity not as a threat, but as a blessing.

A leader who sees us not as rich or poor, but as hardworking folks doing the best we can with what we've got. A leader who sees us not as Democrats and Republicans, but as neighbors and friends who all love this country. Who sees us not just as black or white, **immigrant** or native born, but as brothers and sisters who are all infinitely worthy. All an important part of this great American story.

And I am here tonight because I believe with ally heart and soul that Hillary Clinton is that leader. And we need to do everything we can to get her elected president of the United States. And here's the beauty of it all. This election is on us. It is in our hands. If we get out and vote tomorrow, Hillary Clinton will win. But if we stay home or we play around with a protest vote, then Hillary's opponent will win, period, end of story. Look, it is important to understand that presidential elections are breathtakingly close. They are decided by just 5, 10, 15 votes for precinct, so by just taking a few minutes out of your day tomorrow to cast your vote and bringing your friends and family with you, each of you has the power to swing an entire precinct for Hillary. And if we swing enough precincts, we will win this state, we will win this election, and we will continue the progress that we have all made together these past eight years. We will do this. That is the power that you have. Tomorrow, with your vote, you can stand up to those who seek to divide us and make us afraid. You can declare with one voice that we are always stronger together. Tomorrow, with your vote, you can say that this country has always been great. That it is the greatest nation on earth. A country there a girl like me from the south side of Chicago whose great-great grandfather was a slave can go to some of the finest universities on earth.

[20:50:00] A country where the biracial son of a single mother from Hawaii and the son of a single mother from Hope, Arkansas, can both make it the White House. A country where a passionate, outspoken young woman determined to do all the good she can, can go on to break the highest, hardest glass ceiling and become our president.

That is the power you have and the history you can make tomorrow. But only if we get out and vote for Hillary Clinton. So can we count on you? Can Hillary count on you? We've got to get this done! You've got to get out and vote! We can make this happen!

So I now have the honor of introducing my husband to the stage. It's my chance, perhaps the last chance, I have to introduce him as president of the United States. So, I just want to take a moment to publicly say how proud I am of all that he has done for this country. I am -- I'm proud not just of what he has done, but how he has done it.

Getting the job done in the face of unimaginable challenges, always going high when they go low. Showing us all what's intelligence, dignity, and grace really look like. And never, ever compromising his values or beliefs. Ladies and gentlemen, I introduce to you the love of my life, the president of the United States, Barack Obama.

BARACK OBAMA, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES: Hello, Philadelphia! Are you fired up?! Are you ready to go?! Thank you, Michelle Obama, for being my partner, my love, my wack, and an amazing first lady.

Eight years ago, I asked all of you to join me on an unlikely journey. We set out not just to change programs or policies, but to rebuild an economy where everyone had a chance to succeed. To reform Washington, so that your voices would be more powerful than entrenched lobbyists'. We set out to keep America safe and strong, not just with the might of our arms, the extraordinary valor of our troops, but with the power of our ideas. To shape a changing America, so that everybody belongs and everybody has a part, everybody has a responsibility.

And we didn't know when we began that America would fall into the worst economic crisis of our lifetimes. But in the face of great challenges, in the face of entrenched interests, in the face of, in some cases, unprecedented obstruction and a cynical Washington, we stayed with it. The American people stayed with it. And because of your resilience, because of your strength, because of your faith, we turned, yes, we can, into, yes, we did.

Look at the road we've traveled. We seen America turn recession into recovery. Our businesses create 15 1/2 million new jobs, putting more people back to work than all the other advanced economies combined.

[20:55:12] A resurgent auto industry has led the fastest manufacturing growth since another Clinton was president. Incomes are rising, poverty is falling, 20 million more Americans have health insurance. We've doubled production of renewable energy to become the world leader in fighting climate change. Marriage equality is finally a reality from coast to coast. We brought home more of our men and women in uniform, took out Osama bin Laden, and almost every country on earth sees America as stronger and more respected today than they did eight years ago.

In fact, because Bill Clinton is here, I did some math, a little arithmetic. Under the last two Republican presidents, job growth was basically flat. Deficits went up. Over our two Democratic presidencies, job went up by more than 30 million, deficits went down, millions more Americans gained health insurance, so yes. With Democrats in charge, America is stronger. Those are just the facts.

And with just one more day to go, we now have the chance to elect a 45th president who will build on our progress, who will finish the job. Who already has the respect of leaders around the world and the people they serve. Who is smart and who is steady, and who is tested. Someone who comes to this office as well-prepared as anyone who has ever run. More than me, more than Bill, the next president of the United States, Hillary Clinton!

Now, I know it's been a long campaign. There's been a lot of noise and a lot of distraction. At times, it's felt more like a reality show or even a parody. But tomorrow, tomorrow, Philadelphia, the choice you face when you step into that voting booth could not be clearer and could not be more serious.

On the economy, Donald Trump is uniquely unqualified to be our chief executive. That's why most CEOs and economist don't support him. He would trigger a reckless trade war that cost jobs, strip 20 million Americans of their health insurance. Roll back the new rules designed to check "Wall Street" recklessness and protect consumers and would roll back the regulations we put in place to preserve this planet for our kids.

On foreign policy, Donald Trump is temperamentally unfit to be commander in chief. Don't take my word for it, listen to the Republicans who have refused to support him. He lacks a basic understanding of the world, justifies torture, suggesting abandoning our allies.

Over the weekend, his campaign took away his Twitter account. Because he's erratic. If his closest advisers don't trust him to tweet, why would any of us trust him with the nuclear codes? More than his policies are his plans, though. Throughout his campaign, Donald Trump has shown utter contempt for the values that make this nation great. Anyone who sees women as objects, minorities and **immigrants** as inferior, other faiths as presumptively un-American, cannot lead this diverse dynamic big-hearted country that we love.

And so all of this should give you reason enough to vote tomorrow. But you don't just have to vote against someone. You have somebody extraordinary to vote for. Philadelphia, you've got someone outstanding to vote for in Hillary Clinton.

[21:00:07] I'll be honest, I have to bite my tongue after a lot of the nonsense I heard people say about Hillary in this election.

**NEW\_DOCUMENT\_HERE**

Anderson Cooper, Evan Perez, Sara Murray, Michael Smerconish, Jeffrey Toobin, John King, Paul Begala, Kayleigh McEnany, Van Jones, Jeffrey Lord, Mark Preston, Nia-Malika Henderson, Kevin Madden, Patti Solis Doyle, David Axelrod, Randi Kaye

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[20:00:03] ANDERSON COOPER, CNN ANCHOR: It is 9:00 p.m. and the marathon is over, in New York, at least. Out on the campaign trail, it's also getting close to the finish line; they candidates going late into the night, Hillary Clinton in New Hampshire, Donald Trump -- running quite late -- expected shortly in Western Pennsylvania and then Northern Virginia. We'll bring you that when it happens.

First, the latest on the story that just about no one saw coming: FBI Director, James Comey, weighing in, yet again, on the Clinton email investigation, saying, in so many words, the investigation is over. Our Evan Perez has been working his sources all night on this, joins us again right now.

So what was in the letter that Comey sent to Congress, and does this mean that Hillary Clinton is in the clear, at least for now, as far as the FBI is concerned?

EVAN PEREZ, CNN JUSTICE CORRESPONDENT: Anderson, as far as the FBI is concerned, and as far as Hillary Clinton is concerned, she is in the clear. That the letter -- that's what the letter that Jim Comey sent to members of Congress today -- that's what it says. The team that was -- spent a year looking at her emails -- looking at this private server that she had operated while she was Secretary of State, came back and they worked around the clock, according to the FBI Director. A part of what he said he to -- to Congress -- we'll read -- we'll read some of that to you. He said, "During the process, we reviewed all of the communications that were too or from Hillary Clinton while she was Secretary of State. Based on our review, we have not changed our conclusions that we expressed in July with respect to Secretary Clinton."

Anderson, investigators did find some classified emails in this -- in this new batch of emails that they were reviewing, but a lot of these emails had been seen before -- they were duplicates of emails that they had spent a year going through. The ones that they did look at, they went line-by-line to make sure that it was -- it was stuff that they had seen before. There was also a lot of personal e-mails and, of course, there were emails that belonged to Anthony Weiner, whose laptop this was.

Now, as far as Hillary Clinton , this is over. The FBI , though, still has some more work to do, especially with regard to Huma Abedin. She says she has no idea how these emails got on this -- on this laptop, so the FBI wants to do some more work there. They -- they probably will try to interview her once more to try to see if they can get to the bottom of that, Anderson.

COOPER: No one was expecting this latest announcement from the FBI . They told the public not to expect an update until before the -- you know, before the election; to expect one after. How were they able to get through all the emails and come to a decision, because some Trump supporters are saying "Well, look, there's no way they could have gotten through" -- what they say were 650,000 emails, though that number has never been confirmed.

PEREZ: Right; and that number is kind of irrelevant because we're talking about a computer that belonged to Anthony Weiner. Most -- the vast majority of those, the FBI was not interested in as far as this investigation is concerned. They were looking at a much smaller subset, which belonged to Huma Abedin. So, you know, they -- what we're told is that they used technology -- simply high-tech software that were -- that were able to separate all the other emails that they didn't care for and they were able to -- to narrow it down to those emails that went through the Hillary Clinton server. That was the key part of this here for these investigators, Anderson.

COOPER: All right. Evan, thanks very much. Tonight and tomorrow night, in the run up to the election, we want to bring you as many life events as is happening in these final evenings. Hillary Clinton , right now, speaking in Manchester New Hampshire. Let's listen in:

HILLARY CLINTON (D), PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE: -- more countries should have nuclear weapons.

(BOOING)

CLINTON: And when a journalist asked him about using nuclear weapons, he said "Well, why do we make them?" I wonder if he even realizes he's talking about nuclear war. The other day in Ohio, I was at Kent State University and I was introduced by a man named Bruce Blair. He had been in the Air Force decades ago and he was a launch officer in our nuclear program, which meant that he sat in a bunker during his watch time, in case the President -- whoever the President was -- were to order a nuclear attack.

And Bruce Blair knows there is no appeal from a President's order to launch a nuclear attack. There is no veto by the Joint Chiefs of Staff, or anybody else. If a President orders a nuclear attack, there's about a four-minute window before it happens. I had never met Mr. Blair before. He's gone on to have a very distinguished career in security studies. But as he was watching this campaign and reflecting on the service he did as a young man, he realized he could never support Donald Trump . And he called other launch officers -- sometimes called "missileers" -- and asked them what they were thinking. And to a person, they said "This is unacceptable. This is actually scary."

So several dozens of them wrote a letter saying that they know what the awesome responsibility is that a President of the United States holds and they could never support Donald Trump to be our President and Commander-in-Chief."

(APPLAUSE)

CLINTON: And if you -- if you believe, like I do, that our economy grows and America thrives when the middle class grows and thrives, then you have to vote too.

(APPLAUSE)

CLINTON: We're going to make the biggest investment in good-paying jobs since World War II -- jobs and infrastructure, and advanced manufacturing, and clean energy, small business jobs. I want to be the best small business President we've ever had --

(APPLAUSE)

CLINTON: -- to enable more people to get started and grow their businesses. In contrast, my opponent built his fortune on the backs of small business owners. But I'm the daughter of a small businessman and I am just so glad my dad never got a contract from Donald Trump .

(APPLAUSE)

CLINTON: Because so many who did were stiffed. But I want to make sure that we have easier access to capital, less red tape, more tax relief for people willing to take the risk of going in to small businesses. I also think it's imperative that we make our economy fairer. And that means I do support raising the national minimum wage.

(APPLAUSE)

COOPER: That's Hillary Clinton in Manchester, right now. Donald Trump expected shortly just outside Pittsburgh. He'll be arriving a bit later this evening. We'll bring you his comments when we can.

CNN 's Sara Murray is in Minneapolis where he spoke earlier. She joins us now. How has Donald Trump reacted to the Comey letter today?

SARA MURRAY, CNN CORRESPONDENT: Well, just because Comey said that he is going to stick with his decision from this summer does not mean that Donald Trump has suddenly decided that Hillary Clinton is free and clear. In fact, he continued to maintain, as he was campaigning in Michigan today, that Hillary Clinton is guilty. Listen to what he said:

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

DONALD TRUMP (R), PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE: You can't review 650,000 new emails in eight days. You can't do it, folks. Hillary Clinton is guilty; she knows it, the FBI knows it, the people know it, and now it's up to the American people to deliver justice at the ballot box on November 8th.

(APPLAUSE)

(END VIDEO CLIP)

MURRAY: So this gives you an indication of how Donald Trump is going to try to continue to use this as an issue to benefit him for the next couple of days, regardless of what the FBI Director says, Anderson.

COOPER: The reopening of the investigation -- Trump has been talking about it on the -- on the trail, basically every day since -- since it happened.

MURRAY: Right; which is pretty stunning. We saw Donald Trump 's campaign manager, Kellyanne Conway out there today saying this has not been a major issue of their campaign; this has not been a major messaging point. Let's be clear, Anderson, this was a political gift when Comey originally sent the letter to Congress and Donald Trump and his campaign seized on that. He has talked about it at basically every Trump rally since then. They have turned it into an ad. And Donald Trump has taken it steps further, insisting to people that if they elect Hillary Clinton she's just going to be indicted; that she's going to be under investigation for years.

So the notion that Donald Trump did not use this moment to propel his candidacy in recent days is just -- just doesn't bear weight, Anderson.

COOPER: Right; as Paul was saying in the last hour, I mean, Kellyanne Conway tweeted out, the day of the Comey letter, you know, that this is a good day for -- for the campaign, I think was -- that's not very close to a direct quote. What's the campaign saying now about the potential impact this news will have, or are they?

MURRAY: Well, they're really down-playing the impact this will have. Obviously, it's a short timeframe between now and when people go to the polls. Many people have already gone to the polls between Comey's first letter and his second. But the Trump campaign essentially says that they saw battleground states tightening already, before Jim Comey's first letter to Congress -- that it was on the wake of Obamacare news; it was on the wake of some these Hillary Clinton -- or some of these John Podesta emails we saw in WikiLeaks , as they related to Hillary Clinton 's campaign.

So they sort of feel like they've already seen Republicans start coming home; they're seeing some Independents breaking their way; and they don't expect that to change. The question, Anderson, is if there are people who were still on the fence -- who were still waiting to see, for instance, whether something more would come from the FBI and this could sway them and, you know, whether this will maybe make Hillary Clinton supporters more enthusiastic about turning out to the polls. We'll just have to wait for the next couple of days to see what impact, if any, this is going to have on the race.

COOPER: Yes, Sara Murray. Sara, thanks for the lengthy interview with Kellyanne Conway at the top of our last hour. You can check it out at our Twitter page, @AndersonCooper360, or online at 360.com. Back now with the panel.

We're joined this hour by the anchor of CNN 's "SMERCONISH" -- coincidentally, that is also his name -- Michael Smerconish.

(LAUGHTER)

He's also a radio talk show host and a Philadelphia-area native, so he clearly knows the state of the battlefield there. Michael, what do you make of -- of, (a) Comey coming out with this -- this later, which -- I mean, it certainly surprised a lot of folks who thought there's no way he's going to say anything more before the election.

MICHAEL SMERCONISH, CNN SENIOR POLITICAL COMMENTATOR: I think that if he knew that there was a prospect of the investigation -- the more recent revelations being wrapped up within two weeks, he should never have sent letter number one. I think that's pretty obvious. I also don't think that it's going to move the needle. And it occurs to me as -- as we're now in the final stretch of this thing, that this has been a campaign of tremendous drama.

But I reflect on the John McCain moment, which I thought would be a game changer. And when those comments -- those appalling comments that Donald Trump made about John McCain -- "respecting the ones who don't get captured" -- when that didn't move the needle, it should have been a wake-up call that very few things were going to. Really, there's been a -- a consistency to this election from the get-go, when it's been the two of them, it's been somewhere in that the three-to- five range and that appears to be where we are tonight.

COOPER: And -- and, Jeff, from the legal perspective, I know you were surprised that -- that Comey came to this decision so quickly after this last letter and made an announcement.

JEFFREY TOOBIN, CNN SENIOR LEGAL ANALYST: Absolutely. Well, I -- I was surprised that he -- he made the initial announcement. And given how negative how negative the reaction was -- you know, among -- Republican veterans of the Justice Department, as well as Democrats, to the first announcement, I thought the best thing he could do was simply keep his mouth shut. But I think he felt, again, as he did the first time, worried about leaks from inside the FBI .

This time, he was worried that it would leak that Hillary Clinton had been exonerated, so he felt like he didn't want to keep that secret and -- and be accused of, you know, trying to protect Donald Trump . So he made this announcement today. I think all of it just underlines why he should have kept his mouth shut from the very beginning, honored the Justice Department tradition of not getting involved in these campaigns before -- during this period shortly before election day.

COOPER: It is interesting, John, that -- I mean, when I first heard this -- I mean, the -- the -- you might think "Oh, well the Clinton campaign is going to jump on this. Hillary Clinton is going to be talking about in speeches", you know. But they are not talking about it.

JOHN KING , CNN CHIEF NATIONAL CORRESPONDENT: Well, anytime she's talking about investigations and emails, she's talking about investigations and emails. Even if it's good news, you're talking about investigations and emails. Now, if -- if Comey was going to have a letter, the fact that this -- I think they would have preferred this conversation not happen at all, but if Comey is going to say something before the election, you want it to be "FBI clears Clinton again", as opposed to "FBI to subpoena Clinton", "FBI needs to re- interview people", "FBI needs more work to do." So if it's going to come out, this is it.

To Michael's point, the race has settle back into a pretty static place. And that's -- it's done that many times, but it also has taken some wild swings -- the Access Hollywood tape -- the Comey announcement. Not just the Comey announcement -- sometimes we -- we try to make things too simple. The Comey announcement came also at a time -- they Obamacare premium increases came right after that; Donald Trump was staying on a consistent Republican message -- "I will cut taxes. I will clean up the swamp in Washington. I will repeal and replace Obamacare."

So the combination of those things brought Republicans home and brought some Independents his way. But, in the last couple of days, well before this Jim Comey announcement, the race has settled into a three or four point Hillary Clinton lead, the demographics have settled in a place that suggest to you that, if -- if her people turn out, she should win the election. That doesn't mean she will win the election. It doesn't mean Donald Trump does not have a closer race in some of these big blue battleground states like Michael's Pennsylvania -- closer -- closer.

But -- but about the same gaps that you had in the Romney-Obama race in most of these states. A point above in some states, a point below in other states, but it's a pretty -- it's a pretty static race.

PAUL BEGALA, CNN POLITICAL COMMENTATOR: I'm sorry, I -- I never disagree with you --

KING: Please do.

BEGALA: -- except in days ending with "y".

(LAUGHTER)

BEGALA: Here's where -- no, but here's where you're wrong. I don't think it makes a difference in the outcome; but, as a Texan -- the President lost Texas by 16 points. Hillary may well lose Texas, but the surge of Latino voters there -- I am getting reports from my friends and family in Texas -- lines around the block. One young man talked about taking a -- I showed this Van -- took -- took an elderly woman, in her 70s or 80s, to the polls in a walker and she waited 3- and-a-half hours, leaning on her walker, in order to vote. There's something going on.

Can he overcome a 16-point deficit --

KING: Well, I'm not sure what you're disagreeing -- I'm not sure what your disagreement is, but I don't think there's any question --

BEGALA: You'll cut the margin. Hillary will -- will - -Hillary will do far better in the popular vote than Barack Obama did.

KING: Better in the popular vote?

BEGALA: Yes.

KING: I think her gap --

BEGALA: Because -- I hope she can win Texas. I hope she wins every state.

KAYLEIGH MCENANY, CNN POLITICAL COMMENTATOR: You're -- you're neglecting the fact that -- that black turnout is down; that millennial turnout is down. You're also neglecting the fact that -- that in -- what I see as the path to victory, which is Florida, Ohio, Nevada, Iowa, and keeping North Carolina -- that would give Donald Trump 265. And four of the five states, Republicans are outperforming their numbers in 2012. Republican -- there is so much enthusiasm, there are more votes cast early than in 2012 in those five states that would put Donald Trump at 265. And you're all neglecting that New Hampshire poll numbers that will put him over the top come Tuesday.

BEGALA: But the Florida numbers alone --

VAN JONES, CNN POLITICAL COMMENTATOR: There are -- here's the thing: I think that there are two big surges that are happening. I think there's a big Latino surge. I think there may well be a big Republican surge here. I don't think these things have to be --

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: You're right.

JONES: And I think, at the end of the day -- I think the Democrats will have it. I think we're going to have a lot to sort through when we're done.

BEGALA: But there's data. There's data. Fifty-seven percent of the voters in Florida yesterday were white. Sixty-seven percent of the voters of Florida are white. So they're losing the early vote.

(CROSS TALK)

KING: I've heard more Latinos have early voted in Florida than voted in Florida in 2012.

BEGALA: Yes.

KING: That's a big deal.

JEFFREY LORD, CNN POLITICAL COMMENTATOR: I heard, while we were sitting here, from "Harrisburg Patriot's" ace reporter, Candy Woodall, who -- reporting on -- exactly -- reporting on Vice President Biden's visit today. And she tells me that he told the press and told the audience that he thinks the election in Pennsylvania is going to be decided by central Pennsylvania, Scranton, Wilkes Barre and Pittsburgh; in other words, not the Philadelphia suburbs, and that --

MCENANY: That's because that's where he was -- LORD: No, he was in Harrisburg.

MCENANY: Oh, okay.

LORD: He was in Harrisburg. And I -- you know, my point here is -- she -- she also says that between Saturday and tomorrow, both campaigns will have been in Pennsylvania 18 times, which really says they're really trying to gin up their respective bases. And if it does come down to Central Pennsylvania, which I can assure you, I have counted four -- we get to the sign business again -- four Hillary signs and there's hundreds of Trump signs all over the place.

JONES: Data. That's data.

(LAUGHTER)

LORD: That's data -- that's political gut.

COOPER: That's -- that's the -- is that the internal polling that's (inaudible)

(LAUGHTER)

LORD: It's the -- it's the internal signing. It's internal signing.

(CROSSTALK)

BEGALA: The singular of data is anecdote, so if you get enough of those anecdotes, you've got --

(CROSSTALK)

COOPER: But, Jeffrey, what did -- your cab driver say?

(LAUGHTER)

LORD: Well, as matter of fact --

(LAUGHTER)

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Can I just say that there is -- there is --

(LAUGHTER)

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Uh oh, are we -- do we have the giggles?

LORD: Wait, Anderson -- Anderson, you're the one who had a cab driver (inaudible) on-air.

COOPER: I had, like, six Uber drivers today. I could go on (inaudible).

(LAUGHTER)

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: That actually sounds much more interesting than what I was going to say. COOPER: Go ahead.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Okay, so back to the --

COOPER: And I left my phone in one of the -- anyway, go ahead.

(LAUGHTER)

COOPER: Go ahead.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Call him.

COOPER: I got it back.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: The question of whether or not these, sort of, swings back and forth makes a difference; maybe at the end of the day, not on the presidential level, but on the next level down -- the Senate level -- big time -- big time. And there are a lot of people I've talked to on the Democratic and Republican side that think that the late momentum for Donald Trump and the focus on the email issue is going to help Republicans who Democrats thought were goners. The incumbent Republicans -- Republicans who are trying to keep red seats -- Indiana is one example, and we'll see what happens there. Pennsylvania -- I mean, we'll see if Pat Toomey, the incumbent Republican can eek it out, because of all of this -- this last-minute attention in Pennsylvania and because of the state of the (inaudible).

(CROSS-TALK)

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: And New Hampshire.

BEGALA: And New Hampshire, like Pennsylvania, does not have early voting, so --

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Exactly --

BEGALA: everybody's got to vote on game day there, so --

COOPER: So -- so on Tuesday night, I mean, what are -- just, you know, for folks at home who want a crib sheet -- what are -- obviously, Florida, a state to watch. If Trump doesn't win there --

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: North Carolina.

COOPER: North Carolina.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: 7:00 p.m. polls close in North Carolina. If North Carolina starts to lean blue, I, as a Trump supporter, will be very worried. And then, 7:30, Florida comes. You know, those two states are really must wins. Unless there's some rust-belt strategy that takes over, North Carolina and Florida are (inaudible).

(CROSSTALK)

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: (Inaudible) North Carolina could take -- could be close enough that it could take well into the night. MCENANY: Absolutely.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Bring the espresso machine.

(LAUGHTER)

BEGALA: Well, it's -- I mean, I look at three different geographical -- the Atlantic Coast -- New Hampshire, North Carolina, Virginia. They -- then, the sun belt -- Florida, Colorado, maybe Arizona -- it's been very close in some polls -- but skeptical -- and Nevada, certainly. But I think Hillary's almost certainly won Nevada with the early vote. And then those rust-belt states, which -- Donald Trump was even in Minnesota, which shows you that he's got a sense of humor. But, possibly Wisconsin; you know, certainly Ohio and Iowa.

KING: But you'll know -- yes, you'll know -- number one, with all due respect to the Vice President, who knows Pennsylvania very well, he knows he was just playing to whatever audience he was speaking to.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: No way.

KING: And Michael knows this; if the -- the Democrats need to win central city of Philadelphia by 200,000 or more votes. They would prefer to win it by 250,000 votes, because Jeffrey is right, Donald Trump is going to run it up in the "T". In the center of the state and (inaudible) Donald Trump is going to run it, so you want to look there.

Virginia will probably go Democratic, but when the vote comes in just over the river -- across the river, here -- we'll get a sense of how close Donald Trump is in these suburbs and the close-in exurbs. And that tells you a lot about what's going to then happen in North Carolina and other places. So Virginia counts early.

COOPER: All right. Let's take another quick break. Coming up, including some hard facts to go with the Uber drivers and the yard signs --

(LAUGHTER)

COOPER: -- and the folks who just randomly come up to us in the street and ask for photographs, we'll look at the actual demographics that we've all been debating. New numbers on how many Latinos have voted early. The question is, is it enough to tip at least two very close states. We'll look at them, ahead.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

COOPER: Well, as the candidates wrap up their campaigns, the so- called ground game goes on. It could be pivotal with states like Florida and Nevada up for grabs. Mobilizing Latino voters is, obviously, a big part of the effort. And, as we've been talking about, early voting numbers already tell some of the story there. Our CNN Politics Executive Editor, Mark Preston, joins us now with that.

So you've got new data that sheds light on it. What have you -- what have you found in the numbers?

MARK PRESTON, CNN POLITICS EXECUTIVE EDITOR: Well, Anderson, lots of numbers here, so the panel's got to pay close attention right now so they can argue afterwards. Nearly 37 million people have voted in 39 states nationwide. Now, John King , last hour, described this as -- this is possibly the year of the Latino. Well, right now, 27.3 million Hispanics are eligible to vote -- that's about 12 percent of the electorate.

Let's first look at Florida as we talk here. Florida, a little more than 5.7 million -- we think that number is actually a bit higher right now -- have already early voted in the state that has closed, but let's look into the demographics right now. Specifically, let's look at these numbers and see what has increased and what has decreased. Well, 41 percent of the white vote has increased; about 13 percent of the African vote; but look at this number right here. Since 2008, plus-103 percent -- 103 percent increase from 2008 to 2016 in actual ballots that have been cast by Hispanics in the state of Florida.

Let's go to the state of North Carolina. There, you're talking about 2.5 -- maybe 2.6 million people had cast their early votes. Well, look at this right here: as you can see, there is an increase in the Hispanic vote and the white vote. We saw a drop-off in the African- American vote in regards to ballots being dropped off. When we look at those percentages right now, about 24 percent more for the white vote; negative 5 percent in the African-American participation in the early vote in North Carolina -- a troubling sign for Democrats. But this is a good sign right here: about 85 percent increase when it came to actual votes from 2012 to 2016 -- or I should say ballots -- that had been put through by Hispanic voters.

Now, we should note that Barack Obama barely lost North Carolina in 2012 and, of course, they are fighting for it right now -- Republicans and Democrats in 2016 -- Anderson.

COOPER: I want you to listen, Mark, to -- to what the Nevada Republican Party Chair said at a Trump rally last night.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

MICHAEL MCDONALD, STATE OF NEVADA, REPUBLICAN PARTY CHAIRMAN: Last night, in Clark County, they kept a poll open until 10:00 at night so a certain group could vote. It wasn't in an area that normally has high transition. The polls are supposed to close at 7:00. This was kept open until 10:00. Yeah, you feel free right now?

(END VIDEO CLIP)

COOPER: So we talked to Kellyanne -- I talked to Kellyanne Conway about this in our last hour. What -- what is he talking about there?

PRESTON: Well, he's talking -- in Clark County, now -- he's talking about a polling location right outside of Las Vegas that was held open late because people were actually in line and they couldn't vote. In fact, on Friday alone, Clark County saw an increase, Anderson, of 57,000 people actually cast ballots. That's the highest ever for Clark County.

Let's just dig a little bit into the -- the Nevada numbers. About 7.7 million people cast -- or 770,000 people cast early ballots in the state of Nevada. But if we dig in a little bit and look at state- wide, that's a bit of an increase now from -- we saw about nine percent across the state. But Clark County, right here -- this is an important number -- that was an eight percent increase.

Now, what's interesting about Clark County right now, we should note, it is 30 percent Hispanic. Hispanics, of course, tend to vote Democrat. And, in fact, in the state of Nevada alone, Barack Obama won 70 percent of the Hispanic vote, Anderson.

COOPER: All right, Mark Preston. Mark, thanks.

Joining the panel now is Senior Political Reporter, Nia Malika Henderson. I mean, Nia, it's interesting to hear the Nevada Republican there talking about this as if it's some sort of grand conspiracy or a system is rigged. These are people who are online at the right time to vote -- just the line was very long, so they kept the ballot -- the -- it open.

NIA-MALIKA HENDERSON, CNN SENIOR POLITICAL REPORTER: Yes, and you almost hope that those folks in the audience already cast their ballots too. I mean, you've got all of this organization that has gone on by the Democratic -- the Democratic campaigns in states like Nevada -- in states like Florida. And we are seeing this Latino surge. I mean, it was a rumor (inaudible) --

COOPER: But a -- but the point is, I mean, if somebody's online at the appropriate time to vote, they should be allowed to vote.

(CROSSTALK)

HENDERSON: But I think, from the Trump campaign -- I mean, they have been talking about this rigged election for days and days and days. And the assumption has always been it will be rigged by certain people -- certain black people, certain --

COOPER: But just to use that as an example of rigging is just factually incorrect. KING: These -- these "certain people" -- we could call them fellow Americans; we could call them our neighbors; we could call them voters. We should call them -- and, look, there are going to be neighborhoods in the United States, there will be precincts in the United States on Tuesday night where there are -- that is a Trump precinct -- that is a -- that is an overwhelmingly Trump area, and there will be people and line and the poll closing will come. And they better stand there, and they should bring them water, and they should wait, and -- if it takes until sun-up -- and let them vote.

This -- this part -- this is the thing that drives me nuts, in the sense that it should be easier for people to vote, number one -- and a Republican party that's in a ditch when it comes to Latino voters, African-American voters and, increasingly, Asian voters -- Asian voters used to be a Republican constituency. They now vote in the same percentage as Latinos against the Republican party. The Chairman -- I just -- I'm sorry, I hope he -- I hope he just was having a bad night. These "certain people" are voters; they are Americans. And when people talk like this, and then the Latinos vote overwhelmingly for the other guys, you wonder why is this happening? Well, guess why it's happening.

HENDERSON: But it's been the story -- yes, it's been the story of the Trump campaign; right? I mean, this kind of rhetoric; this kind of "otherizing" of certain groups --

(CROSSTALK)

SMERCONISH: Can I make an observation, Anderson? I went back and I re-read the autopsy report that was commissioned in the aftermath of -- of the Romney loss and it was published in 2013. And there's a line that stands out -- "If Hispanic Americans perceive that a GOP nominee does not want them in the country, they won't pay attention to the next sentence." It's a lesson I don't think (inaudible).

MCENANY: But I think we're reading a bit too much into this by saying this was a knock at Hispanic voters. Look, he was merely noting this poll stayed open -- he heard other locations had closed. I agree with you; if you're line at the appropriate time --

SMERCONISH: I'm talking about the nominee, not the Chairman.

MCENANY: -- you should stay open. And, by the way, we've also got to point out, Democrats are playing the same sort of game when they say Republican Attorneys General across the nation are trying to suppress the vote. Both campaigns are on edge --

(CROSSTALK)

SMERCONISH: Kayleigh, I'm just making the observation that -- that Donald Trump , to me, never --

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Trump repeated what the Chairman said and said it was rigged.

SMERCONISH: -- never read the autopsy report.

COOPER: Yes, Ben -- or Paul?

BEGALA: The Democrats are decrying efforts to suppress the vote. The Republicans are encouraging them. That's not the same, Kayleigh. They're both talking about voter suppression -- one is for it, the other's against it.

LORD: Voter ID -- fighting voter ID is voter suppression.

MCENANY: Exactly.

JONES: Well, no -- well, hold on a second. One of the things I don't think we have talked enough about is that there is a ferocious fight in the courts right now -- and, unfortunately, it is against Republican Attorneys General and Republican legislatures that have seemed to almost surgically design new rules and new restrictions that -- that offend the judges. I'm not talking about partisan Democrats; I mean judges that are saying there seems to be no logical explanation for some of these new voting rules, except to go after black voters.

Now, that's not me, that's the judges. And so I -- we need to applaud, actually, these -- a lot of young lawyers out there who are fighting this fight in the courts and actually winning these fights in the court to try to keep -- to keep these bad laws at bay.

MCENANY: My point is, Van, though, that a lot of times we see the left use -- let's -- voter ID is a good example. They use that to say this is the reason there is low black turnout when, meanwhile, there's a Politifact article that in 2012, in states that had voter ID, actually black turnout was higher, which negates the whole left's argument that blacks aren't turning out because of voter ID. So you guys play the same game that Republicans --

(CROSSTALK)

BEGALA: But do you know why that is?

MCENANY: Do I know why --

BEGALA: Why black turnout was up despite that?

JONES: Because we fought back.

BEGALA: Because we (inaudible) around it. We used that -- we used that as a rallying point to tell people "Don't let them take away your right to vote."

(CROSSTALK)

JONES: I'm going to let you finish, but there are heroes from 2012, like Ben Jealous and others who we don't talk about anymore, who say once they saw those bad bills, went out there and put an extra 1 million black voters in the voting booths just to say, you're not going to stop us. But that does not mean that it wasn't intentioned -- the intention wasn't to stop us.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Could we talk about --

LORD: But this --

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Go ahead.

LORD: But -- but this goes to the point that I've been trying to make all year, and where we have disagreed is that the Democratic Party's political formula, from its founding, is to separate people by race and then use that as the racial fuel to push their agenda. That's what this is all about. That's what we're missing entirely.

JONES: I think it's about justice.

LORD: I mean, why are we -- why are we --

JONES: I think it's about equal opportunity to vote. I think it's about -- it's about --

LORD: Which is colorless.

JONES: Well -- hey, listen, it should be. And I wish you would let your party know that, because they keep designing these laws that even judges say are just designed to suppress the black vote.

COOPER: What does "certain groups" mean in your opinion, Jeffrey? When the Nevada GOP Chair --

LORD: I mean, I have no idea what he was saying, but if he's -- if he's trying to use this as an -- as a racial thing, of course I'd condemn that. But what I'm suggesting to you is, the fact that he could -- he could mean union members, for all I know. He could mean a thousand different things. I -- honestly don't know. But this is my point. Every single thing that we do here is being racialized, and that's what's wrong. That's what's wrong. Instead of treating people like Americans -- all us Americans --

KING: But he was complaining that people who were in line, on time, were getting allowed to vote. Whatever you call them -- whatever words you use, the people were in line, on -- there's no evidence that the people were not there by the time they were supposed to be there. They were being allowed to vote.

LORD: If that's the case, I --

COOPER: We've -- we've got to take another break. Just had Donald Trump 's five-state sprint today included Michigan and Minnesota. What does his late push in traditionally blue states say about his strategy? We'll look at that ahead.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

COOPER: Well, as we just said, Donald Trump 's next stop tonight is just outside Pittsburgh. He'll in the end day in Northern Virginia. His day of barnstorming also included Iowa and two traditionally blue, or blue-leaning states, Minnesota and Michigan, with just two days to go. What should we make of his focus on some reliably blue territory? John King is back to break down.

So Michigan -- especially Minnesota; why is Trump spending time there in -- in this final weekend?

KING: Can I ask you that question? No, look -- look, I don't mean to joke about it. He needs states. He's looking for states. They're looking at their map. They're getting calls from supporters in these states saying "We think the polls are closer", so they're going. It underscores a fundamental problem. He's having a hard time getting to 270. Even if he wins all the toss-up states -- he gets -- wins Florida, wins North Carolina, wins Ohio -- gets him to the 250s or the 260s depending on some of the smaller states. How do you get to the finish line?

So I have this map up for a reason. We only go back to 1980 on this map. I'd have to go back to 1972 to show you a Republican winning Minnesota. But this is the 1980 race, right? You see Minnesota -- let me just circle it up here in case you don't notice -- it's right up there -- it was won by a Democrat then. 1984, notice anything? Notice anything? There's only one -- and that was Walter Mondale's home state, to be fair, but look at this -- it's just -- the point is, it has not been won by a Republican since 1972 and it's usually not even close.

But when you look -- so why is Donald Trump going there? It's 10 electoral votes, Anderson. He's hoping, essentially, that he can -- lightning will strike somewhere as he goes through these states because he's having a time with the math. Same with Michigan -- it's 16. If you can't win North Carolina, you've got to counter it with Michigan. If you can't win Florida, you have to counter it with Michigan, Minnesota and New Hampshire. That's the math Donald Trump is trying to do in the final days.

ANDERSON: Right. I mean, Clinton didn't do well -- didn't do well in Michigan in the primaries, if I remember correctly. I mean, is the -- is the campaign at all nervous about either state at this point?

KING: Yes. And that's exactly the reason you mentioned. Let me try to go back to this other map and see if I can get back to the -- get back to the primaries here. We come back here; we come out to the primaries -- let me come back to 2016 -- it takes a little bit to get here. If you go back to the Democratic primaries, if you notice -- Minnesota -- Minnesota and Michigan, including Wisconsin in between -- those were Bernie Sanders states. So there are some concerns.

Now, David Axelrod can tell you, what happens in a primary usually doesn't carry over to a general election, but there's some concern because of Donald Trump 's message on economics. On trade, he's more in-sync with Bernie Sanders on some of these issues, or at least he can make the case to voters he's more in-sync with blue-collar voters on these issues. So that is, without a doubt, one of the reasons. These states were not so kind to Hillary Clinton during the primaries, so you want to go back and triple-check. Plus, Democrats in those states, Anderson, have been calling the Clinton campaign saying "Hey, it's getting closer; you better come in and tend the garden."

COOPER: All right, John; thanks very much. I want to discuss this. Joining us is CNN political commentator and Republican strategist, Kevin Madden; CNN political commentator, Patti Solis Doyle, who was Hillary Clinton 's campaign manager in 2008; CNN senior political commentator and a former senior Obama advisor, David Axelrod -- David hosts "The Axe Files" podcast on CNN.com; and former Romney campaign advisor, Stuart Stevens.

We wanted all of you together because you all know about running campaigns. So I'm curious -- I mean, Kevin, let's start with you. Two days to go, how do you -- where are you looking at? What stands out to you? How do you think this thing looks?

KEVIN MADDEN, CNN POLITICAL COMMENTATOR: Well, I think, if we're looking at some of the early voting patterns, I think that surge of Latino votes right now is something that we have to watch. It's interesting, because you think about where this campaign started, with Donald Trump 's speech announcing his candidacy. And, you know, it started with an **alienation** of Latinos and I think it's going to be interested (sic) that it comes all the way, full-circle, back to Donald Trump 's **alienation** of Latinos possibly costing him big states like Florida and other -- other states like North Carolina with a surge of Latino --

COOPER: And you agree that if he -- if he can't win Florida, that's it?

MADDEN: But -- yes. He has to have Florida; he has to hold on to a state like North Carolina and then go find another state, and that's where he's having some trouble right now.

COOPER: Patti, in terms of where Hillary Clinton is at right now; how do you feel?

PATTI SOLIS DOYLE, CNN POLITICAL COMMENTATOR: Well, you know, I'm feeling pretty good, actually. But I just want to comment on what Kevin said: yes, they're having -- Latino votes are having an impact in Florida, but I think they're also having an impact in places like Virginia; in places like North Carolina; certainly, Nevada. I think that is going to be the story of 2016 and it's a -- it's -- for me, as a Hispanic woman, it's very gratifying that Hispanics are going to be the ones that are going to beat Donald Trump . I mean, he's spent the last year-and-a-half basically insulting, offending, demeaning.

And he hasn't -- I mean, he started that -- the campaign that way, but he doubled-down and tripled-down, never took the opportunity to apologize, and now he's really going to pay the price for it.

COOPER: Stuart, as you look at it -- I mean, and you're no fan of Donald Trump -- I mean, if Donald Trump does lose and it's because of this Latino turnout, does he only have himself to blame for this?

STUART STEVENS, FORMER ADVISOR TO MITT ROMNEY : Sure. I mean, he's the only one out there talking about Mexicans being rapists, and this sort of assault that you've had on **immigration** as a whole. He's in Minnesota tonight attacking **immigrants**.

COOPER: Especially after the autopsy of -- of 2012.

STEVENS: The Republican Party went through a very logical, cogent process -- and I think Reince Priebus deserves a lot of credit for this -- of how to win a national election. You know, it's been 1988 so we can celebrate on election night. And we've gone and done, now, the exact opposite of every recommendation. There -- there was a specific number targeted -- 31 percent -- you needed to get of non- white vote. Mitt Romney only got 19 percent. Trump is probably headed to south of 15. Plus, he's losing college-educated white voters. So by trying to just appeal to white voters in this way, he's lost a lot of white voters.

COOPER: And you look at -- I mean, the "ground game" is probably the most often used phrase this -- this election; but, when you look at -- at the disparity in the -- in the organization, you think that's going to be critical (inaudible). STEVENS: We've never really seen this, you know? All our modeling is done on having campaigns basically of two equal abilities to produce votes, just from block and tackle. Sometimes you have one better than another. Except for a couple of states -- Iowa he has a good organization -- Trump really doesn't have an organization. And I think that is going to be telling on election day.

DAVID AXELROD, CNN SENIOR POLITICAL COMMENTATOR: Yes, I mean, I would -- you know, one of the things that's interested me is they keep saying, "Well, he doesn't have an organization, but the Republican Party has an organization." But that organization was built to elect Republicans down ballot, to bring Republican voters out. When you have a presidential campaign, you're identifying your voters and they're not all Republican; some of them are Independents; some of them are Democrats. But you know who your voters are and you go and get them.

There is no indication to me that there is any such operation on the Trump side. But as -- as to the big problem, you know, ultimately this comes down to math. And in order to win, you have to achieve a certain number. In a country that's becoming more and more diverse, you can't **alienate** yourself from the most -- the most dynamically growing parts of the country and expect to win. And this is what the Republican Party concluded in 2012.

Donald Trump put together a campaign that was designed to win the Republican nomination for President and he achieved that. But, in so doing, he made it virtually impossible to win a general election.

COOPER: But it's also so interesting to me -- and, again, you know, if he does not win, a candidate whose raison d'etre was "I have -- I surround myself with the best people. I know how to build a -- a winning organization", has not a built a winning organization. Now, it may turn out that he -- he knows more than everybody else and he has built an organization (inaudible).

AXELROD: Yes, but you know -- I mean -- yes, I know he's said that; but the fact is, everything about Donald Trump is about Donald Trump , right? He's the center of every script; he's the center of every activity; and that's the way he's run his presidential campaign. It's not just that other Republicans don't want to go out and be surrogates for him. He thinks he is the best person out there at any given moment and he doesn't really, I think, believe in the need for an organization. He thinks this is all a -- an exercise in media and that he is the best at that. And I think that's a big miscalculation.

COOPER: How do you see the -- the Clinton campaign? Do you think, with this new Comey letter -- Hillary Clinton has not talked about it on the trail today. Do you think that's wise? I mean, a lot of folks earlier on were saying anytime she's talking about emails is not a good idea.

SOLIS DOYLE: Well, that's exactly right. I mean, obviously, it's good news. It's good news for her; it's good news for her staff; it's good news for Huma, considering what the alternative could have been. But she doesn't want to talk about emails; she doesn't want to talk about the FBI ; she doesn't want to talk about dysfunction at the FBI . Those words should not come from her mouth. We don't want to remind voters of the server. She wants to end this campaign on a positive note. She wants to talk about her message, "Stronger Together" -- you know, being the President for all Americans.

COOPER: Although, she has been -- I mean, you know, it's not all high and, you know, sunshine. I mean, it's been character attack on Donald Trump day after day.

SOLIS DOYLE: Right, but -- but since that later came out, right, nine days ago. Now -- now that it's over and done, she can go back and close on a positive message.

COOPER: How -- how do you think Donald -- I mean, do you think this Comey letter makes a big difference one way or another? Paul Begala is saying he thinks it's all baked in already.

STEVENS: Yes, I'm with Paul on this. You know, I really don't think there's a lot of Americans out there saying, you know, "Am I really going to vote for Hillary Clinton ?" "Am I really going to vote for Donald Trump ?" I think these are the most polarizing candidates we've had in -- in modern politics. And I think it's just about execution and about motivation.

Now, the contrary -- if Comey had put out a letter today saying the investigation was reopened, I think that would have been bad, because I think it would have depressed her turnout. But I -- I don't think, at the end of the day, that's what people are going to -- that haven't made a decision are going to make a decision about.

MADDEN: Yes, I think on the margins it's not really going to -- to matter that much. I think the -- the bigger problem that I would be worrying about if I were inside the Trump campaign, which is that, over the last week, they were able to crystalize their message as a contrast message against Hillary Clinton and bring home some disaffected Republicans. But you built that -- you built that -- that closing message on that argument that is now, essentially, gone. So what do you -- what happens in the next 48 hours?

So is it -- is the disciplined Trump that we've seen over the last 72 hours -- is he going to disappear on us in this last 48 hours? I think that will be -- that will be what I would be watching over the next 48 hours.

AXELROD: But it is, I think, the most telling thing -- and -- and this was highlighted by the discussion you had with John King , is that in the last 48 hours of this campaign, Donald Trump is running around the country like Willy Loman trying to make a sale here -- desperately trying to find the pieces that he needs to put this together. And it -- it is very, very unlikely that he can do that.

COOPER: Death of Salesman is the title that Willy -- the production that Willy Loman is a character in.

AXELROD: Exactly. Exactly.

COOPER: It's not a good -- a good title for the candidate.

Do you want say, Stuart, what you think is going to happen on election day, or --

STEVENS: Listen, I think it's going to be very, very difficult for Trump to reverse what has happened now. The real thing that -- that I hope will happen is I hope there will be a lot of ticket-splitting, because I think these Republican Senate candidates are, for the most really tremendous candidates and I think that it will really help us to have a Republican Senate. So I think that's going to be a big story on Tuesday night.

AXELROD: One of the paradoxes is there are a lot of Republicans -- and I expect Stuart is one of them -- who don't like Donald Trump , would like to see him thumped so this thing is settled here and doesn't spill into beyond the election in terms of defining the party. But if they -- he does get thumped by a big margin, then you lose the Senate and you lose a lot of these candidates, so there's kind of a paradox.

COOPER: We've got to take a break. Thank you, everyone; appreciate it. Good discussion.

Coming up, the stars come out for Hillary Clinton . Today, a shooting star, LeBron James. Monday, it will be Bruce Springsteen. Meanwhile, Donald Trump says he does not need Beyonce. Our question: did the celebrity endorsement actually translate into votes? We'll look into that next.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

COOPER: Bruce Springsteen is going to perform at a rally for Hillary Clinton tomorrow night in Philadelphia. Two people who may not be thrilled about that: Springsteen super-fan, Chris Christie , and Donald Trump , whose been trying to slam Clinton for campaigning with some of the biggest stars in the world. That may seem a little odd coming from someone who hosted a show called "Celebrity Apprentice" and certainly has tried to tout his own celebrity support; Scott Baio, for instance.

Here's what Trump said yesterday about a few of the stars campaigning for Clinton:

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

TRUMP: I don't need Beyonce and I don't need Jay-Z. I like them.

(APPLAUSE)

TRUMP: I don't need -- I don't need J-Lo and I don't need Jon Bon Jovi -- nice guy. They're all nice. They're all nice, but I don't need them.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

COOPER: Trump also said it's "demeaning to the political process for Clinton to campaign with celebrities." He may not think he needs Beyonce; but, apparently, he does want Ted Nugent, who performed at a Trump rally in Michigan tonight. To call Nugent controversial is probably an understatement. Over the years, he's called President Obama a "sub-human mongrel"; called Clinton names we can't say on television and said she should be hanged. Let's just be real, if there is a contest over who has the bigger stars, there's certainly no doubt who's winning that particular contest. The question is does it really matter? Does it make any difference?

Randi Kaye, tonight, reports:

(BEGIN VIDEOTAPE)

(MUSIC PLAYING)

RANDY KAYE, CNN REPORTER: Beyonce and Jay-Z headlining a Get Out the Vote concert in Cleveland for Hillary Clinton .

BEYONCE KNOWLES, ENTERTAINER: Look how far we've come from having no voice to being on the brink of making history.

(APPLAUSE)

KNOWLES: Again, by electing the first woman President.

CLINTON: I am so energized after this concert. And I've got to say, didn't you love the pantsuits?

KAYE: Hillary Clinton is deploying an army of celebrities. Saturday night, Katy Perry in Philadelphia.

(MUSIC PLAYING)

KAYE: Earlier today, LeBron James in Cleveland.

LEBRON JAMES , BASKETBALL PLAYER: I know you guys are excited to see her.

KAYE: And, tonight, James Taylor in New Hampshire. But does any of this star power really translate into votes?

DOUGLAS BRINKLEY, PRESIDENTIAL HISTORIAN: We can never tell the real firepower of a celebrity endorsement.

KAYE: Presidential Historian, Douglas Brinkley, says even when Oprah Winfrey endorsed Barack Obama , there is no way to know how many voters she actually influenced. And marching out celebrities can be risky.

BRINKLEY: There are a lot of Americans who just don't like Jay-Z and Beyonce's music. They don't like the idea that, you know -- pop stars on the Potomac. You can see moments when it's helpful, but not in this last hour where you're just dumping stars to vote areas and hoping that will flip states for you.

(MUSIC PLAYING)

KAYE: Earlier in the campaign, Clinton rallied with J-Lo in Miami.

CLINTON: We just heard Jennifer perform "Let's get Loud". Well, I say let's get loud at the voting booth.

KAYE: And Stevie Wonder in Los Angeles.

(MUSIC PLAYING)

BRINKLEY: It shows a kind of weakness that you can't generate 20,000 people on your own, ready to hear your words.

KAYE: Which is exactly why sometimes it doesn't work, like in 2004 when Bruce Springsteen in Ohio for John Kerry , and Kerry still lost that state. And Brinkley says the last week of an election should be the candidate's final pitch.

BRINKLEY: If you're closing argument is "Here's my pal, Jay-Z", it makes people wonder whether your campaign is particularly well organized. There is a feeling of desperation if you lean to heavily on celebrities at the end.

KAYE: Still, celebrity endorsements are nothing new. John F. Kennedy got a boost from Frank Sinatra. Richard Nixon had help from Sammy Davis, Jr.

BRINKLEY: Sammy gave Nixon a big hug and it starts showing that African-Americans could vote Republican. Years later, John McCain campaigned with Hollywood actor turned California Governor, Arnold Schwarzenegger . Mitt Romney had Kidd Rock.

The risk for Hillary Clinton , focusing the campaign's final days on celebrities is that voters may feel that they're not the priority.

BRINKLEY: It kind of can work against you. A lot of people are saying "My gosh, she's running around with Jay-Z instead of talking bread-and-butter economic issues to the rust belt."

(END VIDEO TAPE)

COOPER: And Randi joins us now from Orlando. I mean, it does seem like all these big-name celebrities could, potentially, hurt a campaign.

KAYE: Absolutely. It's a risky move, Anderson. If you listen to Doug Brinkley -- I mean he says, basically that celebrities can bigfoot a campaign. I mean, at look at what we're talking about this weekend. We're talking about Jay-Z, and Beyonce, and Katy Perry -- maybe more about what they were wearing or how they sounded singing, and maybe a whole lot less about Hillary Clinton and her plans for children or working families.

So what happens is, the candidates message, he says, can get lost in all this celebrity-mania, and they take over the campaign, really. And so then you have states like Ohio, and Pennsylvania, and Michigan, and here in Florida where the candidate -- their whole message is just lost in all of this celebrity madness, Anderson. COOPER: I don't know. We'll see -- see what happens. Randi, thanks very much. We cordially invite Beyonce, LeBron James, Scott Baio, and everyone else in America to tune into CNN Sunday -- or, excuse me, Tuesday -- or tonight, even. We'll, of course, have coverage all day on election day on Tuesday. We are almost there -- almost there.

That does it for us. Thanks for watching. "CNN TONIGHT", Don Lemon starts now. See you tomorrow.

News; International

**NEW\_DOCUMENT\_HERE**

Anderson Cooper, Evan Perez, Joe Johns, Dana Bash, John King, Jeffrey Toobin, David Axelrod, Gloria Borger, Van Jones, Kayleigh McEnany, Jeffrey Lord

11559 speakers\_end

[20:00:00] WOLF BLITZER, CNN ANCHOR: Special coverage right now.

ANDERSON COOPER, CNN ANCHOR: Wolf, thanks very much. Good evening, everyone, from Washington, D.C. Thanks for joining us. What a night.

If you are waiting for yet another shoe to drop in a presidential campaign that has, at times, resembled Imelda Marcos' closet, just take a look at the floor. There is a brand new piece of footwear on it tonight.

FBI Director James Comey put it there, nine days after sending a letter to Congress revealing the existence of e-mails with potential connections to the Clinton private server investigation, he sent another. A very short one who's bottom line can be summed up even more succinctly, in so many words, never mind.

Nine days ago Director Comey broke a decade of Justice Department tradition against saying anything so close to an election. His words shook the race because the impression that some took from them that the e-mails contained fresh evidence of wrongdoing, that was a mistaken impression. Today, against all expectations, the FBI director weighed in again, perhaps to clean up the damage, which did not stop Donald Trump from saying this.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

DONALD TRUMP (R), PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE: Hillary Clinton will be under investigation for a long, long time for her many crimes against our nation, our people, our democracy. Likely concluding in a criminal trial.

(CROWD CHANTING "LOCK HER UP")

(END VIDEO CLIP)

COOPER: Donald Trump speaking today, he's speaking after Director Comey's new letter contradicting his claim, at least as far as the FBI is concerned. And as it's all playing out, the two candidates are making some of their final campaign stops in battleground states.

We'll bring you more on that shortly but first the Comey story. Details from our justice correspondent Evan Perez who joins us now.

So what did the FBI director say in this new letter to lawmakers? EVAN PEREZ, CNN JUSTICE CORRESPONDENT: Well, Anderson, what he basically concluded here was that his team had worked around the clock in the past 10 days to try to figure out what were -- what were these e-mails found in this Anthony Weiner laptop. We're told that they worked around the clock. And the team that had spent a year on this server investigation, to Hillary Clinton 's private server investigation, they were brought back. And they went through these e- mails. In some cases, they went through them line by line. They found a lot of duplicate e-mails. They also found a lot of personal e-mails.

We don't know exactly how many classified e-mails they found. But they did find some. And that is what they've been spending the time doing. The letter from Comey was very brief. Just -- not much shorter than the one that was sent 10 days ago. And he says in part, "During the process, we've reviewed all the communications that were to or from Hillary Clinton while she was secretary of state. Based on our review, we have not changed our conclusions that we expressed in July with respect to Secretary Clinton."

Anderson, what this means is that for the FBI 's purposes here, this is a closed investigation. This is done. At least for now because keep in mind that there were 30,000 e-mails that were deleted from the private server. The FBI was able to recover about 15,000 of those e- mails. So about 15,000 are somewhere else. We don't know, maybe they're deleted forever. But if they turn up somewhere else, the FBI will be right back here again doing this review, checking to see if there is anything brand new and anything that changes their conclusion. That could happen at any time. Obviously, that's one of the problems with this case.

And we should also add that as per Huma Abedin, whose e-mails these were, the FBI probably still will need to talk to her. There is still the problem of how did these e-mails get on this computer? She -- her attorneys say that she doesn't know. She doesn't know because she didn't really use this computer in the past. So that remains a mystery. The FBI is still doing a few things to -- to tighten those loose ends, Anderson.

COOPER: Evan, when the FBI first made the announcement that they had found new Hillary Clinton e-mails, they said there was no way they would be able to get through them and have an update before -- for the public at least before Election Day.

PEREZ: Right.

COOPER: Here we are two days before Election Day and we get this announcement. Do we know what happened?

PEREZ: Extraordinary work apparently. They said that a lot of the work here had to do with technology. They spent time using software, some of the software that they had used before in similar cases to go through millions of e-mails. They've done that before. So in this case, they had to go through thousands of e-mails. Probably tens of thousands of e-mails. And they were able to quickly remove the ones that they weren't interested in. Those are the Anthony Weiner e- mails. Those had nothing to do with this case.

We're told that essentially they worked around the clock, Anderson. That's the reason why. And it was a surprise, even to FBI executives. They had no expectation. And the guidance we had gotten from FBI was simply this, that the director of the FBI did not plan to provide any more piecemeal updates, no partial updates until the work was done. And apparently, that was done today. They briefed him today and he decided he had to send this letter as soon as possible.

COOPER: Just, Evan, briefly, was it ever confirmed how many e-mails they actually had to go through? Because there were -- you know, there were all these reports about -- I've seen figures of 650,000 e- mails that were on the computer.

PEREZ: Right.

COOPER: But was that ever actually confirmed?

[20:05:02] PEREZ: Right. That was in larger -- the larger number was -- is really meaningless simply because those are -- it had to do with Anthony Weiner's e-mails. The much smaller number had to do with these. But it was a significant volume. And that's the reason why they had to use technology. They used search terms to try to narrow down what they needed to see. Check to make sure that there were e- mails that went through the server. Those were what they were mostly interested in, Anderson.

COOPER: OK.

PEREZ: And so using that method, they were able to narrow it down and focus on the ones that they needed to read line by line.

COOPER: All right. Evan Perez, appreciate it.

Nine days ago when the first Comey letter hit the Clinton side seemed shell shocked for a time. Their reaction now, Joe Johns is working his sources, joins us with that.

So Hillary Clinton spoke earlier today, Joe, in a rally in Cleveland. Did she bring up the new Comey letter?

JOE JOHNS, CNN SENIOR WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT: No, she didn't talk about it at all, Anderson. And the betting is that she will not talk about it here in Manchester, New Hampshire. She's on the ground here. And right behind me, it's dark because the recording artist, James Taylor, is doing a performance for the audience.

From the campaign's perspective, every time Hillary Clinton talks about e-mails, it's a problem for her because that becomes the story. That becomes the sound bite. And they frankly want to talk about the positive things that she says she wants to do for the country.

There's also the fact that the campaign is leery about the idea of engaging in a back and forth with the FBI director or the FBI itself. So for now, the indication is Hillary Clinton doesn't want to talk about this. And she's got a lot to do here in New Hampshire, of course. This is a state she lost in the primaries to Bernie Sanders. And it's also a state that has no voting. So they really wanted to bear down here in the state before people go to the polls, Anderson.

COOPER: It is interesting because clearly she talked about the -- first Comey letter from several days ago for several days trying to undo some of the damage, calling -- kind of going after the FBI , calling for any more information to be released. It is interesting that they've decided now not to address this, at least so far. Does the campaign believe they can undo any damage they think might have been caused by the reopening of the case?

JOHNS: The real concerns about that, I talked to an aide privately this evening who said it's unlikely that they can undo the damage that has been caused by all of this. But frankly, the campaign's thinking at least for this evening -- now as you know things like this can change in the closing days of a campaign. But at least for now, the thinking is the best way to close out this campaign is to try not to talk about it. Let aides, surrogates, others discuss it on television. What have you.

But, frankly, not to let the candidate herself get into it because it just reminds people of not just this but WikiLeaks , the Clinton Foundation and all t other stories that still aren't quite resolved out there, Anderson.

COOPER: All right. All right. Joe, thank you.

You heard Donald Trump at the top of the program. The day the last Comey letter came out, he told a crowd in New Hampshire that the system, quote, "might not be as rigged as I thought," right? Those were his words.

This was a sharp change from his repeated statements that he's getting a raw deal and that Hillary Clinton is getting away, he says, with a crime. Now that Director Comey has weighed in again, has Trump changed his view one more time? His campaign manager Kellyanne Conway joins us.

Kellyanne, thanks for being with us.

KELLYANNE CONWAY, TRUMP CAMPAIGN MANAGER: Hi.

COOPER: So the other day Donald Trump said about what would be found on Anthony Weiner's computer. He said, and I quote, "That's the mother lode. I think you'll find 33,000 that are missing. The 15,000 that are missing. The facts that are missing." Kept calling it the mother lode.

Wasn't it irresponsible for him at that point to be saying such things without having any facts particularly now that Comey has come forward and said there was nothing there?

CONWAY: He is welcome to speculate as to why FBI Director Comey would make an unprecedented move so close to an election. I appreciate what Trump had to say compared to the Clinton people just going right after Comey, making him the complete -- just like a nuclear device against this poor guy with he's irresponsible --

COOPER: But wait a minute, you guys have been going after Comey and the FBI for --

CONWAY: No, no. Only --

COOPER: You guys have been going after Comey and the FBI for -- since July.

CONWAY: No.

COOPER: Really?

CONWAY: Because -- this is why. We discussed this on your program. So I'll repeat myself. That was because Jim Comey on July 7th testified under oath to Trey Gowdy's committee and said that Hillary Clinton did not tell the truth. It wasn't one device. It was multiple devices. It wasn't -- there wasn't no classified information.

(CROSSTALK)

COOPER: Right. But Donald Trump has been implying that the FBI is part of this rigged system.

CONWAY: There was classified information. And people feel like the federal government is part of the rigged system. That's why Congress has a 12 percent approval rating and that's why 75 percent of the country wants to take the country in a new direction.

COOPER: Right. But people feel lots of ways. It doesn't make it true. Is it responsible for someone who might be president of the United States to be, in your words, speculating about an active investigation when he has no actual facts?

CONWAY: I think it's actually irresponsible of somebody who was secretary of state and set up a private server, which is why we're having this entire conversation --

(CROSSTALK)

[20:10:03] COOPER: You're not answering the question.

CONWAY: -- lied about it. I am answering it.

COOPER: We know that's irresponsible.

CONWAY: I told you that. He's --

COOPER: We know that's irresponsible. The FBI said that was irresponsible.

CONWAY: Well, it's beyond irresponsible. It's illegal.

COOPER: Is it irresponsible if a man who might be president of the United States speculated about something which he has no facts? CONWAY: No, you know what, Anderson.

COOPER: Because you used the word speculation.

CONWAY: Everybody speculated for nine days. And he's the one who shouldn't be, right? Everybody speculated for nine days. Everybody on CNN speculated.

COOPER: If everybody jumped off a bridge it doesn't mean you should jump off a bridge, too. I mean, again, I'm just trying to ask --

CONWAY: I'll take note of that.

COOPER: Don't you think it's irresponsible? Apparently you don't.

CONWAY: No, I don't think it's irresponsible. But again, he was one of many to speculate about why Comey did what he did. People really went into their partisan corners over that one.

COOPER: Right. But many people are like cable news pundits, not going to be president of the United States.

CONWAY: That would be CNN .

COOPER: Anyway, as recently as this afternoon, Trump was talking about how -- how Secretary Clinton could be facing a criminal trial. Does she now acknowledge that this is now off the table? That she is facing no criminal charges full stop?

CONWAY: Well, he would now acknowledge that Jim Comey has decided not to amend his original recommendations. Maybe the Clinton Foundation is still investigation. We don't know. These are the Clintons after all. Decades of personal enrichment, decades of double dealing, decades of me first, Hillary first, decades of gifting and grifting. We just don't know where it ends. And that's part of her problem, Anderson.

If you look at the CNN poll on these questions, this is not going to change. The fact that a majority of Americans think she is dishonest and untrustworthy, and thinks that there is a different set of rules for her. There is just a different set for rules, there's a reason why in very good reporting you just heard from Joe Johns, there's a reason why Hillary Clinton does not want to mention this because when you're talking about e-mails, or you're talking about WikiLeaks , you're reminding people what their major reluctance about electing her is in the first place.

She just can't tell the truth. You just never know what else is behind the curtain. But by the way, she didn't take the last nine days to do what? She didn't get out there and say, hey, folks, you've already decided about the e-mails. I'm going to talk to you about what's next for Obamacare. I'm going to talk to you about stopping the advance of ISIS and radical Islamic terrorists. I'm going to talk to you about school choice and expanding education opportunities. You know what she did? She piled on more and more slop and more and more negative ads against Donald Trump . It is the least aspiration -- COOPER: You know, look, there is no doubt she's been --

CONWAY: -- in the history of the Democratic Party.

COOPER: Right. And we've been covering this for all the talk of going high, obviously that is not what they've been doing the last couple of days.

CONWAY: Gutter.

COOPER: But frankly your campaign hasn't been doing that either. We just played Donald Trump talking about, you know, that there is going to be criminal indictments. Again you just said you don't know. You don't know if there is an investigation of the Clinton Foundation . You have no facts. And yet your candidate continues even today, after Comey came out, to say that there is going to be, you know, criminal investigations for years.

CONWAY: Well, let's review what we do know about the Clinton Foundation . We do know that Chelsea Clinton used its money to help pay for a wedding. We do know that there is --

(CROSSTALK)

COOPER: Right. You don't know that there's an active investigation.

CONWAY: We do know --

COOPER: You said you didn't.

CONWAY: Well, these are the things that matter to Americans when they cast a vote. We do know that Bill Clinton Inc. as it was referred to, quote-unquote, needed to make sure he was racking in $66 million. We do know that they took millions and millions of dollars from countries that hate women and deny little girls basic rights.

COOPER: Right.

CONWAY: We do know a lot about the Clinton Foundation . It doesn't sit well with voters.

COOPER: Listen, we've covered all this. And -- right. I totally agree with that. But also we know a lot more about the Clinton Foundation than we know about your candidate's taxes. I mean, we haven't seen anything about your candidate's taxes. And so isn't a little hypocritical to be using information that you know about the foundation because they actually have released all their financial records when your candidate hasn't done any of that?

CONWAY: No. You're making -- you're equating and completing two thing that are not related, frankly. I mean, we're talking about what she did as secretary of state.

COOPER: You're attacking them for information that you know because they've released the tax returns and released all their information when your candidate has not released his personal information. CONWAY: That's not how -- I guarantee you that nobody got $1 million donation on Donald Trump 's spouse's birthday from Qatar. I guarantee you that --

COOPER: How do we know? How do we know?

CONWAY: -- the Trump Foundation --

COOPER: How do you know?

CONWAY: Because you know.

COOPER: Have you seen his tax returns?

CONWAY: Because you know -- because what -- how does Donald Trump made -- how has Donald Trump made his money and how have the Clintons made their money?

COOPER: By licensing his name to random people all over the world to put on buildings that he doesn't have much to do with other than slopping his name on it.

CONWAY: That's not fair. That's not fair. This man has employed tens of thousands of people over the years.

COOPER: Well, that's --

CONWAY: She has not. She never signed a paycheck.

COOPER: Right. But it's basically a licensing -- it's a licensing thing.

CONWAY: And she sold access.

COOPER: I mean, look, he is not building all these buildings. He is licensing his name. And it's a great business. I'm not criticizing it.

CONWAY: Well, he's incredibly successful. Incredibly successful.

COOPER: But you don't know -- no doubt. But you don't know what his finances are because you haven't seen his tax returns either. So you don't know who's giving him money.

CONWAY: Well, here's what I do know.

COOPER: How do you know the government of Qatar hasn't given him $1 million?

CONWAY: Here's what I do know and here's what my expertise is, particularly as his campaign manager. I know we've got the Democrats on the run, running around the blue states like Michigan and Pennsylvania and New Hampshire.

COOPER: OK.

CONWAY: And Nevada and Colorado.

[20:15:02] COOPER: And that's a pivot, right.

CONWAY: And why are they doing it? They're following the leaders. No, this is important in the closing days. They're going where we are because the polls are tightening.

COOPER: But you raise a criticism of the Clintons that they got $1 million from Qatar, which they very well probably did, but again we know nothing about the finances of your candidate.

CONWAY: You know plenty.

COOPER: Right?

CONWAY: There's 104-page financial disclosure statement. Anybody can pull up 104-page is a lot of pages.

COOPER: But, come on, there's no tax returns. There's no tax returns other than a leaked one that shows -- you know, that he's agreed he hasn't paid federal, you know --

CONWAY: And if America cared about it, why is he tied in states where President Obamacare carried the state by more than 50 percent twice? Why she can't crack the 46 percent that I've been talking about in your show for weeks? There she is, 46 percent. What's going to change between now and Tuesday?

COOPER: Yes. I agree. She's got problems, yes.

CONWAY: She does. And she's going to lose.

COOPER: Your campaign is currently running an ad that says, quote, "Hillary Clinton is under FBI investigation again after e-mails were found on pervert Anthony Weiner's laptop." Now that she's not under investigation, are you going to stop that ad?

CONWAY: Maybe we'll remove that section because it was added after October 28th anyway. We already had a corruption ad in the can because it's not like October 28th, 2016 was the first time anybody had ever thought about ethics and Hillary Clinton or corruption.

COOPER: OK. So you're going to remove that part?

CONWAY: So -- well, we'll think about it. We'll see. I guess if it's not accurate anymore. But I don't know if her foundation is under FBI investigation. We'll have to investigate the investigation. But there's plenty more, honestly, in a 30-second ad, Hillary and corruption, it's basically, oh, my god, how do we fit it all in? So there's really no problem removing that part of it and filling in another blank. There is just so much to choose from.

COOPER: Last night at a Trump rally, the chairman of the Nevada Republican Party made a claim that polling places in Clark County were kept open late, in his words, quote, "so a certain group could vote." When you were asked about that earlier today on CNN , you referenced, quote, "special favors and perhaps special rules for Democratic voters." Do you have any evidence at all to back that claim up, that Democratic voters are getting special favors?

CONWAY: No, not in this instance. I was just making the case that if -- that we're watching that. You know, and we don't believe that polls should be open past the minute they're supposed to be and that special favors should not be granted.

COOPER: Right. But people are already --

CONWAY: And if people are in line and they're there to vote.

COOPER: But as you know, if people are in line.

CONWAY: Then it's great.

COOPER: Right.

CONWAY: It's great. But -- but folks will be watching. I mean, there are people watching. I know Hillary Clinton has got people watching.

COOPER: Right, but --

CONWAY: We just want fairness. And we are up against -- but Anderson, in fairness, we are up against a woman and a machine that stops at nothing to get her way. It's always Hillary first. The corruption, the ethics, the stop at nothing to advance her interests is very clear and so we're just watching. But you know, if people are already in line and they wanted to vote, fine. We're very happy with the returns we're seeing from the early balloting and the absentee voting in most states.

COOPER: But don't -- I mean, don't facts matter? I mean, if the chairman of the Nevada Republican Party is making this inaccurate claim, that polling places in Clark County are kept open so, quote, "a certain group could vote," the certain group was just voters who are on line in time to vote. So why imply that it is this certain group?

CONWAY: I think he was referring to the workers who were, I believe, either on break or after their shift, trying to vote, from what I understand. But he's just making the claim that -- he's making the point that if this happens, then it will be noted.

But, look, I mean, honestly, we're running against Hillary Clinton and her crew. And we're going to fact check everything we say and very little of what they say. I mean, that's rich. They are just everything from Jim Comey should resign to he is lying to he is a Republican to he's worst person ever, and now he's done the right thing. He's done a great, honorable thing.

(CROSSTALK)

COOPER: I know, the system is rigged to the system is rigged, is rigged. I mean, isn't that exactly what you guys have been doing?

CONWAY: The system is rigged against the forgotten men and forgotten women. Anderson, this system is rigged.

COOPER: I agree it's hypocritical for the Democrats in July to be praising Comey and then suddenly go after him when things don't turn out their way, but isn't it the same --

CONWAY: And now he's great again.

COOPER: -- thing that you guys are doing?

CONWAY: Make Comey great again.

COOPER: Well, it's right. But you guys did the same --

CONWAY: I'll get hats. Make Comey great again.

COOPER: You guys were doing the same thing. Donald is saying -- Donald Trump was saying oh, the shift has been righted. You know, he's kind of -- you know, he's gotten back his reputation. Is he going to say the same thing now? Does he have confidence in Comey if he becomes president?

CONWAY: But this doesn't change a couple of facts. The ones that we know she lied and she lied about how many devices and having the server to begin with, and lied about the classified information. She lied about --

(CROSSTALK)

COOPER: Does your candidate have confidence in the FBI director?

CONWAY: Well, this -- I will tell you, this doesn't change a very simple fact, which is this investigation was bungled from the beginning. I mean, that's obvious. Otherwise, today wouldn't have been the day that we found out Hillary Clinton was asking her maid to print out information, even though the lady doesn't have a security clearance we would imagine. I mean, that is new information.

COOPER: Right. It was a "New York Post" story we haven't been able to confirm that. We're looking into it obviously.

CONWAY: That was known to us, in other words. It was not known to us previously. We know that Hillary Clinton left classified information -- left information at a hotel in China. We know Huma Abedin had information on the front seat of her car. I mean, we know all this. We know it's sloppy and the things have been mishandled and none of that changes. But look, we also know that they lie all the time.

[20:20:01] How have we really tightened the polls? Mr. Trump is out there talking about Obamacare. The 26 or 27 times that President Obama lied. If you like your doctor, keep your doctor.

(CROSSTALK)

COOPER: They're chanting, though, lock her up.

CONWAY: Don't facts matter there?

COOPER: I mean, it's not as if you guys are going high either.

CONWAY: Well, I don't say lock her up but I do say prop her up.

COOPER: I mean, look, everyone is going pretty well.

CONWAY: I find it very curious that she thinks people are at these rallies to see her and not Bruce Springsteen, Bon Jovi, Beyonce or Jay-Z. We know who they're there to see because when she's by herself --

COOPER: Isn't Ted Nugent going out with your candidate now?

CONWAY: -- she basically looks like a professor in a lecture hall. Pardon?

COOPER: Isn't Ted Nugent now going to go out with your candidate?

CONWAY: Possibly. But you know, people come to see Donald Trump .

COOPER: Isn't -- yes.

CONWAY: We know that. People come to see Donald Trump . In Minnesota today, we posted the event, Anderson. And within 16 or 18 hours, we had 22,000 RSVPs.

COOPER: No, it's incredible. Turnout is amazing.

CONWAY: For a hangar that holds 4500 people. But, you know, but then the media will ask, but will they vote? No, they just -- they park their car a mile away and walked in the rain to be at the rally, but were not going to vote. Of course they're going to vote. You're going to see --

COOPER: Of course they're going to -- yes.

CONWAY: -- huge lines on Tuesday.

COOPER: Look, we've been saying that all along. That the enthusiasm you guys have and the people -- the tens of thousands who show up is incredible. They spend hours to get there. I mean, it's like a Kenny Chesney concert as people go there all day. It's an experience and I have no doubt they're going to vote. And that's one extraordinary thing your candidate has done, mobilizing all these people, many of them who maybe not have been engaged in the process. So that's an amazing thing I think we've been covering.

CONWAY: It's good for democracy.

COOPER: Listen, we probably kept you over. I -- it is. It always it.

CONWAY: Not at all. COOPER: And Kellyanne, I do always appreciate talking to you so thanks.

CONWAY: It's always fun to be with you, Anderson. Thank you. Absolutely. Thank you.

COOPER: All right. Take care.

We're going to have more on all this with our panel next. Plus, we'll bring you the latest from the two candidates' late-night campaign push. And later the impact today's news could have on the electoral map. Is it going to make a difference which was already shifting obviously before the news broke? We'll be right back.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

[20:25:46] COOPER: We're going to be bringing you a number of live events tonight. That's a Hillary Clinton event in Manchester, New Hampshire. She'll be speaking shortly. Donald Trump has an appearance ahead in Western Pennsylvania what we'll try to bring you followed by a stop in Virginia.

I want to bring in the panel right now. New York had its marathon today. This is intro is mine. CNN "INSIDE POLITICS" anchor, John King, CNN senior political commentator and former Obama senior adviser David Axelrod, CNN senior legal analyst Jeffrey Toobin, CNN chief political analyst Gloria Borger. I'm trying to emphasize new words. Also on the far left and far right of your screen, that is Trump supporters Kayleigh McEnany and Jeffrey Lord, Jeff is a former Reagan White House political director. In the middle of your screen Clinton supporters Van Jones and Paul Begala. Van is a former Obama senior adviser. And Paul advises a big pro-Clinton super PAC.

John King, you heard Kellyanne Conway. Does the new Comey bombshell -- does it erase the impact of the last one?

JOHN KING, CNN CHIEF NATIONAL CORRESPONDENT: Don't think it erases the impact but look at that banner on that scene right now. That is what people are going to be processing for the last 48 hours of this election. "FBI Clears Clinton." If there was a movement toward Trump of moderate Republicans, of independents, of even some Democrats who decided I just can't do this because the nominee of the other party is under investigation, if they process that information, perhaps that stops.

More importantly, even before this news, the race had settled. If you talk to the smart pollsters in the country they've been in a panic for the last couple of weeks because they think they're in a plane with turbulence. They look at their own data and they some of this just doesn't make sense. We're having these wild swings.

COOPER: Panic not because they've taken sides but because they're confused by the data?

KING: Because -- no, because they're statisticians. They're numbers people. And this is what they do. And there are gold standard people in both parties who do this. And they've just been like, whoa, what's happening? The volatility of the electorate. The unusualness. The unorthodoxy of the Trump candidacy. The baggage that Clinton has on honest and trustworthy in her past.

But they all say, and you see this in the polls, and look at the ABC- "Washington Post " poll, the new NBC/"Wall Street Journal" poll, the race has stabilized. The numbers now make sense. You now have a three to five-point Clinton lead depending on which poll you're looking at. And the demographic groups are lining up in a way that the smart pollsters are saying, OK, my data finally has settled, my data finally makes sense.

At the point that it's at right now, she has a bigger national lead than his boss, President Obama, had over Mitt Romney four year ago. At the way it is now, you look at the demographics today, if the election were tomorrow, as the demographics are now, she would win and she would probably win somewhere between 300 and 320 electoral votes. That's where the race was settling coming into this stage. So that's why this is a body blow to the Trump campaign.

Because what people are going to be -- if that's where the race was anyway tonight, before Jim Comey sent this letter, and maybe it doesn't settle in. Democrats are mad at the timing. Everybody can criticize the FBI for sort of what the heck has been going on in last few weeks. But those who process that banner, "FBIClears Clinton" again, if you're torn, you're not going to run from Clinton now, or you're less likely to run from Clinton now and she was already about to win the race.

COOPER: And David Axelrod, I mean, we've been hearing this from a lot of Trump supporters. Newt Gingrich posted on Twitter that Comey must have been under -- he said -- enormous political pressure to cave like and announce something he can't possibly know. End quote. I mean, the Trump campaign seemed to, you know, love Comey just a couple of days ago.

DAVID AXELROD, CNN SENIOR POLITICAL COMMENTATOR: Well, there's been a little of that on both sides.

COOPER: Right. Absolutely. as we've talked about with Kellyanne.

AXELROD: And I'll leave it to Jeff to talk about the institutional issues here. I just want to take issue with one thing John said. I agree with almost everything he said. If I'm the Clinton campaign, and yes, I think the campaign was roiled. It settled in about the middle of the week. It's been inching their way in the last few days. They feel they have this race. I don't think they welcome this story. I don't think they necessarily wanted this story.

COOPER: Because --

AXELROD: Because any time you're talking about the e-mails, you're getting back on a subject that isn't particularly good for them. So even though the headline there is helpful in the abstract, I think they had the race where they wanted it. And anything that unsettles the race is not necessarily welcomed. COOPER: And you said where they wanted it. I mean, what we've seen, and Kellyanne Conway talked about this in the interview, you know, there is a lot of talk about going high. But I mean, they have been prosecuting the case against Donald Trump 's character.

(CROSSTALK)

AXELROD: Well, what I mean, I'm just talking purely about the numbers.

COOPER: OK.

AXELROD: The fact is that they are getting the numbers they need and the numbers they want out of the states. And the race has stabilized in their favor. And they're just counting the hours until Tuesday. And we should point out, too, that in many places in this country, in Colorado, Nevada, Arizona, North Carolina, Florida, two-thirds of the voters will have voted by Tuesday before anybody gets to a polling place. So --

[20:30:01] KING: More Latinos have voted in Florida than voted in all of 2012 already.

COOPER: Wow.

AXELROD: So they're very -- they are confident about where this race is, and if you're confident about where the race is, you don't want any exogenous event to upset the apple cart.

GLORIA BORGER, CNN CHIEF POLITICAL ANALYST: And that's why you didn't hear Hillary Clinton come out today and say, yay, I've been cleared again.

(LAUGHTER)

COOPER: This time.

JEFFREY LORD, TRUMP SUPPORTER: This time it's real.

BORGER: Right?

COOPER: I'm going to savor this moment as long as it lasts.

AXELROD: And really, that's such a lie.

BORGER: So she didn't even mention it. You had her spokesman come out and talk about the fact that she was exonerated in some way, shape or form. I forget the exact words. But they don't want to talk about e-mails. They want to talk about the future of the country and go on this glide path as David points out to kind of where they are with all these narrow margins in these states they think they're doing well. And so they don't want to talk about it.

COOPER: So, Jeff, just for the legal perspective, I mean, there's something to talk about with you. Because when we talked -- when the first Comey letter, everyone -- you were saying, look, it's very unlikely he's going to say anything more before Election Day or be able to do this. Did it surprise you?

JEFFREY TOOBIN, CNN SENIOR LEGAL ANALYST: It certainly surprised me. Everything Jim Comey has done has surprised me and not in a good way. I think this whole episode illustrates the wisdom of the bedrock rules in the Justice Department. You don't give partial results of investigations. You don't talk about public corruption investigations on the eve of elections. He shouldn't have done it the first time, he was worried, apparently, the first time that it might leak. That this material came out.

The -- now he probably was worried that the exoneration would have leaked had he not made the announcement. If he had not said anything at all, they could have just done their investigation, they would have reached the conclusion they reached and then the same result would have happened. That is no prosecution. But instead, he has completely dominated this campaign over the past two weeks. And it's just not what federal investigators want.

AXELROD: The irony about this is I have no doubt that he -- that he thought that he was protecting the integrity of his institution and instead he really undermined the integrity of his institution. And that's a problem that's going to extend beyond Tuesday.

TOOBIN: Absolutely. And you know, I think, you know, I've known Jim Comey for a long time. I've known his reputation which has been impeccable. The idea that he was helping Donald Trump , that that was his motivation, I think, is preposterous. However, he was trying to sort of game the system and go outside the usual rules. And I think all he did was illustrate the value of the rules.

BORGER: And now you have Donald Trump coming out tonight saying you can't possibly go through 650,000 e-mails in eight days.

TOOBIN: Which by the way is a made-up number that no one knows whether -- how many --

COOPER: Right. And Evan was saying, I mean, even if that's the -- total number of e-mails on Anthony Weiner's computer, it's not the e- mails coming from the server.

BORGER: Right. Right.

COOPER: So it's much smaller number.

BORGER: And then he's saying deliver justice at the ballot box, meaning that the FBI has not delivered justice. And --

KING: And you see now, two things. One, a lot of Republicans think that if Donald Trump loses the election, he's going to say he was on a path to victory and Jim Comey and the rigged system stepped out to stop it.

BORGER: Right.

KING: That's one thing. The other thing to Jeff's point, to the Newt Gringrich's point that Jim Comey must have been under a lot of political pressure, that dog I don't think it's going to hunt in the sense that I covered the Bush White House when Jim Comey became the deputy attorney general, and he stood up to a Republican president and the Republican president's chief counsel, and the Republican president's chief of staff, when they wanted to authorize the domestic surveillance program that had been ruled illegal and Jim Comey and the FBI director and others were about to resign.

And so he stood up to a Republican president. Wouldn't bow to political pressure. I just don't think that dog is hunting. I think his leadership of the agency, his judgment here, why he did this, those are all fair questions. His reputation is someone who doesn't flap in the wind for politics.

COOPER: Let's turn to our partisans who have been very nice to let this play out --

(LAUGHTER)

COOPER: On the nonpartisan side. Kayleigh, I mean, if -- as a Trump supporter, the Trump campaign respected what Comey did in that first letter more than a week ago, do they have to respect what he did this time?

KAYLEIGH MCENANY, CNN POLITICAL COMMENTATOR: Look, I think it's unwise for any party to question the integrity of the FBI and I don't expect the Trump campaign to do that. I think Jim Comey has proven himself to not be in favor of either side. That being said, I think Trump is totally within bounds to look back to July and say, I disagree with the fact that an FBI director came out and gave a legal judgment that was better suited for the Justice Department.

And I agree with Gloria that, you know, you don't have Hillary Clinton out there extolling the fact that the second FBI investigations was closed because it reminds voters that two criminal investigations were opened to begin with. And it does bring up these ethical challenges you've had and this idea of wrongdoing. So, you know, I don't think this is good for Clinton. I don't think it will have effect on the tail wind that is behind Donald Trump that I think will lead him to victory on Tuesday.

COOPER: Paul, how do you think this plays? I mean, for the Clinton campaign.

PAUL BEGALA, ADVISER, PRO-HILLARY CLINTON SUPER PAC: I think I said on October 28th when you interviewed me, when this letter came out, that the damage for the e-mail problem had already been baked in.

[20:35:01] I didn't think it moved a lot of votes, I still don't. What you did see over that weekend, though, was what pollsters call a non-response bias. Hillary's vote went down. Not because people all of a sudden said, I can't vote for Hillary. I'm going to be for Trump. But it was the shy Hillary voter.

You keep hearing all these rumors of the shy Trump voters and maybe there are. But over the weekend, at least our pollsters, people I trust, been doing this for decades, said you had a high non-response bias. You had a lot of people who fit the demographic for Hillary who's just hanging up on you, I can't talk about this stuff.

COOPER: Really? That's interesting.

BEGALA: And that's what happened in the data. At least that's what I believe. And now it's reset itself. When Kellyanne was interviewed that same night, I think it was by you, she said this is a good day for our campaign.

COOPER: Right.

BEGALA: She didn't say that tonight. In fact, in that long, really pathetic performance, and she'll be ashamed of it one day, I know, probably Wednesday, she didn't use the word "change." She didn't use the word "jobs." She didn't use the word "**immigration**," she didn't use the "trade." She didn't -- she didn't advance her boss's agenda one inch. I wish she had taken up the whole hour because Trump has got millions of voters out there and he doesn't only have them because Hillary messed up on her e-mail. She and Trump have abandoned their message and is one of the reasons why he can't get back in this race.

COOPER: Van?

VAN JONES, CNN POLITICAL COMMENTATOR: You know, it's interesting, the people who do this for a living a different way than I do see it as, it all kind of washes out. I don't feel that way at all. I think Comey did real damage to the country. I think he did real damage to law enforcement. I think he did real damage to the Hillary Clinton campaign.

The Hillary Clinton campaign was pushed backwards both geographically and morally over this past week. They had to fall back to the blue states and hold on, and they didn't end high. Had this not happened, the country would have been better off because you would at least have the Hillary Clinton campaign able to stay high. She got panicked, from my point of view, and started going nasty, nasty, nasty. I don't blame her because, you know, listen, you got to keep that contrast going once they're kind of muddying your name up. But I think he did real damage. And I hope that he does not stay in that position.

COOPER: Jeffrey?

LORD: Increasingly I find myself agreeing with Van more than I ever thought possible.

(LAUGHTER)

KING: Wow.

LORD: I do think --

(LAUGHTER)

LORD: I do think --

COOPER: The country has been drawn apart but you two have been brought together. LORD: We're Kumbaya.

BORGER: So happy.

KING: I need a drink.

LORD: Listen --

(LAUGHTER)

BORGER: It's like "Saturday Night Live."

LORD: Listen. The practical fact is this, why is Donald Trump scheduling a visit to Scranton, Pennsylvania, tomorrow? Why was he in Harrisburg the other day? Why was he in Valley Forge? The answer --

COOPER: I figured you got something to do with it.

LORD: Well, of course. Of course. And why was Joe Biden there in Harrisburg today and why was Hillary Clinton and why are they going to be in Philadelphia and all this? The answer is, to go -- to Paul's point, yes, the issues. Trade, illegal **immigration**, jobs. These are important issues in Pennsylvania. It's a key state. What this did is say, very clearly, that she's the problem. Forget the FBI . Why did the FBI have to be involved in the first place? Because time after time after time, the Clintons, plural, and singular, are always bringing these problems along with them. They're like the old Peanuts character there who had the little cloud following all around. I mean, this is what happens.

COOPER: Pigpen, I believe.

LORD: Pigpen.

(CROSSTALK)

JONES: You don't have to help him. You don't have to help him.

LORD: Thank you.

COOPER: That is for accuracy's sake.

LORD: It was Pigpen. It was Pigpen. So that's their problem. And they know they've got a problem. And that's why they're in Pennsylvania.

COOPER: By the way, no one gave me that in my ear. I'm proud of that.

JONES: So I just want to say one thing, though. You know, we're talking about this while two things are happening in the country that I think are pretty remarkable. We thought, at least according to Donald Trump , he says, there is a sleeping giant out there. It is a working class giant. I'm going to awaken this giant. And he in fact has awakened that giant. But it's Latino. It's a Latino working class giant that is standing up across the country, especially in Florida, and in Nevada, and I think sometimes we drive looking in the rear view mirror, looking at the black vote, what about the black vote? This Latino vote is a monster. And I think he's going to regret it.

LORD: Cuban, too.

KING: This will be the Latino year. If this continues to go, if the early voting translates into some other states on Tuesday, this will be the year of the Latino, where we knew they were an emerging force. This is when they decide it, boom.

(CROSSTALK)

COOPER: But also in Florida, I mean, you talk about Cubans, but also the demographic makeup of the Latino vote is a lot different than it was --

KING: Yes. Way more different.

COOPER: It's much more different. A lot more South American.

(CROSSTALK)

AXELROD: And also the political orientation of the Cuban vote has changed overtime.

COOPER: Right. Right. Demographic.

AXELROD: But I have to just say, I have to disagree with Paul just on one point. I do think that this did some damage to her in this way. I think there were a lot of Republicans who were having a hard time saying, I'm going to vote for Donald Trump . And the Comey -- the last Comey letter gave them kind of a permission structure to say, OK, I'm coming back. And I think that was a bit of a movement that we saw, the tightening of the race. But it stopped. It stopped in the middle of the week. And the race stabilized. And that's why I say --

[20:40:01] COOPER: I got to take a quick. We only had -- this is our second commercial break in the hour. We're going to continue the conversation in just a moment. We're going to bring you the latest live campaign moments. We want to get as many in this as we possibly can. Watching Khizr Khan there with Hillary Clinton . Watching him. And that's in New Hampshire. We'll also take a closer look at all that really matters in the final analysis. The road to 270. We'll be right back.

KHIZR KHAN, GOLD STAR FATHER: And his policies of hate, exclusion, intimidation. And division.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

COOPER: And welcome back. We're live in Washington. Our breaking news tonight, the October surprise was FBI Director Comey's letter that he was looking to e-mails that could be related to Hillary Clinton . The November surprise two days before the election is never mind. Comey wrote another letter today saying the review of those e- mails is finished and there was nothing there. The bureau stands by its conclusion that she should not face any charges.

[20:45:04] Of course there's already been so much to do about what turned out to be nothing new. It's hard to say what impact this ultimately has. What we can do is look at the numbers as they are right now.

John King joins us with the latest in the road to 270. The pace, frantic in these final hours, obviously, John. What do the numbers tell us about the state of the race?

KING: And let's remember, these numbers we're showing you way before this latest Comey announcement. We really won't get any data, Anderson, before the election, nothing reliable about that. So let's look. And this is the 2004 map. Let me come back here. We'll start at 2016. I just want to show you our latest poll of polls, this is the averaging of most recent national polls. As we said in the last part, this race has settled a bit over the past few days. Settled with a Clinton lead, averaging some polls it's four, some polls it's five, some polls it's two.

If you average them all out a three-point national lead for Hillary Clinton heading into the final days. Why is that significant? I want to drop this down here. I want to go back in time to 2012. We just move this over a little bit and shrink it. Remember that lead. Let's pop this up here.

Back in 2012, on this day, the Sunday before the election, President Obama led Mitt Romney by one point. He won the election by four points. On this day in 2004, the last time the Republicans won the White House, George W. Bush led by two points over John Kerry , he won the election by three points.

So usually, if you're ahead going into the election, you win the election. Not always. But if you're ahead by a healthy margin going in, you tend to win it. Obama's campaign obviously had an organizational strength. That's one thing you look at. You see a more stable race heading into the final days.

Here is one of the reasons I say that. The pollsters have been -- as I said, having turbulence in the data. They feel a lot more settled now. This is the NBC -"Wall Street Journal" poll that came out today. Donald Trump leads among men but Hillary Clinton has a big lead, 13 points, among women. Women will be 53 percent or 54 percent of the electorate on Tuesday. That's a big issue.

Also in some states already, based on early voting, Florida included, they think the electorate will be more diverse this time in some states including Florida than 2012. Look at this, Hillary Clinton has a 75 point advantage among African-Americans, a 42 point advantage among Latinos. If the electorate is more diverse, Trump's edge among whites won't be enough. We'll see what happens. Now in some states this helps more than others. But Hillary Clinton right now, if you look at the construct of the electorate, if it is more diverse than 2012, that's a path for a Clinton victory there, Anderson.

There are some things in the data that supports Donald Trump . But if you look at those -- the Latinos, the women, the African-Americans, that is a coalition that if they turn out is favorable to Clinton.

COOPER: We've spent a lot of time in, you know, recent weeks and months talking about the education gap among white voters. How does that look at the end and why does it matter so much?

KING: It's very significant. It different in different states. But let's look at those numbers. If you bring them up whites with a college degree, Hillary Clinton , 51 percent to 41 percent. A 10-point lead over Donald Trump . This is again NBC/"Wall Street Journal" data. 10-point lead there. This is a constituency Mitt Romney won four years ago, even as he lost for the race for the White House. So it's very significant for Hillary Clinton to have that constituency.

Donald Trump , wow, look at this lopsided 2-1 lead among white voters without a college degree. Why does that matter? Well, Donald Trump 's path to victory, a lot of skepticism about it, but where is Donald Trump in these final days? As Jeffrey noted, Pennsylvania. He's trying in Michigan. He made a play in Minnesota -- excuse me, today. That state hasn't gone Democratic since -- I mean, Republican since the 1970s. But if Donald Trump is to succeed, it's with those white, working class voters across the rustbelt so those numbers are good for him but those college educated, especially women, they live in the Philadelphia suburbs, they live in the research triangle in North Carolina. They live in the Cleveland suburbs, they live in the Columbus suburbs, that is part of the coalition Clinton needs to win the big battlegrounds.

COOPER: So then the race for 270, what's the count at this point?

KING: Let's switch maps and take a peek. This is where we are right now. This is where CNN officially has it. 268 to 204 heading into the final days. But if you talk to even smart Republicans out in the state of Nevada, they think the early voting out there is going to take that state Democratic. That would be enough to put Hillary Clinton across the fish line. And that's where Donald Trump has the issue. Even if Donald Trump ran the board in these other states, Arizona, Florida, North Carolina, and New Hampshire, even if he won the rest of our tossups, he's still short.

And remember, the Clinton campaign thinks, Anderson, they -- they feel strong that they can win down here, and they can win down here. Even if they win one of those two, it gets Donald Trump 's math very, very complicated, which is why in these final days, Kellyanne Conway told you they have the wind at their back. They're also looking for targets, which is why he's trying to get the 20 in Jeffrey Lord's Pennsylvania. He's trying to get the 16 out in Michigan. He's trying to get the 10 out here in Minnesota.

Is there data that shows Donald Trump ahead in these states? No. Is there data that shows you closer? Yes. And so he's going into these states in the last few days trying to steal something blue. And he might need two or three of them. COOPER: All right. John, stay with us. I want to bring the band back together. Joining us also is CNN chief political correspondent Dana Bash. You were joining us before, weren't you?

DANA BASH, CNN CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT: I'm always with you, Anderson.

(LAUGHTER)

BEGALA: She's like the holy spirit.

COOPER: So, I mean, Dana, you see the numbers, you see the map. 48 hours left. How confident is the Clinton campaign at this point?

BASH: They're confident. They're cautiously confident, I would say. And privately, the Trump campaign and Republicans who are looking at those numbers, who are looking at their own data modeling most importantly say that they wish they had another week because the wind had been at Donald Trump 's back.

[20:50:04] And they felt that if they had another week, maybe two, that it could have been doable in a lot of those key blue states to turn them red.

BORGER: You know, the Republicans say -- the Trump people will say that in all these races, it is within the margin of error. And that's why as John was pointing out, they're going to all of these states because they have to. If there's a shot at it, they have to take it. Internally, the Clinton people, in some of these states, say don't be ridiculous. We're ahead in these states. And -- but they want to be sure. They want to be sure because all they need to get to is 270. They don't care about anything above that. Right? So.

KING: In your experience, the three I look at the most, New Hampshire, Michigan, Pennsylvania because no early voting.

BORGER: Right.

KING: And we know -- we know the campaign has done a very good job in the states with early voting. But we know Donald Trump also has pretty good support in those states. So in those states where it's going to be settled on game day.

AXELROD: Yes. No, I mean, look, I think that's one of the reasons why they're going to shore up those states because there is no early voting there. Democrats tend to benefit from early voting. We should keep in mind that New Hampshire may be essential for Donald Trump but it's a small prize. It doesn't solve his big problem.

BORGER: Right.

AXELROD: I think the most significant thing that's happened in the past few days is the early vote out of Florida.

BASH: Yes.

BORGER: Definitely.

AXELROD: Because if he can't win those 29 votes, I honestly don't see a viable path for him.

(CROSSTALK)

COOPER: If he doesn't win Florida, that's it?

BORGER: I agree.

AXELROD: Yes. I mean, I --

KING: Twenty-nine. You have to do Michigan, Minnesota and New Hampshire, that's 30. That's just -- you're asking too much.

AXELROD: You know -- I'm sorry, Dana.

BASH: Go ahead.

AXELROD: We've said this many, many times. But it's worth saying one more time. The fact is, we are becoming a more diverse country. Each election, the Republican Party was right after 2012 when they said we need to have an outreach to Hispanic Americans. They went the other way in this direction. And Donald Trump could pay a very big price for that.

BASH: Well, I was just going to say, to your point about the early vote in Florida, a big reason why Democrats are heartened by that is because there's so much of a Latino vote. And the fact is, it's gotten even bigger in Florida. And I think what is sort of rich or ironic or, you know, you pick how you want to describe it, the fact that Hillary Clinton might really win a state like Florida, maybe some others, probably in Nevada, with the Latino vote, given where this campaign started, with Donald Trump 's campaign started, it's kind of ironic.

AXELROD: Let me add one thing. One -- the thing that I think is most -- almost astonishing is there is privately a genuine belief among folks on the Democratic side that she could make a push in Arizona at him because of the aggressive early voting among Hispanic voters.

BORGER: And Hispanic voters are not voting on the e-mail issue. We've been talking about that all night.

BASH: Right.

BORGER: They're voting on the wall. They're voting on **immigration**. And she's going to -- if she were to win Florida, it would be a very different coalition from an Obama coalition. And that's what we may see forming in this election. If she does win in the southwest --

JONES: I think it's time we start talking about the Hillary Clinton coalition.

BEGALA: That's right.

JONES: Because it's a slightly different configuration.

BORGER: Right.

JONES: And I think that one of the things that is remarkable is how we've been hearing this promises, these rumblings. Someday, someday the Latinos are going to -- and I think it is actually happening and I think it's actually going to shock Democrats as much as Republicans that this thing is finally happening.

COOPER: Kayleigh.

MCENANY: I don't think -- I think we need to pause for a second. Instead of lumping all Hispanics into the Hillary Clinton pot. We should step back. The place we've seen a dramatic increase to the tune of 5 percent increase in Hispanic voters is Florida. And Nate Cohen over at the "New York Times " when the poll was published that Trump was winning by four points in Florida, had a sub-headline that says "Cubans Return to Donald Trump ." Because he had found that there was a 20-point shift of Cuban voters back to Donald Trump just from September because Barack Obama didn't defend the embargo at the United Nations. I think we're underestimating the fact that Cubans have come home to Trump.

(CROSSTALK)

BEGALA: I think you're living in the past.

KING: But even if that's true, there aren't as many of them anymore.

BASH: That's right.

KING: Even if you're exactly right --

BASH: They're older.

KING: The growth has been Puerto Ricans coming in. And then Mexicans, you know, south -- central south, Latin Americans, too. That's been a dramatic growth.

COOPER: Right.

KING: Even if -- that would be very helpful to Donald Trump if that happens. But especially, you get up -- you start at Tampa and just come across to Orlando, the growth up there has not been Cubans.

COOPER: Paul, you agree. You're saying --

BEGALA: Cuba is way more complicated than it used to be. There's still the '59, 1959 generation that escaped Castro's communism. Very, very Republican, very conservative. Then there's the Marielitos who came in the early '80s, late '70s, they're pretty Republican. Then there's the next generation pretty progressive. Plus Trump had a little hiccup, when he -- there was published accounts that he had perhaps extended business interests in Cuba or interest in forming a business in Cuba. And that could have violated the embargo itself. The Latino vote in the -- in South Florida, some of the early returns, is setting all kinds of records.

[20:55:03] BASH: Right.

BEGALA: And they are not turning out for Donald Trump . In fact, Steve Shale, who ran the state for David Axelrod last time.

BORGER: Right.

BEGALA: He texted me tonight, 73 percent of the Hispanics who had voted early so far were classified as low propensity voters. This is the most exciting thing for a campaign.

COOPER: That's interesting.

BEGALA: Like because us for -- we're pretty high propensity. It's the farmers, so the hay is in the barn. They have targeted the folks who they were most concerned about, least likely to vote and gotten them out.

BASH: Yes.

BEGALA: It's a phenomenal accomplishment for the Hillary campaign.

COOPER: We got to take a quick break.

Coming up, does anyone have plans for Tuesday? Don't know if you heard. There'll be an election, CNN is going to be covering it all day, all night. Please join us for that and much more ahead in the second hour of 360. Wow, we're already done with the first hour. Both candidates holding late events. We'll bring you the highlights including one -- this one from Hillary Clinton speaking right now in New Hampshire where it all began about 3.2 million years ago, I guess.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

CLINTON: Maggie's record of accomplishment. And I think about all of the jobs that have been created in this state. How college has been made more affordable. How you've taken on the epidemic of addiction.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

COOPER: It is 9:00 p.m. and the marathon is over in New York, at least. Out in the campaign trail, it's also getting close to the finish line. The candidates going late into the night. Hillary Clinton in New Hampshire.

**NEW\_DOCUMENT\_HERE**

Anderson Cooper, Sara Murray, Brianna Keilar, Mark Preston, Dana Bash, David Axelrod, Maria Cardona, Matt Schlapp, Angela Rye, Drew Griffin, Kayleigh McEnany, Carl Bernstein, John King, Gary Tuchman

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[21:00:35] ANDERSON COOPER, CNN ANCHOR: Good evening.

Tonight, topping the hour, both presidential candidates pulling up a stops, trying to establish momentum going to campaign 2016's final weekend. Donald Trump in the battleground state of Pennsylvania, Hillary Clinton in Ohio, alongside Jay Z and Beyonce. Surrogates for both sides dotting the map. The reason, it's clear, polls are tight. Our CNN battlefield map is shifting. Courts are issuing last-minute decisions on voting and that is barely the half of it tonight. We begin all of it this hour with the Trump campaign and CNN 's Sara Murray.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

SARA MURRAY, CNN POLITICAL REPORTER: 2016's toxic presidential contest led by two deeply unpopular candidates is coming to a close in fitting fashion.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Hillary Clinton is under FBI investigation again after her e-mails were found on pervert Anthony Weiner's laptop.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: How did Hillary end up filthy rich? Pay-to-play politics.

MURRAY: Donald Trump amplifying his latest barrage of negative ads on the campaign trail.

DONALD TRUMP, (R) PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE: I think she's unstable. She's trigger happy.

MURRAY: Despite no new information from the FBI , Trump is still tearing into Hillary Clinton over her e-mail server and insisting she'll eventually face criminal charges.

TRUMP: How can Hillary manage this country when she can't even manage her e-mails? Did you ever see -- hey, folks, let's forget all of this stuff. What a mess. All she had to do was follow the rules. Unbelievable. And now she's going to run the country? She'll be under investigation for years. MURRAY: All part of his final push to convince voters he's the fresh face and she's the face of corruption.

TRUMP: She's likely to be under investigation for a long time, concluding in a criminal trial. Our president. America deserves a government that can go to work on day one and get it done.

MURRAY: With the polls tightening, the GOP nominee is campaigning today in Ohio, New Hampshire, and Pennsylvania. And aiming to drive up his election day vote in key battlegrounds.

TRUMP: We have so many great polls. But you have to get out and vote on November 8th.

MURRAY: Trump's sprint to the finish still taking shape, but the GOP nominee will campaign this weekend in six battleground states, and is likely to wedge in more along the way. With stops in North Carolina and New Hampshire planned Monday.

This campaign continuing to be a family affair, as Donald Trump Jr. hits the trail today in Arizona and New Hampshire, while Eric Trump barnstorms Michigan.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

MURRAY: Now, Trump has already added a seventh state to his plan for the weekend. And a key part of this strategy is to re-visit places like Pennsylvania. This is a state with no early voting, which means when Donald Trump was here tonight, he made a hard pitch for people to show up to vote on November 8th.

His campaign says they see their polls tightening here. And this was a state that appeared very much out of his reach just a couple of weeks ago. But it still going to be an uphill stretching. It's unclear whether he's going to be able to pull together the kind of coalitions he's going to need to flip one of these blue-leaning states to his column. He's certainly hoping to do that.

And tonight here in Pennsylvania, he said he actually believes he's going to do well in Philadelphia. This, of course, is a very Democrat-friendly area, because Trump says he went to school there. So that's why he thinks he'll do well there. Anderson?

COOPER: All right, Sara Murray, thanks very much. We mentioned the polls tightening in key states. Nationally, though, our CNN Poll of Polls showing a five-point Clinton lead. Now whatever the numbers show and whatever each campaigns internal polling says, neither side is certainly slowing down as CNN 's Brianna Keilar found out traveling with Hillary Clinton.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

BRIANNA KEILAR, CNN SENIOR POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT: Hillary Clinton campaigning with billionaire and Donald Trump critic, Mark Cuban.

MARK CUBAN, CLINTON SUPPORTER/DALLAS MAVERICKS OWNER: This is somebody who, without thinking twice, stole millions of dollars from 38,000 people. Who does that?

KEILAR: Trying to revive some of the momentum she gained after the debates as polls tighten amid her e-mail controversy.

HILLARY CLINTON, (D) PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE: When you debate in front of, you know, 60, 70, 80 million plus people, you got to have a sense of preparation, readiness, calmness, composure. And I'll tell you, some of what I heard coming from my opponent it was really hard not to go, what did you say?

KEILAR: Bill Clinton in Colorado playing off of Melanin Trump's speech Thursday, where she vouched for her husband and spoke out against online bullying.

[21:05:04] MELANIA TRUMP, DONALD TRUMP'S WIFE: We have to find a better way to talk to each other, to disagree with each other, to respect each other.

BILL CLINTON, 42ND PRESIDENT OF UNITED STATES: I never felt so bad for anybody in my life as I did for his wife going out, giving a speech saying, oh, cyber bullying was a terrible thing.

I thought, yes, especially if it's done at 3:00 in the morning against a former Miss Universe by a guy running for president.

KEILAR: Hillary Clinton is blanketing battleground states with three stops today, getting assists from her running mate, Tim Kaine, as well as her husband, Bernie Sanders, President Obama, and Vice President Biden, all fanning out across the country.

Clinton will sprint through toss-up states this weekend, her final rally Monday night in Philadelphia, her first campaign event with both the president and first lady, Michelle Obama. Her plan to end on a more positive note, giving way to slamming Donald Trump.

CLINTON: Honestly, I don't know how he lives with himself. Doesn't he see what we see? The millions of moms and dads struggling to make ends meet, balance the demands of work and family, or does he just not care?

KEILAR: President Obama with a repeat stop in North Carolina urging voters there to put Clinton over the top on Tuesday.

PRES. BARACK OBAMA, (D) UNITED STATES: She is my friend. I trust her. She will be an outstanding president. And her name is Hillary Clinton. And I need you to vote for her.

KEILAR: After being interrupted by a protester clutching a Trump sign, the president pleading with the crowd to remain calm and focus on electing Clinton.

OBAMA: Hey, listen up. Hey, I told you to be focused and you're not focused right now. Listen to what I'm saying. Hold up. Everybody sit down and be quiet for a second. Hold up. Hold up. Just relax.

(END VIDEO CLIP) COOPER: That's Brianna Keilar reporting.

President Obama, as you saw, holding two rallies today in another key state, North Carolina. Both aimed at getting people to vote early. So many Democrats believe that they are doing better than the other side. Here's what Hillary Clinton's campaign manager said today about being able to bank the ballot to people who might not be so inclined to turn out either now or on election day.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

ROBBY MOOK, CLINTON CAMPAIGN MANAGER: A quarter of the voters that we have turned out so far in Iowa didn't vote in 2014. By turning these -- by focusing on turning these voters out, first of all, we have more time and can leverage our turn out operation even more during that period and we think that's a strategic advantage that we have over Donald Trump. But simultaneously, we are reducing the number of voters that we need to talk to on Election Day, and the final days to the campaign.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

COOPER: Now, we should be very clear, we do not know who's voting for whom, however, there are some pretty strong indications. CNN 's Politics executive editor, Mark Preston, joins us now with those numbers.

So, four days away from the election, Mark, millions of votes have already been cast. What do we know about how it breaks down?

MARK PRESTON, EXECUTIVE EDITOR, CNN POLITICS: Well, Anderson, we know so far, right now, that more than 31 million people or nearly 31 million people have actually cast their ballots in 38 different states across the country.

You're just talking about North Carolina where President Barack Obama is today. Let's take a look at that state right now. A little more than 2 million people have cast ballots in that state since early balloting had started. But who has the lead right now? Well, if you look at these numbers right here, Democrats have a clear lead in the early ballot return by about 243,000 ballots. That's not all good news, because if you go back to 2012, their lead at this same time, Anderson, was 307,000 ballots returned. And as Robby Mook had just said right there, Democrats really do rely on the early vote to help win elections.

Let's go into the racial demographics of who has returned ballot so far. Let's look at too specifically. African-Americans right here, the participation rate is about 22.7 percent, Hispanics, about 1.8 percent. But if you go back and look at 2012, look at the drop-off right there. You have about a 5.3 percent drop-off and African- Americans actually participating in the early vote right now. You've seen a slight uptick right now, Anderson, when it comes to the Hispanic vote. And of course, we see the white vote right now that has jumped up by about 5 percentage points, Anderson.

COOPER: What about Florida where both campaigns are obviously spending a lot of resources?

PRESTON: Well, let's go down south as you speak about Florida. This state right now is the one that has the largest amount of early ballots that have been sent back in, it's a little more than 4.2 million. Who has the lead in Florida right now? Well, if you look at that, Republicans have a very slight lead. That's about 16,000 ballots more than Democrats.

[21:10:01] So good news, but it even gets if you go back to 2008, which is the comparative data we can use in this election with the State of Florida. Democrats at that time had a 73,000-ballot advantage, now they have 16,000 deficit, not necessarily good news for Democrats when it comes to that.

Let's look at the racial demographics, too. Again let's look at the African-American participation rate, 12.3 percent right now, so far to this date and look at the Hispanic participation rate, about 14.1 percent.

Let's go back now to 2008 and look at these numbers. Look at the drop-off, the sharp drop-off by about 3 percent -- 3.2 percent for African-American participation. At the same time, you have Hispanic participation really skyrocketing up by almost about 5 percent.

Now, we should note that Florida, this is a more diverse electorate than we saw back in 2008. And we also know right now that we have seen the white vote drop off a little bit but not necessarily, when it comes to percentages, Anderson.

COOPER: What about party affiliation, how does that break down among white voters?

PRESTON: Well, it's a good question because it's very important. A lot of people think that the Hispanic vote, the increase in the Hispanic vote would help in the decrease in the African-American vote. Fewer African-Americans are voting, yet more Hispanics are voting. Good news for Democrats, at least it's a wash. Except in the white vote, we dug a little bit deeper into the numbers, we found that Republicans returning ballots have a 17-point advantage right now at this point.

So, what Democrats really need to do and quite frankly, Hillary Clinton needs to do, is that they need to get their -- get the vote out operation, continuing to chug along, and that's why we're going to see Barack Obama head into that state on Sunday, Anderson.

COOPER: Mark Preston. Mark, thanks very much.

We are waiting for Hillary Clinton. Now we brought you Donald Trump earlier, waiting for Hillary Clinton to speak at her big event. Jay Z is on stage as well as other rapper. That's actually not Jay Z. That's Big Sean. Big Sean?

DANA BASH, CNN CHIELF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT: Yes, big Sean.

COOPER: I know, I'm keeping it real. (CROSSTALK)

COOPER: Exactly, better than the cubs. That's right. I know a little bit more about him (inaudible) say hip-hop.

So David ...

BASH: Of course, no.

COOPER: Yeah, no. When you look at these early voting numbers and for all that much -- for all the talk about the ground game, the much vaunted sort of Democrat -- Democratic get out the vote, it looks like in a lot of these places, it's favoring Republicans.

DAVID AXELROD, FORMER OBAMA SENIOR ADVISER: Yeah, well, first of all, there are various factors in each state. You look at Florida, and the thing that intrigues me is the increase in the Hispanic vote and the increase in the percentage of people who didn't have a previous voting record. Because what you've seen are large numbers of Hispanics registering to participate in this election, many of them, Puerto Ricans. And that is something that gives a lot of encouragement to Democrats in Florida and could make a really big difference there.

You know, one of the problems that Donald Trump has is that the Republican Party has said or said after the last election that in order to win, they need to improve their performance among Hispanics, among women, among younger voters. And particularly in the case of Hispanics, they've gone in the other direction here. And in a state like Florida, that could be a decisive difference.

BASH: Yeah, I mean, the Republican National Committee after Mitt Romney did so poorly with Hispanic voters, 27 percent, I think it was in 2012. They went on a mission to have better outreach in the Latino community. For years, they've been doing it. And then Donald Trump came along as their nominee. Now, unclear how that's going to play out, but that is a factor that they definitely did not think about when they were, you know, planning for the presidential nomination. You know, certainly, you know, the appearances that the Latino community will not go for Donald Trump. It's pretty clear.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: I don't know. I don't know.

(CROSSTALK)

COOPER: Kayleigh?

KAYLEIGH MCENANY, TRUMP SUPPORTER: Mr. Cortez pointed out, you know, Hispanics are not a monolithic, can just be drop in the Hillary bucket. You know, I'm in Florida every single weekend. I'm a Floridian. I encounter Cuban voters in particular every time I go back to Florida who are voting Trump. Who are excited about it. Who, you know, feel that he is the right person.

COOPER: But that's not a huge surprise, though, and ...

MCENANY: But we don't know ... COOPER: ... but also among Hispanic voters in Florida, and Maria, correct me if I'm wrong. There's been a huge growth of people from South America and other countries ...

MARIA CARDONA, DEMOCRATIC STRATEGIST: So, absolutely. The Hispanic demographic in Florida has completely shifted. The majority of the Hispanic vote in Florida is now made up of South Americans, Puerto Ricans. There's been a huge influx of Puerto Ricans and the Hillary Clinton campaign has been brilliant. And this summer, they had people waiting at the airport, because literally thousands were coming in every day and they were registering them to vote on the spot.

[21:14:59] And the thing about Puerto Ricans is that on the island they have a propensity to vote of like 98 percent. So, if you grab them here, you register them to vote, that's all they need to do. They will most likely come out to vote. And the majority of them are for Hillary.

COOPER: Matt?

MATT SCHLAPP, TRUMP SUPPORTER: But **immigration** is less of an issue obviously for Puerto Ricans. And a lot of these new **immigrants** that are coming from South America are fleeing repressive authoritarian governments and they're really -- they really connect to the ideals of the American experience.

And so, I think that this is very interesting. Because here's the one thing, you go through all these demographics, you know, Trump's promise with women, Trump's problems with Hispanics, Trump's problems here, Trump's problems there. The problem is when you start to aggregate, look at the polls, he's still very tight in all of these races.

So this is the thing, this is conundrum for the Clinton crowd, which is, wait a minute, we're doing so well with women, we're doing so well with college-educated women, we're doing well here, we're doing well there, but yet the polls continue to collapse. So what I would say is, this is a point where you look less at. OK. What are we doing with each demographic, right? And you now say, OK, what is the narrative of this campaign and why didn't -- why weren't we able to put it away?

And I think the main issue that she wasn't able to put it away is she's not speaking to why 70 percent of the American people think we're on the wrong track.

COOPER: OK, David ...

AXELROD: So you think -- you feel that these voters have come from places where there was authoritarian regimes and that's driving them into Donald Trump's hands in this campaign?

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Yes.

SCHLAPP: Yeah, I think that is ...

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: No that's not true.

SCHLAPP: Well I have a lot ...

(CROSSTALK)

SCHLAPP: I have a lot of experience as well and all I would say is this that there are people that have come here that have seen the fact that they wanted this economic opportunity and they're not seeing it like they would have like to. They wanted the idea that they would be able to provide health care for their families but they're not seeing it with these huge increases. These are real pocketbook issues for people which usually the Democrat does a great job about flanking this on. And then all these speeches I see, I don't see that message there and I think it's a missed opportunity.

COOPER: OK. Angela?

ANGELA RYE, POLITICAL STRATEGIST: So there are few things here. I think that most interesting thing you said, Matt, as you talked about the demographics and why she's not kind of closing in on this especially now that we're seeing some of the early voting numbers come in. And I would point to you one simple thing. It's two words, it's voter suppression. And I think it's something that's very important that we address and deal with.

So Gary, in an earlier segment, talked about the fact that Barack Obama doesn't have to go to North Carolina. And I would argue, actually, he does have to go. In addition to cutting back early voting days, thank you, Governor McCrory ...

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Is it rigged?

RYE: Just let me get to my point and then you tell me what you think when I'm done.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: OK.

RYE: So Governor McCrory cuts back early voting days, he signed this bill into law. Then on top of that, you have precincts, the number of precincts go down. As soon as the precinct's doors open up, Anderson, there's a huge boost in African-American participation in early voting.

The last part of point that we have to address is this NAACP lawsuit. They sue because there are three critical counties that are purging the rolls and these counties are -- they're disproportionately African-American. Those are the voters who are being targeted. Barack Obama has to go to North Carolina to say don't lose hope ...

COOPER: So, you -- but do you argue -- are you just arguing that this is all voter suppression and that there isn't a lack of enthusiasm for Hillary Clinton?

RYE: No, not at all. Not at all. What I'm saying is it would be ignorant of us to say this is just about her, not broadening the tent, not asking the policy questions, it's about ... MCENANY: This is just like the ...

RYE: It's about ensuring that we address all of the factors and voter suppression is worth in the factors.

SCHLAPP: All I would say is this. I would like to see us follow the laws. I think if you're supposed to leave polling places up to a certain time, it should be. I think if you're supposed to have these days to early vote, you should be allowed to. The problems with Clinton campaign ...

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Depends on the laws.

SCHLAPP: The problem with Clinton -- you shouldn't change. And the problem the Clinton campaign is facing is this that you actually have people who have the ballots, right? This is the problem. You have a lot of African-American voters who have the ballots and they haven't returned them yet. That's their panic inside the campaign, which is hey, our -- I think they have a better machine than us.

(CROSSTALK)

COOPER: One at a time.

SCHLAPP: They have asked for the ballot but they're tracking those ballots and they're not returning them, which is what Mark went through with the numbers in as rapid as succession as they would like. And they wonder if on election day can may keep this Obama collation, which Axelrod and everyone did such a great job with, can they keep it together like Obama did? And I think there are concerns certainly on the African-American front that they can't.

CARL BERNSTEIN, AUTHOR, "A WOMAN IN CHARGE; THE LIFE OF HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON: It's using voter suppression. We had the voting rights act to historic monument to opening up our country to one person, one vote. And the Republicans have gone back on that by voter suppression, by intimidation ...

SCHLAPP: No.

BERNSTEIN: ...by intimidation at polling places. It's been going along for 25 years by, instead of trying to open the tent, increase voting hours, Republican ...

SCHLAPP: You think it's rigged?

BERNSTEIN: No, I don't think it's rigged. I do not.

(CROSSTALK)

COOPER: All right, let's just ...

BERNSTEIN: It is a strategy of the Republican Party, demonstrably, through the secretaries of state ...

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: No question about that. BERNSTEIN: ... and Republican states and we have seen it ...

COOPER: OK, David, and then we got to go.

AXELROD: Can we just assert that both things can be true? The fact is, it is nuts to assume that Hillary Clinton is going to get the same level of enthusiasm and turn out as Barack Obama did the first African-American president.

[21:20:10] Its also dishonest to suggest that there hasn't been an effort on the part of the Republican Party in some of these states to try and discourage participation by ...

(CROSSTALK)

COOPER: We're about to have more on this -- we're going to have more on this whole voter suppression question. Coming up, a string of court rulings the latest one in North Carolina could alter the turn out there and two other important states. We'll talk about that and we'll show you. Also, we'll dig deeper into the Obama effect on African-American turn out. More on that when we continue.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

COOPER: We got into a little bit before the break, actually, kind of a lot before the break. Big news in three cases today related to alleged efforts to intimidate, suppress and disenfranchise voters. CNN 's senior investigative correspondent Drew Griffin tonight joins us with the latest on all of it.

So explain what these federal rulings mean for voters in Arizona, Ohio, and North Carolina.

DREW GRIFFIN, SENIOR INVESTIGATIVE CORRESPONDENT: Well, in Arizona, and I think legally speaking, is one of the biggest cases of the three. Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals basically put an Arizona state law on hold for this election, very narrow decision, 65. Arizona is already saying it's going to appeal this. But what the law did was end what they call ballot collections.

In Arizona, you can get an early ballot sent to your home and the practice has been that friends, relatives or advocates or activists could go around and collect those ballots from people and actually bring them to the polls. State legislature thought that was an area where fraud could occur. They passed this law banning the practice.

This Ninth Circuit Court of Appeal ruling says no, no, you can't enforce that law for this election. We may see that go to the Supreme Court by Monday, Anderson.

In Ohio, a federal judge basically issued a restraining order against the Trump and the Clinton campaigns, but really it was aimed at the Trump campaign not to intimidate voters. This comes from Democratic lawyers who were trying to get a restraining order against Trump and against Roger Stone, the Republican activist, and their plans to have so-called citizen poll watchers. The judge giving a stern warning there saying we don't want your people intimidating voters, asking questions of poll watchers or getting in the way or interfering with any of the polling that's going to take place.

[21:24:59] Here in North Carolina, Anderson, ruling a federal court, ruling late this afternoon basically granting the NAACP what it wanted which is to put thousands of canceled voter registrations back on the voter rolls. This stems from a citizen movement here in North Carolina where citizens themselves have been using a state law to try to in their words clean up old state voter registration laws that the counties won't clean up.

Well, the judge today said, no, we're going to stop that. All those people who were canceled are going to go back and they will be able to vote, if they weren't going to be able to vote on Tuesday, that didn't sit well with the people who obviously were trying to clean up the voter registration rolls.

We talked to one of them today who's made it his mission he says to clean up voter registration rolls in Fayetteville.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

GRIFFIN: Mike Hyers doesn't shy away from the charge. He's trying to purge voter rolls. Basically eliminate registered voters in Cumberland County, North Carolina. The reason is simple. He believes it's his duty.

MICHAEL HYERS, VOTER INTEGRITY PROJECT: And people ask me why I still do this? August 26th, 1974, I raised my right hand and I swore an oath to support and defend the constitution.

GRIFFIN: The air force retiree says he still lives by the oath he took when he enlisted. And he believes the constitution, the nation is under attack from voter fraud.

The system is rigged? The system is broken?

HYERS: The system is broken. And the motor voter law, the way the motor voter law was written it was written by the Democrats in such a way as to keep the rolls bloated so that voter fraud could be done.

GRIFFIN: Motor voter is the law that allows voters to register to vote when they register their cars or driver's licenses. His proof of voter fraud though is sketchy hearsay from friends, reports from questionable news outlets and internet videos form Project Veritas, the discredited conservative web site that specializes in hidden camera exposes.

HYERS: I mean look at all the videos that, what's his name, James O'Keefe, has been putting out from Project Veritas. And I mean they got people from the Democrat Party better left (inaudible) about how they're committing voter fraud.

GRIFFIN: For the records study after study has found no evidence of widespread voter fraud anywhere in the United State, that makes no difference to Hyers. His job, he says, is to clean the rolls of voters who no longer vote. How he does it has becomes part of this federal lawsuit. Hyers pain is takenly calm Cumberland County board of elections records. He looks for the thousands of names and addresses of people he says are inactive, determine not to have voted in two or more federal elections.

Then he sends those people and those addresses this letter. It explains how his group, the Voter Integrity Project has determined they may be inactive urges them to re-register to vote or face possible challenges of their voting status. If the letter comes back like this one, return to sender, he uses it as evidence for the board of elections to begin the county's process of removing that voter from the rolls.

He claims to have successfully struck more than 6,000 inactive voters since he began this project several years ago. 3,000, he says, he's struck just this election cycle. He believes they're mostly dead, mostly moved away or mostly don't care about voting. What he makes sure to say is he's not targeting any specific group. Not Republicans, not Democrats, and most importantly for North Carolina, he says, not blacks.

HYERS: If you target a specific group based on age, race, sex, gender, whatever, that's called caging. And that is against the law.

GRIFFIN: That's not how the local head of the NAACP sees this.

So what is this all about?

JIMMY BUXTON, FAYETTEVILLE, NC NAACP: Voter suppression.

GRIFFIN: No doubt?

BUXTON: No doubt. I mean they have been doing this for some years now.

GRIFFIN: Jimmy Buxton says the Voter Integrity Project may claim this has nothing to do with race but the letters the group sends out he says, just seem to keep showing up in neighborhoods where mostly black people live.

BUXTON: He may not know who lives there but he know in that area where the street that he's challenging that he sends out these mailers and they returned and know where they're coming from. So ...

GRIFFIN: Do you think it's racist?

BUXTON: I'm pretty sure it is.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

COOPER: So, Drew, with the late ruling today from a federal judge basically reversing the decision to cut all these registered voters from the registration rolls. Is there still a possibility some people define themselves turned away at the polls on Tuesday?

GRIFFIN: There's a possibility of that, Anderson, for two reasons. One the judges ruling today only dealt with those who were canceled within the last 90 days, this has been going on before that, and also because they've got to get all these voters back on the voter registration rolls. That's a monumental task is some of these counties. I mean there's thousands, upwards of 44,500, I believe, voters names will not have to go back on the voter registration rolls.

[21:30:15] It's all going to come down to what happens on Tuesday, but there's so much help at voter registration polling places. I witnessed it today, really, anybody who goes down there and has a legal right to vote, I really believe is going to be able to vote even if it's in a provisional ballot, because the poll workers, the county workers are really bending over backwards just to make sure everybody gets their say in this election.

COOPER: All right, Drew Griffin. Drew, appreciate the reporting. Thanks.

Back with the panel. Kayleigh, should somebody who has been inactive in the last two elections, should they be struck off -- to be allowed to be struck off the rolls?

MCENANY: Well, certainly if they're, you know, a dead person who's on the rolls. We know there's 4 million dead voters on the current voting registration rolls. So this man, I think ...

COOPER: But just if somebody hasn't voted.

MCENANY: Well, if someone hasn't voted, no. I think you need to try to make that distinction and I think, you know, it's going to court, it should be litigated there. And, you know, we'll see. If you're alive and well, you should be able to vote, there's no doubt about it.

But to the Democrats' point that this is voter suppression that's keeping black voters from turning out, it just doesn't bear out in the numbers. Look at Florida where they expanded early voting days, expanded. But despite that, the black vote is still down 10 percent in early voting. That's not North Carolina. There's no suppression effort going on in Florida.

RYE: Oh, there is ...

MCENANY: No, it's not going to on in Florida. So this is an analogous to the claim where in Donald Trump said the election's rigged, we saw the video from James O'Keefe, it's rigged.

You know, you guys said you're just saying that because you're down in the polls. Well, I think you guys are just saying this because you're down in the polls in Florida. It has to be voter suppression.

RYE: Yeah, and what I said earlier, and maybe -- I know we all got passionate. So maybe it was mixed, I said, it is certainly a factor.

Since yesterday, African-American turn out in Florida has actually increased substantially today and they expect those numbers to continue over the weekend. The only other thing that I would say to you is North Carolina is not unique with voter suppression. We saw a massive kind of effort right after Barack Obama won. In 2010, state legislatures all over this country introduced 114 measures to produce voter I.D., to cut back early voting days, to make it harder -- hold on, to make it harder for us to vote absentee. The reality of it is actually is a challenge. It is more of a problem here than voter fraud, which we only see happen 0.0034 percent of the time.

COOPER: Matt?

SCHLAPP: Yeah, state and local levels of government or the ones that, you know, pass laws on elections and they -- there's a hodgepodge of laws out there.

What I heard in your report is that the most liberal circuit, the Ninth Circuit, said that it would be inappropriate for a person who gets to vote early to have to either mail it or turn it in, that no one could come to their house and take their ballot, why? Because the concern is you can have a blank ballot or you could feel pressure because a certain volunteer from a certain campaign came to get the ballot.

This is why states and localities make these determinations, voter rolls. We all know that local election officials have funding issues, and sometimes their rolls aren't in the best of order. In the 34 days I spent in Florida, we saw this firsthand. So, sometimes the federal government tries to help them with resources, but we do have a problem with our data rolls.

And look, I don't want anybody to be suppressed from voting who wants to vote, but in the same token, there has to be integrity to our vote, especially if it's close.

COOPER: Maria?

CARDONA: You know, we do have to acknowledge, to Carl's point that voter suppression and voter I.D. laws are a reality that had been pushed by the Republican Party to suppress the Democratic ...

SCHLAPP: Yes, I think within the voter I.D law.

CARDONA: There is no question about that. In Pennsylvania, in 2012, we heard, there is audio of this, of a legislator in Pennsylvania saying, "This is great, we're passing this voter I.D. law, Mitt Romney will win in Pennsylvania.

(CROSSTALK)

CARDONA: And from the moment that I started politics, I started working for Ron Brown when he was chairman of the Democratic National Committee back in the 1990's. The DNC, Ron Brown, the NAACP, all the civil rights organizations were fighting voter suppression efforts back then ...

SCHLAPP: Voter I.D.

MCENANY: Voter I.D.

(CROSSTALK)

COOPER: All right, all right. Let's move away from -- OK, Carl?

(CROSSTALK)

BERNSTEIN: William Rehnquist, before he was the chief justice of the United States ...

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: I know the story.

BERNSTEIN: ... back to Arizona, was in charged of something called ballot security in Arizona for the Republican Party and it involved challenging black voters on basis of literacy. This is after literacy tests have been deemed unconstitutional by the Supreme Court. There's some controversy over exactly what words Rehnquist used, but it has been a strategy. Since the Nixon's Southern Strategy evolved in the Republican Party, this has been part and parcel of how Republicans have tried to identify their constituencies.

[21:35:00] COOPER: OK. I've -- OK, Matt?

SCHLAPP: I just reject this. It's unfair to call my party a racist party ...

BERNSTEIN: I'm not calling you ...

SCHLAPP: We are the party of Abraham Lincoln ...

BERNSTEIN: That's true.

RYE: You were the party of Abraham Lincoln ...

SCHLAPP: No, that that is not true ...

RYE: You were.

SCHLAPP: It is simply common sense to be able to say -- I spent 34 days in the Florida recount, guess what? There were just as many Republican operatives sent to Florida as there were Democratic operatives. Because when an election is close, every ballot matters. And the fact is this, we ought to have integrity to our list and it's not racist to want to follow ...

(CROSSTALK)

COOPER: OK, Angela?

RYE: Wait one second. Shelby versus Holder, vote -- this challenged the Voting Rights Act and got it. Section Five of the Voting Rights Act. What did that do and why does that matter? States that traditionally had to be pre-cleared, had to ensure that their laws were not discriminatory they no longer have to go through that process. What did that result in? States like Alabama closing seven licensing offices where black people go and -- go to get their licenses to follow your voter I.D. law, and now those offices are closed, why? Because those black people voted, majority Democratic ...

COOPER: All right, David and then we got to go.

AXELROD: I'll just going to say, look, court after court around the country have thrown out many of these laws on the basis of the fact that they were discriminatory. I'm not calling your party racist, I'm just ...

SCHLAPP: All right.

AXELROD: ... but that is the fact. And, you know -- yes, the Republican Party was the party of Lincoln. I'm from the land of Lincoln. Jeffrey Lord is right when he said the KKK was more associated with the Democratic Party years ago. But it was the Democratic Party that passed the Voting Rights Act, Civil Rights Act. Because the Republican Party ...

(CROSSTALK)

SCHLAPP: Do you know that there was tons of Republican votes for the ...

AXELROD: There was ...

MCENANY: More than Democrats.

(CROSSTALK)

COOPER: Let's just take a break ...

(CROSSTALK)

SCHLAPP: I think we do very well because I'm not in a racist party.

COOPER: As John King said on the air, the program t night where states returning to their DNA and the race perhaps going back to the feature of 2012. Let's take a look at that, the question is does Trump-Clinton resemble Romney-Obama? We'll talk to the good Professor King when we come back.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

[21:40:24] COOPER: You heard some of our panel members say that it's easy to forget how close Mitt Romney and President Obama were in the polls on the Friday before Election Day in 2012. Closer than Clinton and Trump, the Democrats like to point out though the rough outlines of this race and that one bear a certain resemblance. John King is back to break it down by the numbers.

JOHN KING, CHIEF NATIONAL CORRESPONDENT: So Anderson, this is how the Clinton/Trump race looks heading into the final weekend. 268 electoral votes for Hillary Clinton, just shy of the finish line, 204 for Donald Trump. You see the gold states there are the toss-ups. Donald Trump hopes to turn some blue on red. Clinton advantage, Donald Trump back in the hunt, how does this compare to four years ago when a lot of people forget President Obama and Mitt Romney had a pretty competitive race to the end?

Well, let's take a look. If you look at the national polls, Hillary Clinton up four, 46 to 42, in our national average of the poll of polls heading into the final weekend. That is a much stronger position than President Obama. A lot of people forget, but this race was a dead heat. It was a tie on the weekend before the election, 47 to 47 in 2012.

Hillary Clinton with a four-point advantage now, but what about the key states we'll be looking at Tuesday night? Let's look through the battleground states. In these, she's running just about even with where the president was four years ago. They include Wisconsin and Michigan, two traditionally blue states. Clinton wants to hold them both. Trump is challenging her, but she's in the same position the president was four years ago and he win them both. She's also about the same as the president in New Hampshire, in Arizona, and Nevada. They're all toss-ups for us right now. Obama won New Hampshire, Obama won Nevada, Mitt Romney won Arizona.

But again, heading into the final weekend, Clinton about even with where the president was in all of these states, including the three yellows and the president won two out of three. What about states where she's underperforming the president, where she is weaker heading into the final weekend where than he was in 2012?

Well, significantly, they include Iowa and Ohio. These two Midwestern states that we have leaning Trump's way right now, because Hillary Clinton is doing nowhere near as well as President Obama did four years ago. She's a little bit low where the president was in Pennsylvania. Her lead a little bit smaller than the president's lead was heading into the final weekend. President Obama carried Pennsylvania. Hillary Clinton very much needs to keep it this time.

Significantly, for her, though, there are a few states where she's doing better. She's performing stronger than President Obama heading into this final weekend. They include Colorado by just a little bit over where Obama was in 2012, Virginia where she's a bit ahead of where the president was in 2012.

These two are the most significant. President Obama trailed in North Carolina and in Florida heading into the final weekend back in 2012. He won Florida narrowly, he lost North Carolina. Hillary Clinton leads in both of those states and that's the big difference. Obama was behind in North Carolina and Florida, Clinton leads. And so, let's take a look at how that all plays out.

Again, she's already at 268. Democrats think she's doing very well in the early voting. They think this is enough, right here, to put Hillary Clinton over the top. They think they're going to win Nevada based on the early voting. They think that will do it right there. But can she go higher? Well, she sure can if she can win Florida, North Carolina, and they believe they're in play in New Hampshire. Well, with math look like, that's a big one, that's a medium one, and that's a small one. If Hillary Clinton can win those three, that would get her up to 322.

That's in the ballpark of where the president was four years ago. But was that a guarantee? Absolutely not. Donald Trump thinks he's in play in all of these states, plus out in Arizona. But if you're scoring this just as Clinton now versus Obama then, you would have to say, despite her weaknesses in Iowa and Ohio, she's marginally stronger than the president heading into the final weekend because of her lead in Florida and North Carolina. Anderson?

COOPER: All right, it's going to be an exciting election night. John, thanks.

Whatever people thought of President Obama back then, a majority of Americans think highly of him now. His job approval rating is one measure, another is the reaction he's been getting on the campaign trail, which may be key to soaring up what appears to be lagging early turn out by African-Americans.

Our Gary Tuchman, he is traveling with the president.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

GARY TUCHMAN, CNN NATIONAL CORRSEPONDENT: The lines are long for this Hillary Clinton rally, except Clinton isn't actually here.

OBAMA: Hello, Charlotte.

TUCHMAN: Instead, it's her surrogate in chief, the nation's first African-American president.

Are you here more to see Barack Obama or more to show your support for Hillary Clinton? Which one?

AVERY MILLER, UNDECIDED VOTER: More for Barack Obama.

TUCHMAN: It's not a big surprise many people say that.

Are you here more to see Barack Obama or to support Hillary Clinton?

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: To see Barack Obama.

TUCHMAN: Seeing a president in person is often a once in a lifetime opportunity. But with early voting polling numbers showing African- American votes down in several swing states compared to four years ago, the Clinton team is battling an enthusiasm gap within the African-American community.

TUCHMAN: Are you as enthusiastic for Hillary Clinton as you were for Barack Obama when he ran?

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Honestly, I would -- no, I'm going to be honest.

TUCHMAN: Avery Miller voted for Barack Obama twice.

Are you voting for her?

[21:45:00] MILLER: I'm still undecided at this point.

TUCHMAN: Who might you vote for?

MILLER: Really, I just -- I really don't know.

TUCHMAN: Donald Trump?

MILLER: No, definitely not, but I just ...

TUCHMAN: Third party?

MILLER: Maybe.

TUCHMAN: But his indecisiveness does not appear to be the norm here. While many aren't as gang-ho for Clinton as they are for Obama ...

Are you as enthusiastic about Hillary Clinton as you were about voting for Barack Obama?

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: No, not really

TUCHMAN: Almost all of the African-American voters we've talked to said they either already voted or will vote for Hillary Clinton. And some voters ...

Are you here more to see Barack Obama or support Hillary Clinton?

KENYA SMITH, CLINTON SUPPORTER: Support Hillary Clinton.

TUCHMAN: ... are more enthusiastic about 2016 than they were in 2012 or 2008.

SMITH: I'm very excited about a female getting into office. And I think she has a lot to offer, our community, and the nation.

KENNETH FRAZIER, CLINTON SUPPORTER: Well, his term is ending, so he had to sign and I'm like -- I'm very pleased with his time in office and I'm here to support her.

TUCHMAN: Maxine Goodson came to this rally with her grown-up twin daughters only to see the president. Does her enthusiasm for Obama carry over to Clinton?

Are you as enthusiastic about casting your vote for Hillary Clinton, Tuesday, as you were for Barack Obama?

MAXINE GOODSON, CLINTON SUPPORTER: Absolutely, I work for her, every day. Every day I go to the office or give out literature or do something that's going to help her win. I want her to win.

(END VIDEO-CLIP)

COOPER: Gary joins us now from Charlotte. Now that the event is over and I've heard President Obama speak, do the people you spoke to -- I don't know if you had a chance to catch up with them today, feel any differently about Clinton? TUCHMAN: Well, you've got to consider that most people who came here, came here because they like Barack Obama. They like who he is and like how he speaks, so obviously he would be influential.

So we talked to a couple of people, we talk to a woman and her 13-year old daughter. And her 13-year-old daughter was saying she's like Hillary Clinton the whole time. The mother said, I wasn't going to vote for Hillary Clinton, I wasn't going to vote for anybody, just the local and state races, but Barack Obama has convince me to vote for Hillary Clinton.

We talked to another woman who said she was considering Hillary Clinton or Gary Johnson. Listened to Barack Obama behind me a short time ago and says, "Now I'm convinced I'm going to vote for Hillary Clinton." So, no big surprise here, what matters is the big picture, the other African-American throughout the State of North Carolina. The ones who weren't here, the ones who weren't in Fayetteville earlier today, the ones who weren't in Chapel Hill, at the University of North Carolina two days ago. What matters is what they decide to do, and that answer we won't know until Tuesday. Anderson?

COOPER: All right, Gary, thanks very much.

Back with the panel. I mean it is interesting to hear from them -- and who went to the event, but he still says he's undecided for about who he's going to vote where he says he's not going to vote for Trump but maybe a third party candidate.

BASH: Which is why this rally, as Gary pointed it so a well in that piece, are so important for Hillary Clinton. I thought one of the most interesting things that President Obama said in his rally today and he's said before, but it's really struck me the way he said it today was, "I trust her." That it was clearly not an accident. That he went for that particular issue and it said so much. And it said to a lot of the voters that have not decided that Gary talked to, who went to hear him, guys, being -- its OK. She's -- you might not feel that comfortable with her, not the way you did with me, but you should. He used the character witness, but the fact that he used the word "trust," given the fact that is her Achilles heel, says a lot.

COOPER: David, I mean, do you -- surrogates matter, do these big rallies matter? And I asked this both for Donald Trump and for Hillary Clinton. Obviously, Hillary Clinton has a lot of, you know, big-name Democrats out there acting as surrogates for her, but Donald Trump has also had these huge rallies.

AXELROD: Yeah, well, but it is in it because there's only one Donald Trump as he would be the first to say. And he can only make -- he can only do one rally at a time. You can cover a lot more ground when you have these, you know, A, performers who can go out and be surrogates for you. And what the president's doing here for her is very, very valuable.

COOPER: So you think it's not just people who are already going to vote for Hillary Clinton? AXELROD: Well, plainly, not. I mean you saw some people there. But -- and, you know, one thing I will say about Gary's piece is, it is not just the people who show up, because these events get covered widely on local television. So when the president of the United States comes to a market and has a rally like that, it is big news and people hear a lot of that message.

BERNSTEIN: Let's be frank. This is the great sadness of the Clintons and the Clinton campaign, that they have not been able to make as much head win with African-American voters as they believe, to use a bad word, they're entitled to, given their histories, both Bill and Hillary Clinton have been advocates of Civil Rights from -- when they were young people, they have really been in the trenches, it's been the constant of their political lives, it's taken some real courage when and where they did it, and they feel that they haven't been able to succeed this time when in fact they should have been able to.

AXELROD: But she has the same problem with -- let me just say, she has same problem with young African-Americans...

BERNSTEIN: Yes.

AXELFORD: ... as she has with young -- quite, she is an older candidate.

[21:50:00] BERNSTEIN: That's right.

AXELFORD: She doesn't relate particularly well to these younger voters. The president relates better to these voters and they are a particular target.

COOPER: Angela?

RYE: So I was just going to say, I don't know and I hope that it's not an entitlement thing for Hillary and Bill Clinton. I would say that there is a tremendous amount of ground to make up for with millennial black voters. Part of the reason for that is they have experienced the impact of the crime bill, what it's done to families, and thankfully on the trail this year. Bill Clinton and Hillary Clinton have covered some ground apologizing for it. What she did that was phenomenal yesterday, I think one of the best things that she could have done was talk about the Central Park Five, was talk about this woman who experienced housing discrimination at the hands of Donald Trump and his father. Those are the kinds of things that they frankly should have been doing a lot sooner but better late.

COOPER: Matt?

SCHLAPP: Going high again. But the only thing I would say is that Donald Trump does not have the A-level surrogates, you're right, but he does have his grown kids and I think that's a -- that they're back on the trail and his wife.

COOPER: Right.

SCHLAPP: I think that's a very big advantage. The other thing about Donald Trump, which I admire, President George W. Bush mostly like to be at home in his bed at the end of the day. Donald Trump has had more of these big rallies. He's into fatigable and the size of the rallies are huge and it's something that we havent seen before and he really is making impact.

MCENANY: Just quickly with the black community, I think Donald Trump has proffered a very interesting case. Yes Hillary, you have been working on civil rights and you have been in government for 30 years but look, are you better off than you were then? No.

(CROSSTALK)

MCENANY: There are more blacks on food stamps, there are more blacks ...

(CROSSTALK)

MCENANY: No, no, no, unemployed and it hasn't improved under President Obama ...

(CROSSTALK)

CARDONA: I think one of the most effective things that President Obama has done is he does his rallies is when he reminds people, especially these days that Donald Trump has stayed on message so much, is that if this is a person who's going to disrespect women before he gets to the White House, he's going to do it in the White House. If this is somebody who is going to disrespect the constitution now, he's going to do it in the White House ...

COOPER: We got to go. Up next, one of the undecided just four days out, some voters do not yet know if they're going to vote for Trump, Clinton or another candidate. Why is that? Some insight in just a moment.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

COOPER: Well, you might think that in these polarizing political times, undecided voters are be as rare as, I don't know, penguins in the dessert or baby pigeons which I've never seen, turns out they are popping up all over the place, voters that is not penguins or baby pigeons. Yesterday, Randi spoke with a woman in Pennsylvania who went to hear Melania Trump's speech hoping to be convinced.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

NINA MCMENAMIN, UNDECIDED PENNSYLVANIA VOTER: I guess I wanted to hear something that makes me feel positive about putting Trump into the White House.

RANDI KAYE, CNN CORRESPONDENT: What would that be?

MCMENAMIN: I don't -- you know, to be honest, I'm open to anything, I just -- I'm not sure what his policies are yet.

(END VIDEO CLIP) COOPER: Joining me now is that voter, Nina McMenamin. Nina, thank you so much for joining us. We just heard you say you were hoping to hear something from Mrs. Trump yesterday to make you feel positive about putting her husband in the White House, did you hear it?

[21:55:10] MCMENAMIN: I really didn't, not for myself, no, unfortunately.

COOPER: So at this point, are you still completely undecided about how you want to vote?

MCMENAMIN: I am, and it is very disturbing to me that I'm -- four days out from the election and I'm still not sure which way I'm going to go.

COOPER: Is it the kind of situation where you go to sleep one night thinking, you know what, OK, I'm going to go for Donald Trump and then you go to sleep. The next night and you think, no, I'm going to, you know, vote for Hillary Clinton or whomever. I mean, do you go back and forth or have you made a decision and ...

MCMENAMIN: I do.

COOPER: ... you just not been able to?

MCMENAMIN: You know, I have been back and forth. I was originally a Republican and then I was not happy with the way the Republican Party was behaving at the time, and so then I actually switched my party affiliation to Democrat because I felt that they were more unified and that was what I was looking for. And that has -- you know, and I've been fine with that decision, however recently I've been speaking to friends as opposed to just getting information from the media and social media. And speaking to friends has really kind of opened my eyes up to both sides of the argument. I was able to relate more to where they were coming from, so that has actually made it a little bit more confusing for me.

COOPER: I'm wondering how big an impact did the reopening of the e- mail investigation by the FBI just like a week ago now, how big an impact did that have on you in terms of your opinions on Hillary Clinton or I guess conversely, what's preventing you from committing to Donald Trump?

MCMENAMIN: Well, I'm kind of looking at it as a job interview in that do I go with the candidate that has the most experience, but may not be the most honest, or do I go with the candidate that has a fresh approach to things and has some fresher ideas but does not have the experience, and again, is not that honest? So, I'm really torn between the two.

COOPER: I wish you the best of luck in the next couple of days coming up with a solution. I understand the dilemma that you face and well, we'd love to keep in touch with you, and regardless though, are you going to vote? I mean, do you feel like definitely you will make a decision by Election Day? MCMENAMIN: Absolutely. No and I -- yes, absolutely, and I think that's why it's bothering me the most because I have spoken to people who aren't sure which way they're say they're not going to vote but I really want to vote and I really want to vote and I want to make the right decision for myself.

COOPER: Well, Nina, I appreciate talking to you and I really, really, I wish you the best of luck.

MCMENAMIN: Thank you so much.

COOPER: All right, Nina McMenamin. We'll take a break. We'll be right back.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

[22:00:14] COOPER: Quick programming note about Tuesday, Election Day, we're going to --

**NEW\_DOCUMENT\_HERE**

Anderson Cooper, Sara Murray, Brianna Keilar, John King, Carl Bernstein, David Axelrod, Dana Bash, Kayleigh McEnany, Angela Rye, Gary Tuchman, Maria Cardona, Tom Fuentes, Angela Rye, Tom Foreman, David Axelrod, Carl Bernstein, Kayleigh McEnany, Dana Bash

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[20:00:08] ANDERSON COOPER, CNN ANCHOR: Good evening. Thanks for joining us.

Some big new developments going into the final weekend before Election Day, including a court ruling, one of three today that could effect who votes. As for the candidates, they are holding dueling events in battleground states and battlefield is shifting beneath their feet.

Donald Trump is in Pennsylvania, Hillary Clinton in Ohio. President Obama in North Carolina. Bill Clinton in Colorado, one state where the polls are tightening or even tied. New Hampshire is another, now a toss up and it could be crucial.

Plenty to cover in the two hours ahead starting with CNN's Sara Murray covering the Trump campaign in Hershey, Pennsylvania.

Sara, the more subdued Trump we've seen in the last few days. What are your sources telling you about that? Is the campaign hoping he stays on message between now and Tuesday? Is the plan to just avoid any mistakes?

SARA MURRAY, CNN POLITICS REPORTER: Well, yes, Anderson. I don't know if it is so much subdue, it's just trying to, his advisors trying to assure him. Him trying to assure himself he needs to stay on message.

They want their final push to be about Hillary Clinton being a corrupt politician. That's the message they want to drive home. They don't want these last couple of days to be about Donald Trump being a loose canon. That is why you are continuing to see the teleprompters. That's why you saw him remind himself the other day on the stump to stick to what his talking points were.

And that's so important when we're talking about states like Pennsylvania where he's at tonight. This is a state that appears out of his reach just a couple of weeks ago. And it's a state with no early voting. So, he can make a pitch to voters here tonight and try to get them to turn out on November 8th.

COOPER: You've also been speaking to a lot of Republicans, I know, across different battleground states. Are they confident Trump can pull out a victory on Tuesday?

MURRAY: Anderson, you would think anyway Republican operatives would be overjoyed by the momentum that Donald Trump has got at his back by what's going on with the FBI, the tightening we're seeing in the polls, but I talked to operatives in more than half a dozen battleground states who are telling me they are just not convinced that Donald Trump has what he needs to get there. They still think the math is very hard, that the path is very steep.

The one thing they do say, though, is, look, this is a candidate who has defied expectations for the nearly year and a half he has been running for president. And so, they are saying, look, you know, maybe he could surprise us on Election Day.

COOPER: All right. We'll see. Sara Murray, thanks very much.

Now, the Clinton campaign and their star-studded event tonight in Cleveland. CNN's Brianna Keilar is there for us.

So, Hillary Clinton turning up the heat on Donald Trump today as she begins her final pitch to voters. What did she talk about?

BRIANNA KEILAR, CNN SENIOR POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT: Earlier today, Anderson, in Pennsylvania, targeting an economic message for women but in Michigan and here in Ohio, where she's in the air right now heading to Cleveland, she's trying to attract young African American voters. They have not really come round to Hillary Clinton certainly the way they came round for Barack Obama back in 2012. We saw in the primaries that they were more likely to split with their parents and their grandparents who trended towards Hillary Clinton. And a lot of younger black voters went for Bernie Sanders.

Hillary Clinton today talking about her ambitious criminal justice reform plan, but her support for her husband's crime bill in the nineties still very much a liability for her. So, this is the outstanding question, Anderson, are young African Americans really going to show up for Hillary Clinton? And I'll tell you, I've been talking to people here at the Wolstein Center where they are awaiting Jay-z and the big question isn't who's going to win on Tuesday. That's not what they're talking about. They want to know if Beyonce is showing up tonight.

COOPER: Bill Clinton was also out in the campaign, had some interesting comments on Melania Trump speech yesterday. What did he say?

KEILAR: That's right. He joked about Melania Trump yesterday. You know, she was speaking on behalf of her husband, vouching for him. But she also was railing against cyber bullying, even though of course her husband is so abusive on social media and Bill Clinton lashed on to that.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

BILL CLINTON, FORMER PRESIDENT: Yesterday, I never felt so bad for anybody in my life as I did for his wife going out giving a speech, saying, oh, cyber bullying was a terrible thing. I thought, yeah, especially if it's done at 3:00 in the morning against a former Miss Universe by a guy running for president. (END VIDEO CLIP)

KIELAR: Now, women voters have been trending away from Donald Trump are the reason Melania Trump was out vouching for her husband. That is an area, Anderson, that the Clinton campaign does not want to see, as you know.

COOPER: Brianna Keilar -- Brianna, thanks very much.

As we mentioned at the top, the CNN battleground map is changing. CNN "INSIDE POLITICS" anchor John King has more now on what's behind it by the numbers.

(BEGIN VIDEOTAPE)

JOHN KING, CNN CHIEF NATIONAL CORRESPONDENT: Anderson, significant changes to our CNN electoral map as we head into the final weekend. Our count right now, Clinton 268, Trump 204.

[20:05:02] Most important, that 268 is below the finish line. It takes 270 to win. We had her at 272 yesterday. Let me explain the big changes.

For starters, Trump gains. He gains Utah. He gains Ohio. And he gains Maine's second congressional districts. Maine, one of those states that splits its electoral votes by congressional district. We have moved this, this, and that from toss up to lean Republican. Most significant, of course, the big battleground state of Ohio in the Midwest.

That brings Donald Trump up to 204. Why is Hillary Clinton down? Below 270, from 272 to 268, because we've taken New Hampshire's four. We had them leaned Democratic yesterday. We have moved them now back to toss up because of polling showing us, that suddenly we have a dead heat race heading into the final weekend in the state of New Hampshire.

So, what does that mean for the state of play? Clinton, of course, still very close to the finish line. Donald Trump needs to be about perfect, plus turn a blue, when you look through the board through the final weekend.

Here is how the Clinton campaign thinks this is going play out. They are very confident based on early voting they will win Nevada. They also believe they are stronger than President Obama was four years ago in Florida and North Carolina. The Clinton campaign believes it can do those three and they think they have a pretty good chance of getting New Hampshire as well.

They're still competitive in Arizona. I'm going to leave that off the board now and even say Arizona sticks with its DNA and goes Republican. If it plays out this way, that's a pretty overwhelming Clinton victory, 322 to 215, with that one congressional district in Nebraska. That's still to be determined. That's how the Clinton campaign sees it playing out. What does Donald Trump have do to get this? He's got to find a way to get Nevada. He has to keep that Arizona. He has to say, no way, I'm taking Florida. He must take North Carolina as well. Those are mandatory.

If Trump gets New Hampshire, that gets 268. And if the district here went Clinton's way, it would be 269-269. Is that likely to happen? Of course not. But is it possible? That is one of the things you look at heading into the final weekend.

But if you want to come back to the main map and just take the more rational perspective. If you look at it, Clinton is close to the finish line. She leads in one, two and she believes three of the states here, even though the polling is dicey there. So you have to say advantage Clinton. Trump in the hunt. Little closer heading into the final weekend than anybody would have thought, say, ten days -- Anderson.

(END VIDEOTAPE)

COOPER: John King, thanks very much. Let's bring in the panel.

CNN political analyst and Clinton biographer, Carl Bernstein, who was once portrayed by Dustin Hoffman in meeting with the source at a rooftop restaurant about three blocks from here. Also, CNN senior political commentator, former top Obama advisor and happy Cubs fan, David Axelrod, CNN chief political correspondent Dana Bash.

Plus, on -- to my left, Kayleigh McEnany, Trump supporter. And also, Angela Rye, who is obviously a Clinton supporter.

I appreciate all of you being here.

DAVID AXELROD, CNN SENIOR POLITICAL COMMENTATOR: And everybody is appropriately dressed.

KAYLEIGH MCENANY, CNN POLITICAL COMMENTATOR: We are.

ANGELA RYE, CNN POLITICAL COMMENTATOR: This is actually indigo.

COOPER: Dana, I mean, New Hampshire, no longer clear which way it's going to go.

DANA BASH, CNN CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT: It really is remarkable how the polls have been tightening. In a lot of states that Democrats felt really comfortable and frankly Republicans thought were out of reach. New Hampshire is one. Michigan is another. New Hampshire is probably more gettable than Michigan, just because to use John's term, the DNA of the state is different. New Hampshire has gone back and forth more in recent history than Michigan.

But it does kind of go to the fundamental that in these closing days, Donald Trump seems to be the one with the momentum, as opposed to Hillary Clinton. So, I think at the end of the day, although we were talking about last night, the Republicans ground operation has stepped up dramatically, it's still teams like it is going to be big picture a test between organization and momentum, and energy and enthusiasm.

COOPER: And the governor of New Hampshire John Sununu was speaking today for Donald Trump and made a headline which I don't think he's made in decades, but let's play that.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

JOHN SUNUNU, TRUMP SUPPORTER: Playing a little off what Bob Smith said, his imitation of Bill Clinton and talking about Hillary. Do you think Bill was referring to Hillary when he said, "I did not have sex with that woman"?

(LAUGHTER)

(END VIDEO CLIP)

COOPER: David Axelrod?

AXELROD: Hilarious.

You know, I will say this -- he may not have made headlines in a long time, but when he was making headlines, it was often by saying the wrong thing. And he hasn't lost his touch. I don't care that helps. That doesn't help Donald Trump so that is not what you want your surrogates out there doing.

But let me just say about the race overall. I think this race has been tightening for some time. I think the distance from that "Access Hollywood" tape plus the end of the debates which were difficult for Donald Trump and the way he reacted to them was difficult has been good for him because he's been a much more disciplined candidate.

He made a lot of the Obamacare rate story, obviously, the FBI story.

[20:10:01] But I think what's happened is this race has returned to a normal Democrat/Republican race in a closely divided country. And Democrats still have the advantage in such a race. And you see it on that electoral map. So I think Donald Trump is still in the position of having to draw an inside straight between now and Tuesday. And I think it is going to be tough to do.

COOPER: You know, Carl, I mean, it is interesting. Look at the CNN poll of polls. Hillary Clinton's lead has only shrunk by one in the poll of polls she was up six points before the Comey letter. Tonight one week later she's up five points.

Do you think more has been made of the impact of the Comey letter?

CARL BERNSTEIN, CNN POLITICAL COMMENTATOR: No. I think that it was helpful to Donald Trump. And I think that the excitement factor that the Trump campaign has been playing on is part of the real dynamic here. And they are throwing a lot of Hail Marys right now, not the least of which is about all of us up here.

If they -- they know that if they can create enough sense of excitement among all of us and in the press that that has a dynamic of its own. And Sara Murray's piece was so first rate because it brought us back to what the real situation based on her reporting is, that their internals also are showing how difficult this is for Trump to do. And the internals of the Clinton campaign give them a feeling of some real comfort. And at the same time show their nervous, as anybody would be at this point, when there is this dynamic that shows Trump has been creating excitement, gaining ground but still, we're talking about Hail Marys.

COOPER: I mean, Kayleigh, anytime the focus has been on Hillary Clinton, it's generally not good for Hillary Clinton. And any time it's on Donald Trump, it is generally not good for Donald Trump.

And the focus has been on Hillary Clinton since the Comey letter.

MCENANY: That is exactly right and one of the reasons I think that this race is not analogous to 2012. You know, you heard some pundits say, well, Romney seemed back and then he lost the election.

But I think there are some intangibles here. One of them, as you point out, the focus is on Hillary Clinton. The FBI bomb shell is one. Number two, I think there is an enthusiasm factor with Trump we hear among conservative circles that we didn't hear with Mitt Romney. He is packing rallies to the extent of 20,000, 30,000.

And then, finally, there is this Brexit effect that we haven't seen since 1980 where people forget Ronald Reagan was demonized in the same way Donald Trump was. You had Carter coming out saying he is engaging in stirrings of the hatred. Anyone who stands with him is raising the specter of white chiefs, is what someone in the administration said, and people turned out and they voted for him and they were perhaps afraid to say it.

So, I think there is a lot of intangibles here that don't make it like 2012.

COOPER: Angela, I mean, as the Democrat, do you fear a hidden Trump vote?

RYE: There certainly could be a hidden Trump vote. And what I will say is the one comforting factor that I have is I know, for example, in the RealClearPolitics poll, Barack Obama and Mitt Romney were essentially tied at this point. And right now, Hillary Clinton is not tide. I think in RealClearPolitics -- I know CNN is the poll of polls but I think she's up by at least three. So, I'm comforted a little by that.

Anderson, that's not taken away my nightmares. I think that every day, every day this election cycle, we have seen something new. Today, thankfully, it was about a reporter that had to walk something back that was frankly egregious on the Clinton side, I wonder how much time we have to clean up some of these mess, some of them just false scandals at this point.

COOPER: David, I mean, you know what it was like in 2012 for President Obama against Mitt Romney. Do you think Hillary Clinton is in a better spot than President Obama was against Romney? AXELROD: Well, I think she's in a comparable spot. The fact is the polls weren't as good for Obama. I mean, there was a sense this was a tied race, a lot of the same stories. Lot of Republicans saying God, Mitt's rallies are a huge and this is really encouraging and so on.

But at the end of the day -- first of all, we had our own data and it was more reliable because it was calling of people from voter files. And so, you knew the voter history was. You know who the certain voters were. You didn't have to rely on their own testimony and that created a more accurate polling.

So, even as the public polls said that -- that Romney and Obama were tied, we were up four consistently in our data down to the following -- down to the last. Both campaigns probably a voter polling than this polling.

So, you know, I think this is a traditional Republican/Democrat race, as 2012 was in what is a very polarized country. But where the electoral map favors Democrats and where the demography favors Democrats.

So, we'll know, we can spin from now until Tuesday, and then we'll know. But --

COOPER: Nothing about this has been traditional and now, suddenly, it is traditional.

(LAUGHTER)

AXELROD: I know. Better late than never I guess.

BERNSTEIN: Hillary hatred factor is a real difference --

[20:15:01] BASH: Huge.

BERNSTEIN: -- between what happened in 2008 and '09. That's the wild card here.

AXELROD: I got to tell you, Mitt Romney was a little better liked than Donald Trump as well. I mean, no one is going to win a popularity contest.

RYE: I have to say though, I understand what you are saying, analogous race because at that point, we had the Tea Party rising up talk about taking our country back. I think there was still a hatred factor, maybe not as severe but definitely there.

COOPER: All right. President Obama going all out right now in North Carolina. We'll be right back.

BARACK OBAMA, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES: The idea that we would put in place in the most prominent, most powerful office in the land someone who undermines them? And the worst part about it, Charlotte, is we have begun to treat this as if it's normal.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK) COOPER: President Obama is speaking live this North Carolina. Let's listen in.

OBAMA: -- when you disrespect the Constitution when you are running for president, you will disrespect the Constitution even after you swore an oath to uphold and protect it. And the reason that's important to understand is because I'm a proud Democrat.

[20:20:07] But -- hold on. I can honestly say to myself that if we as Democrats had nominated somebody who said the things Mr. Trump said, that I'd have to say, I'm sorry, yes, I'm a Democrat, but I'm an American first.

I'm a human being first. I'm a father first. I'm a husband first.

And, you know, there are Republicans who've done that. I have Republican friends who don't think or act the way Donald Trump does. And they don't intend to vote for him, because they understand this is somebody different, who is uniquely unqualified to hold this job.

And the good news though, North Carolina, is that you are uniquely qualified to make sure he doesn't get the job. But you got to vote. You can't just sit on the side lines. You got to vote.

You can't just complain, you got to vote. You can't just get depressed and crawl up in the fetal position. And look at the online polling and go, oh, what's going to -- no, you just got to vote. And the good news is --

COOPER: President Obama there in Charlotte. We're trying over the next two hours to give you as much sense what is happening over the campaign trail, because as you know, this is going full bore. A lot of surrogates out there, the candidates, Donald Trump is out there as well tonight, he's not speaking right now, and we will bring you him live as well.

I want to give equal time to everybody. Our Gary Tuchman is in Charlotte where President Obama is.

Gary, Obama has been on trail in full force for Hillary Clinton the last couple of days. I know something notable happened earlier even today. Can you describe it for us?

GARY TUCHMAN, CNN NATIONAL CORRESPONDENT: Yes, Anderson. North Carolina is a very important state obviously for both candidates. Donald Trump needs to in North Carolina, that is what the electoral map indicates.

As far as Barack Obama, he doesn't have to come here to North Carolina but he's here campaigning for Hillary Clinton. She doesn't have to win North Carolina but they are relishing having Barack Obama here because if she wins North Carolina, if we find early in the evening, on election night, that Hillary Clinton is the winner here, it may be all over for Donald Trump.

So, that's why the state is so important. He's made three visits here. One right now, this amphitheater in Charlotte. Two days ago, the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill and earlier today, he was in a military town of Fayetteville, which is why Fort Bragg is.

And something happened, a heckler was in an audience, an older man who's a heckler. And Barack Obama handled the situation quite a bit differently than history we've seen Donald Trump's handling similar situations. Let's take a look at it.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

OBAMA: Now, listen up. I'm serious, listen up. You have an older gentleman who is supporting his candidate. He's not doing nothing. You don't have to worry about him.

This is what I mean about folks not being focused. First of all -- first of all -- hold up. Hold up.

First of all, we live in a country that respects free speech. So, second of all, it looks like maybe he might have served in our military and we got to respect that. Third of all, he was elderly and we got to respect our elders. And fourth of all, don't boo, vote.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

TUCHMAN: So, that was an interesting moment earlier today in Fayetteville, North Carolina. Barack Obama was in Florida yesterday. And the surrogate in chief will go back to Florida. That's his next stop. He takes the day off tomorrow and then campaigns for Hillary Clinton in Kissimmee, Florida, outside of Orlando on Sunday.

Anderson, back to you.

COOPER: All right. Gary, thanks very much.

Keep focused. The turnout effort, of course, is the Latino vote. President Obama did his part in a new interview just posted on the Latino-theme website MiTu. Listen.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

OBAMA: Part of what's important for Latino citizens is to make your voice heard because you're not just speaking for yourself. You are speaking for family members, friends, classmates of yours in school --

INTERVIEWER: Your entire community.

OBAMA: -- who may not have a voice, who can't legally vote.

[20:25:05] But they are counting on you to make sure that you have the courage to make your voice heard.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

COOPER: So far, early Latino turnout appears heavy. Though it is an open question whether the big numbers that we're seeing in places like Florida will actually carry through on Election Day. Joining us now is Clinton supporter in 2008, Clinton campaign adviser, Maria Cardona, and Trump surrogate, Steve Cortes.

Appreciate both of you being with us.

Maria, Latino voters already, as we said, showing up to vote in this election, big numbers, could cast more ballots than in recent elections. How much does the Clinton campaign need the Election Day turnout itself from Latinos to mimic the turnout in early voting? Can she win if it doesn't?

MARIA CARDONA, CNN POLITICAL COMMENTATOR: Well, I think what they are going to continue to focus on is to continue to bring Latinos out and from everything we've seen, it's actually working and then some. I talked to you earlier about how the public polls that we're seeing are severely undercounting the Latino vote because they don't use bilingual callers.

Latino Decisions came out today. They are one the premier polling firms that actually does call Latinos bilingually, and they actually said that turnout is going historic. The enthusiasm among Latinos is 10 points higher than it was in 2012. They estimate that Hillary Clinton will get 79 to 80 percent of the Hispanic vote.

And that this is the most important election for 70 percent or more of Latinos in this country. And so, what President Obama was just saying in that interview is absolutely true. This community feels completely disrespected and the kind of hatred and bigotry that has come out of the Trump campaign is absolutely definitively unacceptable to Latinos all across the country.

And they are going to make their voices heard in a way I don't think we have seen before. It is going to be quite historic.

COOPER: Steve, as Trump supporter, I mean, if you believe what Maria is saying, do you believe as the self inflicted wound by Donald Trump based on his own comments? I mean, we looked at past Republicans have gotten a much higher percentage of the Latino vote.

STEVE CORTES, TRUMP SURROGATE: Right. Well, no, clearly, I don't believe that. Ronald Reagan said when I was just a boy, one reason I became a Republican Hispanic, is he said Hispanics are all Republicans, they just don't know it yet.

Well, I think they are starting to realize, and they're realizing it mainly because of the economy. If you ask Hispanics what really matters to them and I think a lot of non-Hispanics, by the way, assume that we're monolith and that we only care about **immigration**, that's an important issue.

But in terms of what matters most politically to us, I think number one, two and three are all the economy. And Hispanics have done terribly under the present administration and they will do even worse under a future President Clinton administration. We can't allow that to happen --

(CROSSTALK)

COOPER: If -- if your logic is actually correct though, you would have a higher Latino turnout than you had under, say, George W. Bush and there is no indication that that's going happen.

CORTES: Well, hold on, George W. Bush is a high water mark that no one has come close to. So, that's unfair as a comparison. I do think we're going to --

COOPER: Well, he was a Republican.

(CROSSTALK)

CORTES: -- that we had last time -- well fine. But I'm saying, that is a real outlier.

Listen, I think we'll get there eventually. Will we get this election? I'm not sure. We might.

But you what we hear a lot from the left, well, they don't want to talk policy. What will actually help Latinos' lives? Things like school choice. Things like tax cuts, economic growth, border security.

What do they do? They call us bigots constantly. And when the mainstream media all day every day calls Donald Trump a racist, I will be the first to admit, it does have an impact. And within Latin communities, and I know this personally, it's often very hard to say that you are a the Trump supporter, there's a stigma to it.

And because of that, I think we're polling far below where I think we're actually going to be, the Trump campaign when it comes to Latino votes. Nevada is one state. Your own network CNN shows us polling ten points ahead of Romney. I'm confident that Latinos will decide Nevada for Donald Trump.

COOPER: Maria, it is important to note, there are also fewer African- Americans voting early than in past recent elections, certainly in 2012 and certainly 2008 obviously. How troubling is that? Because that could cancel out any gains that you believe are being made by growth in Latino votes.

CARDONA: Well, it certainly is something the Clinton campaign is taking a look at, but I think they are also seeing an uptick in the number of African Americans who have come out to vote during this early vote period. And let's remember that this coming weekend is the big push from the faith community, in the African American community. The Souls to the Polls, the huge get out the vote effort from the churches into the buses to the polling booths. That happens this Sunday.

So, I think the Clinton campaign is confident they will get there with the African American vote. But let me just address something that Steve said, because this is a huge myth within the Republican Party and it is why they have failed so incredibly time and time again with Hispanics ever since George W. Bush. Matthew Dowd, who was George W. Bush's pollster, said very smartly that bush could not have become president if he didn't get at least 40 percent of the Hispanic vote.

[20:30:02] He says today that -- and that's exactly what he got and he became president. Matthew Dowd says today that because of the growth in the Hispanic vote no Republican can get to the White House with at least -- without at least 44 percent of the Hispanic vote. And Steve is right, the economy is the number one issue. But when you talk so and in a hateful manner and among mix status families and you say we love the parents because you're here legally. We hate your grandparents because you are not here legally, that is not something ...

ANDERSON COOPER, CNN ANCHOR: All right, Steve I want you to respond and we got to move on.

STEVE CORTES, TRUMP SURROGATE: Right. You know, listen, we don't say that we hate anyone. We love **immigration**. We also love the law and it is important. And by the way the people who are most unfairly affected by illegal **immigration** are Hispanics. Hispanics have to compete in the labor market. Legal Hispanics whether they're native born or legal **immigrants**. They have to compete against illegals who are almost always willing to work for far less than market wages would dictate and they also have to deal quite frankly with the crime issue of illegals. Many of whom are living quite openly, hiding in the open in sanctuary cities.

So we have a situation right now where our opponent favors open borders. We know that. She said so in a paid "Wall Street" essentially "Wall Street" speech in Brazil. She favors open borders. We -- we love **immigration**. We're for sensible **immigration**. We're for border control and we don't believe by the way that people here legally are the victims. The victims are the Americans who have to deal with illegal **immigrants**.

COOPER: Thanks very much. Just for a factual correction. What she was actually talking ...

CARDONA: Thank you.

COOPER: ... or what she says she was talking about was energy policy open borders not obviously border security that what she says obviously disagree. Steve Cortes, appreciate it, and Maria Cardona.

CARDONA: Thank you.

COOPER: Coming up top House Democrats call for an investigation into alleged FBI leaks to benefit the Trump campaign. This relates to something former New York mayor and current Trump support Rudy Giuliani said today. We'll play that for you next. We'll hear as well from Donald Trump in Pennsylvania right now.

DONALD TRUMP, (R) PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE: ...spoke in front of a much smaller crowd than that by the way. And there was a protester. And a protester that likes us. And what happened is they wouldn't put the cameras on them. They kept the cameras on Obama. And I said that's strange. You saw it today on television, right? He was talking to the protesters screaming ...

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

[20:35:48] COOPER: Donald Trump speaking in Hershey, Pennsylvania. A moment ago he made reference to Hillary Clinton's event in Cleveland saying he doesn't need Jay--z with him to carry today. Let's listen to Donald Trump more.

TRUMP: ... so many other things. We're going to have a great relationship with China. And I'm not angry at China. I'm angry at our leaders for allowing so many different countries to rip us off. That is who I'm angry with. All right, that will end. Does anybody have any doubt that's not - and we will have - honestly, we're going to have a better relationship with most of these countries. The reason is they don't respect us. They don't respect Obama. He's like a cheerleader, he's jumping up and down all over the place for Hillary. He shouldn't be doing that. He shouldn't be with her. He's got to be working. You know what? We're better off if he doesn't work. He'll only make bad deals we'll have to unscramble them. We're better off.

We've received the first ever endorsement from our ICE and border patrol offices. 16,500 first time they've ever endorsed a candidate. It's just been reported that as a result of our open borders, violent cartels haven spread into all 50 of our states. More than 90 percent of those arrested are here illegally, thank you very much. They are killing innocent Americans, threatening schools and totally destroying communities. A government that will not protect its people is a government that is unworthy to lead.

As secretary of state, Hillary Clinton allowed thousands and thousands of the most dangerous and violent criminals to go free because their home countries wouldn't take them back. They bring them to their countries and very intelligently these countries are saying we don't want them murderers, drug kings, the gang members. So they bring them in and the country say we're not taking them back. Bring them back to your country. And she was head of State Department and she'd say bring them back. We don't want to - believe me. I promise you this. Never once will we be bringing anybody back. Never once, never once.

And if they come back into our country, one year in jail, and if they come back a second time into our country, five years in jail and then 10 years and jail and they won't be coming back. They are not going to be coming back. Very few believe me when they know that. You know, what we do? We capture them over and over and over and we let them go.

There have to be consequences, folks. There have to be consequences. Hillary supports totally open borders. There goes your country. And strongly supports sanctuary cities like San Francisco where Kate Steinle was murdered by an illegal **immigrant**. And this **immigrant**, this illegal **immigrant** was deported at least five times. Not going happen anymore folks. Thousands of Americans would be alive today if not for the open border policies of Obama and Clinton. This includes Americans like Josh Wilkerson whose mother I've gotten to know during the campaign. Josh was a student in a high school. Good student, good kid everybody loved him, who's murdered at the age of 17. He was tortured, strangled, beaten to death by the illegal **immigrant**. And then his body was set on fire. Everybody wanted this guy out. They wanted him incarcerated.

[20:39:59] In July, right here in Pennsylvania, an illegal **immigrant** with a previous deportation record, horrible record, raped a young child, the illegal **immigrant**had been arrested for aggravated assault on numerous occasions. But he was set free. He was set free. Everybody that knew him said, please, please don't set him free. He was set free by ...

COOPER: That's Donald Trump by now in battleground Pennsylvania. We brought you President Obama speaking for Hillary Clinton earlier. Wanted to bring you Donald Trump as well.

Meantime, there's a controversy surrounding one of his leading surrogates tonight. The ranking members of the House and oversight and judiciary committees are calling for an investigation of the alleged FBI leaks to benefit the Trump campaign. Now this after Trump supporter former Mayor Rudy Giuliani went on "Fox & Friends" this morning.

The congressman calling from investigation say Giuliani basically maybe had he got leaked information about the latest FBI review of e- mails potentially related to Hillary Clinton's survey before it became public on Friday. Take a look.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

RUDY GIULIANI, (R) FORMER NEW YORK MAYOR: All I heard were former FBI agents telling me that there is a revolution going on inside the FBI and it is now at a boiling point. And ...

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: So you had a general idea that something was coming.

GIULIANI: I had expected this for the last -- honestly to tell you the truth, I thought it was going to be about three or four weeks ago. I did nothing to get it out. I had no role in it. Did I hear about it? You're darn right I heard about it.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

COOPER: Well Giuliani told Wolf Blitzer today that he had spoken with a lot of former FBI agents who were upset about Director James Comey's decision not to prosecute Clinton back in July but he didn't know about the new review that was announced on Friday.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

GIULIANI: I've had no conversations with anyone inside the FBI. Have I -- I have heard for the last four months a tremendous amount of information about the consternation within the FBI, the fact that FBI agents were very unhappy with the way they were being treated by the Justice Department. That is all true. But none of it came from any current -- I haven't talked to a current FBI agent, as I told you, in the last -- gosh, at least 8 or 10 months

(END VIDEO CLIP)

COOPER: Representatives Elijah Cummings and John Conyers are calling for investigation. Here is what Cummings said to Wolf.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

REP. ELIJAH CUMMINGS, (D) HOUSE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE: He made it clear, Wolf, that he was getting information from former FBI agents. Now Mr. Giuliani knows better. He know -- he's a federal -- he was a former federal prosecutor. You don't use the former prosecutors to launder information coming from the FBI.

That's basically what he said. We don't have a system of justice here where you take, you know, innuendo and vague announcements and put people's careers and lives and livelihood in jeopardy. We just don't do that.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

COOPER: Well back with the panel, joining us also is Trump supporter Matt Schlapp. Also on the phone, CNN law enforcement analyst and former FBI assistant director Tom Fuentes.

Tom let's start with you as someone who worked for the FBI, do you believe there is a chance Mayor Giuliani was privy to information he shouldn't have been or do you think this could just be, you know, a situation where he was kind of boasting that he was in the loop.

TOM FUENTES, CNN LAW ENFORCEMENT ANALYST: I don't know Anderson, you know and I don't know Mr. Giuliani personally and have never met him. So I don't know one way or the other, you know, about that. I think that has to be for him to answer to. But interestingly on Thursday the day before that letter went out I was at a luncheon in downtown Washington with about 30 current and retired senior executives of the FBI. This is a society of former agents that meets about once a month at a particular restaurant in downtown Washington.

And so here's a group of us there. We have the luncheon and the guest speaker. When the luncheon is over usually, you know, many of us congregate afterwards and socialize and talk. And I stayed about an hour longer talking to, as I said, many, many executives. And, you know, everything from what they are currently doing t to, you know, what do they think of some of these cases and obviously the most recent case of the director shutting down the e-mail case in July.

But there was not one word spoken at all of anything concerning the possible reopening and then the actual reopening that was going to happen the next day. Not one of us had any clue about that. No one spoke of it. And interestingly on Friday I was at - having lunch with some people on a separate matter, not FBIpersonnel. And the restaurant we were in had a giant screen with CNN on it. And one of the people I was having lunch with looked up and said hey look the FBI is reopening the case on the e-mail. That is the first I heard of it.

And the same a lot of shock interest from other agents that I've talked to and again retired executives that many I had seen the day before. Many I have seen in San Diego at a police convention earlier in the month. None of us had a clue. We were all equally shocked that this new information ...

[20:45:14] COOPER: Tom when you -- when you hear Congressman Elijah Cummings and John Conyer Jr. calling and the inspector general of the Justice Department to launch investigation into, you know, these alleged leaks or possible leaks to Giuliani should investigation be launched in your opinion or is this just kind of the stuff that happens in the waning days of campaign?

FUENTES: Well you know I think that you can't compare this to the waning days of any campaign. I think that everything that's happened in this case and similar cases going back now several months, you know, go back to June when president Clinton gets on the plane with Loretta Lynch, attorney general, former President Clinton. You know we've never had an attorney general say, OK, with regard to the Clinton case I'll defer to the FBI's decision on that. That's never happened. We've had individual prosecutors, U.S. attorneys or federal prosecutors recuse themselves individually and say my assistant, the deputy attorney general or career prosecutors within the Department of Justice will be involved now in the decision-making. But never has the department basically advocated its responsibility to make the prosecuted decision and defer it to the FBI.

And so many of us were not happy when that happened. And we felt back in July that when Director Comey made that press conference or press release I should say on the 5th of July, we thought this has never happened and it shouldn't have happened and that he should have done what he's always done, deferred this over or referred it to the completed investigation to the Department of Justice. And if Loretta Lynch decides that the janitor of DOJ is going to make the decision, so be it. But it shouldn't be from the FBI. And we felt from that point ...

COOPER: Interesting.

FUENTES: ... on this became a highly political situation.

COOPER: Interesting. Right, Tom I want to bring in the panel. Angela I know you talked to Congressman Cummings. Do you think there is should be investigation on this?

ANGELA RYE, POLITICAL STRATEGIST: Yeah. I think that they have raised a number of really good points. One of the thing they say in the letter is, "it is absolutely unacceptable for the FBI to leak -- and substantiate it. And in some cases false information about one presidential candidate to benefit the other", he goes on to say, "Leaking this information to former FBI officials as a conduit to the Trump campaign is equally intolerable."

The issue is now lack of public trust. Congressman Cummings talked about that as well on the show with Wolf where he said listen if we can't trust our FBI, if we don't believe in the system, if we don't believe in the DOJ, we substantially compromise this. And that is above -- that's a bigger issue than partisanship. That's about being a good American.

COOPER: Matt ...

MATT SCHLAPP, TRUMP SUPPORTER: Yeah, I just think is shocking to me. Which is they punted it in the summer, right? Then because the investigation is going on with Huma Abedin's husband, they find more information and because DOJ has recused themselves as Mr. Fuentes just explained, it puts the FBI director in a terrible position. The fact is this. There should have been a special council on this a very long time ago. It should have been kicked out of political realm. No public official is going make a good decision on this now.

So what you actually have is evidence in those e-mails you have people leaking from the FBI ...

CARDONA: You don't know that.

SCHLAPP: But let me finish. You had people leaking from the FBI to reporters. Carl knows something about this. And, you know what, when a government agency between DOJ and FBI, they are in complete conflict within the FBI within the DOJ over this. That's why you have special councils and the reason why leaking is sometime is needed because there are times when the institution of government are just completely broken. And this is an example of that. And if somebody involved in that thinks it is in the public good to let information come out to the press why are we going to be ...

(CROSSTALK)

COOPER: We got to take a break, we're going to have more on this. We're going talk to the panel. There's a lot more ahead tonight for you do weigh on including Hillary Clinton sharing the first lady's mantra, seven key words "when they go low we go high" but is the Democratic nominee actually following that advice? That's next first. First Jay-Z at the Clinton event tonight.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

[20:50:54] COOPER: Well, we are just four days away from Election Day but who's really counting. Polls show the race is really tightening. Hillary Clinton's play book could be changing. You might remember this moment from the second presidential debate, last month.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

HILLARY CLINTON, (D) PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE: When I hear something like that. I am reminded of what my friend, Michelle Obama, advised us all. When they go low, you go high.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

COOPER: Well, that was then, listen to campaign message lately, though, and it sounds like they're going to ditching that advice. Tom Foreman has that.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

CLINTON: Just a few days ago, Donald Trump was endorsed by the official newspaper of the Ku Klux Klan.

TOM FOREMAN, CNN REPORTER: So much for the high road and so much for the fact that Trump immediately rejected that KKK support, calling it repulsive. Hillary Clinton is making hay of it anyway.

CLINTON: They said it's about preserving white identity and they've placed their faith and hope in him.

TRUMP: Our military is a disaster.

FOREMAN: On T.V., the internet, and especially in the battlegrounds. The biggest names in the Democratic Party are stepping up the blitz that started a few weeks ago. Then it was Senator Elizabeth Warren in Denver, Colorado.

SEN. ELIZABETH WARREN, (D) MASSACHUSETTS: The big, brave Donald Trump is too chicken to release his tax returns. Bok, bok, bok, bok, bok.

FOREMAN: Now it's former president Bill Clinton further south in pueblo.

BILL CLINTON, (D) FORMER UNITED STATES PRESIDENT: ... we've got to decide, do we want a change in reality, or reality T.V.?

FOREMAN: Up in Wisconsin, Vice President Joe Biden was playing offense too.

JOE BIDEN, VICE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES: He is thoroughly unprepared and unqualified to be the Commander in Chief of the United States of America. It's not even close.

FOREMAN: Clinton's running mate Tim Kaine hit Arizona, trying to rally Latino voters.

TIM KAINE, (D), VICE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE (In Translation): Donald Trump said that Mexican **immigrants** are drug dealers, rapists, and murderers. He's a clown.

FOREMAN: And in North Carolina it was senator Bernie Sanders pushing women to the polls.

SEN. BERNIE SANDERS, (I) VERMONT: And we have come too far in this country to elect a president who objectifies women, who insults women, who brags about his sexual assaults.

FOREMAN: President Obama was even out there, mocking Trump over being offended by "Saturday Night Live".

BARACK OBAMA, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES: And you want to be president of the United States? Come on, man! Come on.

FOREMAN: And first lady Michelle Obama has been trying to bring it all home.

MICHELLE OBAMA, FIRST LADY OF UNITED STATES: ... because make no mistake about it, casting our vote is the ultimate way we go high when they go low. Voting is our high.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

FOREMAN: Collectively, all these big Democrats are hitting the Republican nominee on every possible weak spot. And all that talk about taking the high road, that's clearly changed into take any road, as long as it ends at the White House. Anderson?

COOPER: Tom thanks very much.

Back with the panel. Maria, what about that? I mean the whole idea was supposed to be that in the closing days of the campaign, the Democrats would sort of the, doing an overarching vision and then the polls got tight and now we have this, now?

CARDONA: And they're doing both. I know that we love to cover Hillary Clinton when she's really going at Donald Trump. And frankly, what she is saying is all true. And she's using his own words against him, which I think are quite impactful and quite powerful. It's the same thing that Elizabeth Warren is doing. The same thing that president Obama is doing. Frankly, it's the same thing that Michelle Obama is doing? And if you look at what Michelle Obama said, she said, going high means going to vote. Means making your voice heard. Means, making sure that everybody hears loud and clear, especially Donald Trump that the way that he has run this campaign with the bigotry and the racism and the misogyny is not going to be accepted, in American culture.

COOPER: David?

DAVID AXELROD, CNN SENIOR POLITICAL COMMENTATOR: I think maybe there's a misinterpretation here. I think there's a basic rule of presidential politics, especially as you're coming down the last leg of it. And that is when your opponents' poll numbers are going low, you go high. But when the race is close, and it's time to slug it out.

[20:55:12] CARDONA: It must be have that Michelle Obama whispering here.

CARL BERNSTEIN, CNN POLITICAL COMMENTATOR: The issue in this campaign, right now, is Donald Trump and his fitness to be the president of the United States. That's the bottom line.

COOPER: Well, also for a lot of Trump supporters, Hillary Clinton ...

(CROSSTALK)

BERNSTEIN: That's where I was going. And that's where we are with good reason. And at the same time, what we're also seeing is Hillary Clinton's world was rocked a week ago. She did want to go high. She wanted to come out of this thing looking toward the transition. Well, right now she's looking at the last days of election. And she's had an emotional response among other things. She is in a place she never expected to be. She thought Donald Trump was going to be the one opponent that she could really wipe off the map. It hasn't happened. Her husband has not been an asset. He's not physically the same Bill Clinton that we've seen and he's not that well. She's emotional. She's angry ...

RYE: Wait.

BERNSTEIN: She's angry -- no, no ...

COOPER: Let him keep going, please.

RYE: I just want to know, how is she displaying emotion? I actually haven't seen her be emotional about this.

BERSTEIN: No, I'm saying -- no I've talked to people in the campaign and she is emotional. I've written a biography of Hillary Clinton. I think I know a bit about her.

RYE: I think I do, too.

BERNSTEIN: She also is in the zone where she's at her best. She's in a warrior mode here. She is doing it calmly. She is eviscerating Trump in just the right way. But part of this is because of what happened with Comey last ...

COOPER: Dana?

AXELROD: So she's calmly emotional.

RYE: I see. Yeah.

CARDONA: I just wonder if it was a male candidate, would we use that ...

KAYLEIGH MCENANY, TRUMP SUPPORTER: Yes.

BERNSTEIN: Absolutely, why would.

COOPER: I would sort of say Donald Trump has been emotional, as well, I mean ...

(CROSSTALK)

BERNSTEIN: Totally, we would. Totally, we would. I don't think this has anything to do with being a woman or a man. No.

COOPER: OK, Dana?

BERNSTEIN: Whatsoever.

DANA BASH, CNN CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT: Yeah, "Danger Will Robinson". I just focus on what I was thinking about, as you were talking about going high and going low, it's a really nice slogan. It was a really nice thing, you know, some sound bite in a speech but come on.

RYE: Yeah.

BASH: Come on, man! Come on man.

COOPER: Isn't that the trick of going high. You always say you're going high, but you don't really go high. You just like you said you are.

BASH: Not only did she not go high, the campaign very systemically, very effectively, baited Donald Trump ...

COOPER: Yes.

RYE: Yes.

BASH: ... in one event after another event after another, whether it was Alicia Machado or ...

COOPER: Right.

BASH: ... you know, you name it. Now, some of the problems that Trump had were self-inflicted, the "Access Hollywood" tape. But this was, it certainly didn't seem necessarily that she was taking the low road, but she did. And -- there's no question, she was playing very, very hard ball. Very -- I mean down and dirty politics.

COOPER: And yet, I mean Donald Trump certainly is also, you know, going after character issues, as well. It is interesting, though, in these final days to see him on prompter more than we've ever seen.

MCENANY: It absolutely it's interesting. And we've seen President Obama trying to bait him endlessly and it hasn't worked. And we've seen Donald Trump, you know, bring up the FBI scandal a bit. But we have seen him, you know, give these policy speeches ...

COOPER: He did come close, when he gave that pep talk to himself like Donald, stay calm.

(CROSSTALK)

MCENANY: I also have to -- I want to point out, quickly, though that's going high, apparently means clucking like a chicken right ...

BASH: That was hilarious.

COOPER: When Maria said she's using her words against him, I was like, I've never heard him cluck like a chicken. But ...

BERNSTEIN: If she gets to the inaugural, Hillary is Elizabeth Warren going to do that on the capitol steps?

COOPER: We've got to take a quick break. A lot more ahead. We're going to showing as many events we can from the campaign trail that are happening live tonight. Also new potential clues we're getting from early voting. We'll talk about that, what it could mean for Clinton and Trump as they campaign tonight in key battleground states.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

News; Domestic

**NEW\_DOCUMENT\_HERE**

Anderson Cooper, Jim Acosta, John King, David Axelrod, Dana Bash, Gloria Borger, Maria Cardona, Bakari Sellers, Jeffrey Lord, Phil Mattingly, Randi Kaye, Amanda Carpenter, Kayleigh McEnany, Drew Griffin

speakers\_end

[20:00:11] ANDERSON COOPER, CNN ANCHOR: Good evening. Thanks for joining us.

Tonight, Melania Trump makes a speech, her first since the convention, which she outlines a signature for her. She calls for action against a tone, a tenor and a pattern of online behavior that she says is mean and harmful and serious enough to raise in the campaign trail just five days from the election.

It also happens to be perhaps the one thing her husband is most often accused of doing. What she said today, where she said it, part of her appeal to suburban women voters? The question is, will it work? I'll talk to Trump campaign manager Kellyanne Conway about all of it.

First, Jim Acosta on the candidate's day so far. He joins us from Selma, North Carolina, where Donald Trump is about to speak.

So, what's Trump expected to say?

JIM ACOSTA, CNN SENIOR WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENT: Hey, Anderson. Donald Trump just walked out on the stage here in Selma, North Carolina, in this critical battleground state that just might make or break his candidacy.

But we have been told by Trump campaign official, when he gets going here, he'll be talking about national security, defense, foreign policy issues and we'll be talking about his proposals to build up the nation's navy and air force. He also has behind him on stage several Medal of Honor recipients, other distinguished veterans of the armed services.

But, Anderson, the other thing that's worth noting and we've been noting this, is the un-Trump-like message discipline that we've seen over the last several days. Yes, he's hitting Hillary Clinton hard, he's going after the president of the United States somewhat. But he's avoided that that incendiary rhetoric that's thrown the campaign off course from time to time, Anderson.

COOPER: Also today, Melania Trump as we said out on campaign trail. For those who didn't see it, talk about her message to voters. ACOSTA: Yes, it was a message about her **immigrant** roots, but she also spent part of her speech in Pennsylvania earlier today talking about social media and how she feels like people on social media need to set the right example for young people out there. Here's more of what she had to say.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

MELANIA TRUMP, DONALD TRUMP'S WIFE: I do worry about all of our children. As we know, now, social media is center piece of our lives. As adults, many of us are able to handle mean words, even lies. Children and teenagers can be fragile. They are hurt when they are made fun of or made to feel less in looks or intelligence. Our culture has gotten too mean and too rough, especially to children and teenagers.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

ACOSTA: Now, one thing Melania Trump did not mention in that speech is that her husband, the candidate, has gone after his enemies on Twitter at all hours of the night. Just to give you some examples, we have to put on screen. The time he referred to the former Miss Universe Alicia Machado saying she had a sex tape when she did not. When he referred to Ted Cruz at one point during the campaign saying that he was threatening to spill the beans about his wife and then, of course, all of those Twitter attacks on the FOX News anchor Megyn Kelly.

Anderson, for all of that to be ignored and overlooked he truly would have to delete his account -- Anderson.

COOPER: Jim Acosta, Jim, thanks very much.

We should note, Hillary Clinton, Bernie Sanders and Pharrell have just taken the stage in Raleigh.

Joining us now is Trump campaign manager Kellyanne Conway.

Kellyanne, good to have you on the program.

KELLYANNE CONWAY, TRUMP CAMPAIGN MANAGER: Hi, Anderson.

COOPER: Mrs. Trump out on the trail today, every time I've interviewed her, I found her to be poised speaker, effective at delivering her message. I think she does a very good job talk about her husband, showing a side maybe a lot of voters haven't seen.

First of all, do you plan -- will we be seeing more of her between now and Tuesday?

CONWAY: Well, this was really a very important day for her out on the stump. This was her idea to go out there in suburban Philadelphia. I was proud to work on the speech and to accompany her today to suburban Philadelphia, and, you know, she's very supportive of her husband's candidacy. And she would be very supportive of his presidency, and I think the voters see that. But, you know, she's got a very important job at home raising their 10-year-old son Baron, I think Melania is no different in millions of the American women always trying to find the extra time for the homework, for the soccer practices and like, Anderson. And I just was very happy that people got to hear about her **immigrant** roots, her love of America, the fact she came to work and live in America.

But in her own words, that just wasn't enough, she wanted to be an American. And she waited ten years to go through the process, Visa, green cards, work her way to the legal process and ten years later, became an American citizen and gave us a little bit of a preview what she might do as first lady, and certainly, the man Donald Trump whom she's known and loved for 18 years.

COOPER: So, do you think we'll see her again? And do you wish she had, you know, spent earlier? Certainly, in appealing to women perhaps and others, Melania Trump, I mean, is a fine surrogate.

[20:05:03] CONWAY: I mean, I'm thrilled that Ivanka Trump is out there. Melania Trump, Lara and Vanessa Trump, Tiffany Trump is keeping her campaign schedule these days and certainly the boys. Let's not leave them out, just because of their gender, Don and Eric.

You know, we've got these super surrogates who are his family members and I think they tell a story about their father, in this case her husband, that is very different about his character and his policy prescriptions, the sacrifice they have all made that I talk so frequently about to run in the first place.

But I also because his older, his adult children are involved in his business. They also know him as a boss and as a mentor. Those are important messages and they are really all dotting the maps. Everybody was in so-called swing state and yesterday campaigning. And I think Melania Trump's message really, Anderson, whether it's giving you an interview a couple of weeks ago which I thought was phenomenal and today's speech to these women, I feel like those excerpts should be responsibly played again and again.

Contrast Melania Trump to bill Clinton who's basically on the stump every day and says things like Obamacare is the craziest things he's ever seen -- we certainly agree with that -- goes off message quite a bit.

I really appreciate that Melania Trump does not call attention to herself and is there to support her husband and their son behind the scenes mostly. And everybody should feel comfortable as the messenger for their particular message and you saw her today I think in a way that --

COOPER: OK.

CONWAY: That really helps her husband among women and other others. You know, I just have to say, I contrast it to, you know, every time we see these super surrogates, Pharrell, Bernie Sanders, a rapper here, a current or former president there for Hillary Clinton, it somehow makes her seem small and underwhelming that she's propped with all these other people.

This was supporting role today by Melania Trump, whereas Hillary Clinton is being -- she's out there being supported by people far more popular than she is.

COOPER: You talked about, Melania Trump talking about her roots, about wanting to come to America, the privilege of being an American, as you know, she also talked about how children and teenagers are hurt when they are in her words made fun of or made to feel less in looks or intelligence, adding the culture has gotten too mean, too rough. I don't think -- I don't know of anybody who would really disagree with that. She said the same thing to me a couple of weeks ago when I talked to her.

Back then and even today, the reaction from a number of people, mostly her critics, is that her husband is part of the problem. We all know he's made fun of people's looks, of people's intelligence. Jake Tapper asked this question earlier of a surrogate and I think it's the right question to ask. If it's not OK for kids to do this, why is it OK for adults, for Donald Trump?

CONWAY: Well, it's really not okay for anyone to do it with malicious intent. But, you know, I hate to break it to the political class or even the media, but most of what's on Twitter is not about politics or journalism. There's a whole big worldwide social media culture, landscape out there, Anderson. And I think what Melania Trump was talking about today is a cultural fact, not a political or journalistic fact.

COOPER: Right. But your candidate, he is the guy on Twitter at 3:00 a.m., tweeting out this stuff talking --

(CROSSTALK)

CONWAY: Sorry. I'm sorry for the delay and it sounded like I interrupted you, Anderson. I didn't mean to.

Look, do you see any -- do you see what's written about you or me routinely. I get the F-word every night. I get from journalists frankly. There is one who -- you know, very washed up one frankly can't stop tweeting at me, curse words. My children have to see that. You know, we have to have really broad shoulders, I get it, and I'm just one person.

But the fact is that it is -- I appreciate the fact that as a first lady, Melania Trump has committed herself to trying to do something about the negativity that naturally tends to what otherwise she identified as the positive tool. Communications and social media can be a force for positivity.

But I appreciate -- you know, we always have people saying we're going to work for women and children. We have actually a Democratic presidential nominee who says she's going to fight for women and children. That's terrific. But where has she been? Why has she --

(CROSSTALK) COOPER: You know, the question is does about this start at home? I mean, isn't the problem at her own dinner table?

CONWAY: No, it's not in her dinner table. The fact that her husband is running for president and defends himself sometimes or tweets things out. Look at all of these tweets. What about his tweet about --

(CROSSTALK)

COOPER: Talking about Carly Fiorina's face wasn't a counterattack. That was -- that was just an attack.

CONWAY: I'm sorry?

COOPER: Talking about Carly Fiorina's face was not a counterattack, counterpunch. That was just mean.

CONWAY: And he went on in national stage in front of tens of millions of people I would presume and said she has a beautiful face, that she's a beautiful woman. And I mean, I'm frankly very proud that Carly Fiorina is part of this Republican Party and a very member of it.

But, you know, again, we're always -- we constantly, when it comes to Donald Trump, cherry picking certain tweets or certain things that he said and not looking -- go look at his entire Twitter feed. Go look at the crowds at his rallies. Go look at his message. Go see what he's saying.

COOPER: I know, it's full of this stuff though.

[20:10:00] CONWAY: Yes -- it's full of a lot of things. But again I think you're under -- I think we're doing a disservice to the platform that Melania -- one of the platforms she would want to have as first lady to the full measure of all her comments today.

And also, Anderson, I mean, if you want to look at negativity, look no further than Hillary Clinton campaign. They are not even pretending to go high or to go medium anymore. It's the complete politics of the personal destruction. They're all out there attacking Donald Trump. There's no aspirational uplifting message for women, children and anyone else. It's all tear him down, try to wait out the clock, try to run out the clock ahead of not one but two FBI investigations now.

I mean, why aren't people talking about her getting off the Democratic ticket? Why aren't people asking Democrats, are you actually going to continue to endorse her and stand with her? She's under a cloud of corruption, all of these investigations might follow her right into the White House.

And I think, look, the haters are out today for Melania Trump because she did a phenomenal job and she is the picture of elegance and grace and intelligence and wit, and it was really a great day for our campaign to have her there, to have Karen Pence, the first lady of Indiana, Mike Pence's wife introduce Melania Trump. People got a little window into their future in the first lady and the future vice president's wife.

And I'm just going to say, you know, you can contrast that to Hillary Clinton on stump who's all negative all the time now. I don't know why that is. But it's not the Democratic Party I grew up in and I don't think it would have been very gripping to the single mom who raised me to hear Hillary Clinton just slam her Republican opponent all day long.

And I'm just happy that Melania Trump went out there today and gave her message to men and women. She spoke -- she was in Pennsylvania but she spoke to all Americans.

COOPER: And I know there is a lot of Trump supporters who would like to see her out more and probably a lot of Democrats who would be scared to see her out more out on the trail.

So, Kellyanne Conway, good to talk to you. Thank you very much.

CONWAY: Thank you, Anderson.

COOPER: I want to bring in the panel.

I want to bring in the panel, "INSIDE POLITICS" anchor John King, CNN senior political commentator, "Axe Files" podcaster and former top Obama adviser, David Axelrod, CNN chief political correspondent Dana Bash, CNN chief political analyst Gloria Borger.

Also bracketing our screen, Clinton supporters Maria Cardona and Bakari Sellers. And in between, Trump supporters Jeffrey Lord and Jack Kingston.

We like to mix up the scene. Jeffrey is a former Reagan White House political director. Jack is a senior Trump adviser and former U.S. congressman. Bakari is a former South Carolina state legislator. Maria was a senior adviser to 2008 Clinton campaign.

And, Anderson, well, I'm all out of breath.

(LAUGHTER)

COOPER: John King, I mean, Melania Trump, every time she speaks, has been very effective and I think there's probably a lot of Trump supporters who would have like to have seen her out weeks ago.

JOHN KING, CNN CHIEF NATIONAL CORRESPONDENT: I think without a question. And where she is is quite critical. Chester County, Pennsylvania, is one of the outer counties. But the suburbs around this three-collared counties, Berks County, Montgomery County, Delaware County, then you get to Chester County. If Republicans are going to win Pennsylvania, has to win those counties. The last Republican to win those suburbs, Georgia H.W. Bush.

So, Pennsylvania has been blue since then. Jeffrey knows it well because of that. But he'll also do her a disservice I think in some ways in the sense that she's very poised. She's a great surrogate. She should be out there. But at the convention she had somebody on the staff plagiarize the speech and undermined her and I'm sorry and God bless Kellyanne for being a loyal campaign manager. But it is, of course, inevitable that if she gives a speech that says we should be respectful on social media and we should treat each other with kindness and compassion that we're going to play Donald Trump's own words and go through his own Twitterfeed.

COOPER: Right. It's inevitable to have that comparison.

KING: Her argument today was with her husband. Sorry.

COOPER: David?

DAVID AXELROD, CNN SENIOR POLITICAL COMMENTATOR: Well, it would have been an effective tactic to say as my first gesture in this cause, I'm going to take my husband's iPhone away.

But look, let's talk the politics of this. I know that Kellyanne said it was Melania's idea to go to this location. This was chosen by campaign strategists for a reason. Donald Trump has to win Pennsylvania or breakthrough in some other big, blue state. Pennsylvania was thought to be the one where he could earlier in the campaign season. He has an enormous problem with women and in one poll recently in the last couple of days trailing by 20 points in Pennsylvania.

And the point of this was to tell women who are looking at a barrage of ads of his own words that really he's not what you see. He's not the way he appears to be. And that was the sole function of this speech.

COOPER: I mean, Kellyanne Conway going critical of Hillary Clinton in her words going negative and going low. I mean, as we talked a lot last night, Donald Trump doing a good job stay on message and not making mistakes these days. Hillary Clinton is running a different campaign in these final days. You know, there isn't a higher message. It is very much attacking Donald Trump's character. This is essentially answering that.

GLORIA BORGER, CNN CHIEF POLITICAL ANALYST: It is answering that, and what they are saying is, you know, we're making our positive closing argument. They are not necessarily because they are on the attack against Hillary Clinton. They've got a clear message, which is e- mails, e-mails, e-mails. You can't trust her, playing into that whole storyline.

But what was interesting about what Kellyanne said to you was she said you are cherry-picking Donald Trump's words. And that is exactly what advertisements do.

[20:15:02] What negative ads do. They, of course, cherry pick words. And she's making that argument against the negative ads and she's saying don't do that in criticizing Melania Trump.

I think we know what they discuss at the dinner table, which is she doesn't like him tweeting. She has said that to you I believe. And I think she wishes he would -- he would stop. And I do believe she feels strongly about it. And that this is a way that they deflect --

COOPER: It's also --

BORGER: -- for suburban women.

COOPER: Donald Trump is the candidate who has used Twitter more effectively and more often than any other presidential candidate in history.

BORGER: Right. Yes, yes.

DANA BASH, CNN CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT: Absolutely, absolutely. He has used Twitter in a way that, you know, even -- you know, rewind the technology, than I think you would probably concede that the Obama campaign used technology in 2008 and that was revolutionary.

But when you look at where Melania went today. Obviously, you are right. The whole reason she gave her speech and where she went was because these collared counties around Philadelphia are so critical. This particular county, Chester County, Mitt Romney actually won, the only one that he won by just a hair and they are trying to sort of change that and make it so it others.

But the others, interestingly I've been talking to Republican officials in those counties over the past couple days, particularly today ahead of her speech. And they said that the big drop in his poll numbers in that area in and around the "Access Hollywood" tape, they have come back. So, I think that this was also a way to have someone like Melania kind of bring it home. And because we're so close to the election, make sure that people who are thinking about voting for Donald Trump but they are not so sure actually get to the polls.

BORGER: It was a very different spousal speech though. This wasn't a kind of speech that Michelle Obama would give about her husband. It was about what she would do if she was first lady. The kind of issues she would take.

She did -- she was a bit of a character witness for her husband. But spouses very often, particularly at this point on the campaign trail are much more personal about their husbands and one thing we've noticed about the family is that they have difficult telling sort of personal stories about Donald Trump. And I think that would have been quite effective if Melania had done some more of that.

COOPER: It is also tough for someone who doesn't have the experience.

BORGER: Absolutely.

COOPER: Michelle Obama is -- to compare anybody as the speech maker and a Michelle Obama.

(CROSSTALK)

BASH: A lot of spouses at this point have given, many, many, speeches.

BORGER: And have been on the trail.

COOPER: We're going to take a break. We're going to go to the other side of the table, te partisans, right after the break.

A lot more ahead with candidates and surrogates and running mates all running around tonight, including Hillary Clinton speaking soon in Raleigh, North Carolina. Right now, Bernie Sanders on stage right now, part of the Clinton campaign's effort to keep their blue wall of states from developing any new cracks.

New polling as well tonight. John King crunching the numbers.

And later, more on Melania Trump's speech and the voters she's trying to reach in eastern Pennsylvania.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

[20:21:18] SEN. BERNIE SANDERS (I), VERMONT: And let us be very clear, a $7.25 federal minimum wage is a starvation wage. Let's be clear.

COOPER: Bernie Sanders out campaigning for Hillary Clinton tonight at the Clinton rally unfolding in Raleigh, North Carolina. Bernie Sanders warming up the crowd. This is Secretary Clinton's second event in the Tar Heel State.

CNN's Phil Mattingly is there for us tonight.

Phil, Clinton, Trump, their surrogates, they've been flooding the zone obviously, what are advisors telling you about the state of play there?

PHIL MATTINGLY, CNN CORRESPONDENT: The thing you hear over and over from top Clinton advisers, really top Democrats all over the place, if we execute, we can win this state. But there have been a number of red flags recently, at least the type of things that give Democrats discomfort, and most notably, it was in the early African-American vote.

Now, a couple of things have changed from 2012 when you look at why it might be dropping a little bit. First and foremost, President Obama not on the top of the ticket. There's also been some changes in where polling places, when people can actually vote, that might be contributing to it as well.

But the Clinton campaign is trying to attack this head on, Anderson. All day today, Hillary Clinton and her campaign at their rallies have been hitting on this issue, reaching out to African American voters. Pharrell Williams and Hillary Clinton, while they will also be talking on this stage in a little bit, hit a historically black university, North Carolina Central, before that. This is all focused on turning out this vote.

They don't want to Obama coalition. They don't think they are going to reach the numbers, but the Clinton coalition does include a strong African American vote. If they did that, they have a very good chance in the state, Anderson.

COOPER: And Clinton has shifted away from any talk of the FBI, right?

MATTINGLY: Yes, that is exactly right. Look, the first three or four days after that letter was sent to Capitol Hill, her campaign advisors were holding conference calls on it, talking about it repeatedly, attacking Jim Comey, attacking the FBI. Hillary Clinton bringing it up repeatedly at her rallies.

No more. There's a pretty good reason why. One, her advisers say, look, we think this issue fired up our organizers, fired up our advocates, but it is not exactly the message you want to be closing out the campaign with. Instead, you want to be closing out the campaign talking about Donald Trump, like this from Hillary Clinton. Take a listen.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

HILLARY CLINTON (D), PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE: This is someone who at another rally yesterday actually said out loud to himself -- stay on point, Donald, stay on point.

His campaign probably put that in the teleprompter. Stay on point, Donald. Stay on point.

You know, we have seen it other and over again. We know his true self.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

MATTINGLY: Mocking Donald Trump there a little bit, the closing argument very clear. This is a referendum on Donald Trump and that's not somebody you want in the White House. We'll have to wait and see over the next five days if that is a message that works -- Anderson.

COOPER: Phil Mattingly, Phil, thanks.

Let's talk about why Hillary Clinton is where she and is Donald Trump as well. John King is back to break it down, a batch of polling by the numbers.

So, the national polls show a small Clinton lead. What about the important states? What's new?

KING: More volatility out there, Anderson. The new numbers say.

Let's start with the poll out of New Hampshire, has the Trump campaign thinking New Hampshire is back in play. Look at this, Hillary Clinton is having consistent lead throughout the general election, but a Boston Globe poll conducted by Suffolk University, 42-42 among likely voters in the state of New Hampshire.

We know that the president is going back there. Donald Trump is going back there twice in the final days in the state of New Hampshire. I want to go out west for a minute. We've been thinking the whole campaign could the never Trump conservative challenger Evan McMullin win the state of Utah? One poll had him near the top but now we're seeing, just like we've seen in Arizona, conservative consolidation. Donald Trump, that's not healthy for the Republican nominee at 37. Mitt Romney got 73 percent four years ago. But at least Trump now leading in Utah, 37 percent to 31 percent. Evan McMullin now down to 24 percent here.

So, again, you are seeing conservative consolidation. That is two pieces of good news for Trump, Utah and New Hampshire. Maybe Congressman Kingston can talk to us a little bit later.

[20:25:02] You look at the state of Georgia, though, a traditionally a ruby red state. A dead heat there in Georgia. The Clinton campaign working the early voting there. They don't think they can win it, but they look at numbers like and they think maybe we got a shot.

COOPER: So, for all the talk of Trump momentum, he does need to crack what Democrats call the blue wall to have a realistic chance of winning. Is he doing that?

KING: He has not cracked it. He's banging on the door, but he's not cracked it.

Let me show you what we're talking about. If you don't know what the term means, Democrats use this term "the blue wall" -- 18 states plus the District of Columbia that they have won since 1992. Six state presidential elections, everything blue on this map, the Democrats have won.

The significance of that is that means they start at 242. It takes 270 to win. The Democrats essentially start with 242. They are almost to the finish line.

Has Donald Trump cracked any of this? Not yet. Notably, New Hampshire is not part of the blue wall. George W. Bush won it one of his campaigns. So, it doesn't go back to 1992.

Let's look at the big three states Trump hopes to crack, Michigan, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin. Here's Clinton's lead in the latest poll and let's look at them.

Here's Michigan 2012. Back here to 2012. You see 2012, Obama won it by nine points. She's up seven points.

Let go next there to Wisconsin, Obama won it seven points, she's up six points. Let me bring the map back over so I can get the Pennsylvania. Bring this down a little bit.

There was a five point race. She has a five point lead. So, there is no evidence Donald Trump has cracked the wall. He's knocking, he's closer than he was 10 days, two weeks ago, but he hasn't broken through yet.

COOPER: So, on the path to 270, where do things stand? KING: Let's switch map and take a look at that. Again, if you look at where we are now, officially, we have in the CNN count, Clinton 272, Donald Trump 179.

But let's do a little math there. Let's say for the sake of argument, we haven't done this officially yet, let's bring New Hampshire back into the toss up category. There we go, let's bring it take to the tossup category.

Now, let's take it into account. Trump winning in Arizona in our poll yesterday, now Trump winning in Utah. Trump now leading in Ohio. If you do that, she's at 268, he's at 214. That is why Florida and North Carolina, Anderson, are so important.

If you get into a race like this, these are the two big prizes. Florida and North Carolina, Trump needs both. Hillary Clinton needs one. That is why you see the big tete-a-tete in North Carolina tonight, you're going to see it in Florida as well. These other states will come into play, but we're going to be doing a lot of Florida and North Carolina, Florida, North Carolina, for the next three, four days.

COOPER: I think even the magic wall is getting tired of this election, John.

KING: Florida, North Carolina, Florida, North Carolina.

COOPER: John, thanks very much. John is going to rejoin the panel.

Congressman, let's talk about Georgia. I mean, are you as a Trump supporter, are you concerned about those numbers?

JACK KINGSTON, DONALD TRUMP SUPPORTER: I'm not concerned about those numbers. In fact yesterday in the CNN green room, I talked to one of the consultants with the Isaacson campaign who just came out of the field, and they were testing Trump and Isakson. We have a lead, not as much as Johnny Isakson has, we the Trump team. But we feel good about it.

And I was talking to David earlier --

COOPER: So, you don't think that is close.

KINGSTON: I don't. And I'd say, the proof of that, if it was, Hillary Clinton would be down there. Bill Clinton would be down there. They are not sending any of their -- I don't see any of the super surrogates coming down.

So -- and, you know, the same way with Arizona. I was talking to Congressman John Shadegg yesterday and he said, let me put it this way for Arizona. Every third vehicle is a pickup truck with an NRA bumper sticker on it. We hear all the time from outsider that Arizona is going to go -- going to flip, but it is not going to happen.

So I feel very good about those two. But I think hat -- you know, we have to have those in the game. We have to win Florida. We have to win North Carolina. We're to feeling good about Ohio.

Now, as you know, the two swing counties in Pennsylvania, North Hampton County and Luzerne County, are polling shows that there's a 2- point difference there. So, in Pennsylvania, those are the bellwether counties. We're getting closer in Pennsylvania, which is in Melania was down there.

COOPER: Maria, are you concerned about the blue state flipping red?

MARIA CARDONA, CNN POLITICAL COMMENTATOR: I am not. And I think for the primary reason she's still in very good shape. I mean, that fact we're even talking about Georgia, that on John King's map that Georgia is up there, that Utah is up there, that Arizona is up there, I think is indicative that she still has a strong position from electoral standpoint.

I also think and I was going mentioned this last night, but a lot of these polls are missing Latino support for Hillary Clinton because the polling (AUDIO GAP) callers. If you don't do polling with bilingual callers, you're going to lose a lot if not most of the Hispanic support in a lot f these states. Even Pennsylvania which has 4.5 percent Hispanic voters. North Carolina 3.4 percent. That could be the margin.

COOPER: You're essentially making the same argument with different voters. But that the Trump campaign is making that there are hidden voters out there.

CARDONA: Yes, and let me include more in the hidden vote. A survey yesterday by William & Mary by early voters in Florida. We don't know if it's right. But it said that 28 percent of GOP voters actually went for Hillary Clinton.

So I actually think there are two hidden -- kinds of hidden voters for Hillary Clinton. It is the folks who don't show up on likely voter models because they haven't voted before.

[20:30:02] New **immigrants**, newly registered Hispanics, newly registered millenials. And then you have Republicans who, to pollsters, and frankly to their friends, don't want to admit that they are going to vote for Hillary Clinton.

COOPER: Jeff, do you worry about these hidden voters on the Democratic side?

JEFFREY LORD, CNN POLITICAL COMMENTATOR: No.

COOPER: Because you've been Trumpeting, the no pun intended ...

LORD: Right.

COOPER: ... hidden voters on the Trump side.

LORD: I really think, Anderson. I mean if you remember there was about a week ago that we were sitting here digesting more or less the sort of common assumption ... COOPER: I have no memory beyond today. Honestly, it all blends together.

DAVID AXELROD, CNN SENIOR POLITICAL COMMENTATOR: You say whatever you want.

LORD: In 18 ...

AXELROD: You're old now.

(CROSSTALK)

LORD: Well in 1884 -- no. What we have -- we were talking about the inevitability of Hillary Clinton. That in essence it was all over. And now here we are. And we're talking within a few points give or take.

I can tell you that tomorrow in Pennsylvania Donald Trump himself will be there at the giant arena in Hershey. I thought myself that they had abandoned Pennsylvania a week or so ago. And now there he was in Valley Forge which is suburban Philadelphia. There she is today in suburban Philadelphia. And he is there in central Pennsylvania tomorrow, an arena that holds 10,000 people, I mean I guarantee you that place will be sold out plus.

So, I really do think that they're doing very, very well here and I think they have got momentum. And quite obviously, the story here, the FBI and all that has given some people thoughts out there.

COOPER: Bakari?

BAKARI SELLERS, CNN POLITICAL COMMENTATOR: One of the important aspects about Pennsylvania is that you don't have early voting. You have absentee voting but not the early voting process. And so the reason that Hillary Clinton is going to Michigan is because they don't have early voting. So you actually have to get your voters to the polls. The reason that you're having this amazing rally on Monday night, where you have all the rock stars, you have Hillary Clinton, you have Bill Clinton, you have Barack and Michelle Obama in Philadelphia the night before the election is because you actually have to get those voters to the polls.

The fact is we can go up and down and all around but the dynamics of this race have stayed the same from the beginning. Donald Trump has not led in a poll in Wisconsin. He has not led in a poll in Michigan. He has not led in a poll in Pennsylvania. He has not led in a poll in Colorado. And I mean, we can go up and down. But the dynamics of this race simply have not changed. And Hillary Clinton, if she can -- if she maintains the blue wall ...

COOPER: Right.

SELLERS: ... then ...

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: It's done.

JOHN KING, CNN INSIDE POLITICS ANCHOR: But the dynamics have ...

SELLERS: But you got -- you can have ...

COOPER: John?

KING: The dynamics have changed. You are right, but she -- excuse me she still has an advantage. But it's late but Donald Trump has had the consolidation of the Republican Party. Donald Trump has had the consolidation of conservatives. He's now in a position, he's in the hunt whereas last week he was not in the hunt. That doesn't mean -- you're right ...

(CROSSTALK)

COOPER: We got to take a break. We're going talk more. Before we go to break though, David Axelrod is a huge Chicago Cubs fan.

LORD: Yes.

COOPER: Congratulations David.

AXELROD: Thank you.

COOPER: And the irony of all ironies is we were looking around to try to find a Chicago Cubs hat.

AXELROD: I should have brought mine.

COOPER: I am the only person who actually ...

AXELROD: Oh.

COOPER: This is my only baseball hat and I've been wearing this for like six months so here is my Chicago Cubs hat.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Wow.

AXELROD: All right.

COOPER: I of course ...

CARDONA: Is it signed?

COOPER: Being an egotistical anchor I thought it was C for Cooper.

LORD: There you go.

COOPER: All right.

AXELROD: Going to buy you a Billy goat.

COOPER: All right, a lot to talk about ahead. More on Melania Trump speech today in Pennsylvania, her solo appearance on the trail. A lot more ahead from the trail. We'll be right back.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK) [20:36:26] DONALD TRUMP, (R) PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE: There goes your country. And supports sanctuary cities like in San Francisco, where Kate Steinle, the great beautiful wonderful person. Kate Steinle was murdered by an illegal **immigrant** who had been deported perhaps more than five times.

And Trump administration will cancel all ...

COOPER: Donald Trump speaking tonight in North Carolina. He and Hillary Clinton holding dueling rallies there this evening. As we said Melania Trump campaigned solo for the first time today in Pennsylvania. Her first turn in the spotlight since her speech at the Republican Convention which obviously did not exactly turn out the way she wanted to after the partial lines were taken from Michelle Obama.

Today, the speech was build as a -- what a Trump presidency would mean for women, children and families. The backdrop a crucial battleground state for Mrs. Trump's husband. Randi Kaye tonight, reports.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

RANDI KAYE, CNN CORRESPONDENT: At the Main Line Sports Center just outside Philadelphia, Melania Trump was the main event.

MELANIA TRUMP: I come here today to talk about my husband Donald and his deep love and respect for this country.

KAYE: Mrs. Donald Trump sharing both her husband's love of the United States and her own. She told the crowd she's always loved America even while growing up under communist rule in Slovenia.

M. TRUMP: We always knew about the incredible place called America. America was the word for freedom and opportunity. America meant if you could dream it you could become it.

KAYE: This was Melania's first speech since the plagiarism mess at the Republican Convention. And the campaign strategy is clear. Send her to the suburbs of Philadelphia to target white college educated women. Donald Trump can't win Pennsylvania without them. And they have gravitated to Hillary Clinton.

How does Melania Trump help him win that group?

JANET HASTINGS, TRUMP SUPPORTER: I think she should have been out in front all along. I think that a lot of the women are going to Hillary just because she is a female and she's a horrible example of what a female should be.

KAYE: No question supporters here have a real affection for Melania.

Can you, as a woman, relate to her?

JEANIE SCIOLLA, TRUMP SUPPORTER: Oh without a doubt. That's why I'm here. She is like -- I cannot wait to see her and see personally what she's wearing.

LORETTA KURLICH: I like her a lot and I think she's quite a lady. She's an asset. She brings a lot of grace and class.

KAYE: This woman still isn't sold on Donald Trump. She came to see Melania speak hoping to be convinced.

What do you need to hear from Melania Trump to vote Trump?

NINA MCMENAMIN, UNDECIDED VOTER: I guess I want to hear something that makes me feel positive about putting Trump into the White House.

KAYE: What would that be?

MCMENAMIN: I don't, you know, to be honest, I'm open to anything. I just am not sure what his policies are yet.

KAYE: If Melania Trump can win over women like Nina McMenamin, she could turn out to be the closure her husband needs in this battleground state.

KURLICH: She knows him better than anyone. I can't think of any better representative for him than his own wife.

M. TRUMP: It would be my honor and privilege to serve this country.

I will be an advocate for women and for children.

RACHELLE BERGEY, TRUMP SUPPORTER: I think that she does try to bring out the softer side in him and I think that's a positive thing.

KAYE: Is it helping?

BERGEY: Yes, I think it is helping.

KAYE: Does she soften him?

SCIOLLA: Oh definitely, she softens him. She's so classy and sweet. Yes she does.

[20:40:04] KAYE: Classy and sweet but strong and confident too, her supporter say, someone they'd be proud to have their daughters look up to.

What kind of first lady do you think she'd be?

SCIOLLA: Oh my god, she would be amazing, she would be another Jackie Onassis Kennedy. Oh yes, without a doubt, without a doubt.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

COOPER: And Randi joins me now from Philadelphia. It is really interesting how, you know, every time Melania Trump has spoken in whether it's interviews we've done together or speaking today, I mean, everybody seems to say the same thing which is they wish, Trump supporters, wish she had been out there or had been able to be out there much earlier.

KAYE: Absolutely, Anderson. I mean, they just think she's a real star on the campaign trail. And as far as all of it, that her husband has had to deal with, with the women who have come forward, the accusers and the "Access Hollywood" tape, they say that she's just handled that great with real class, with grace.

They love the fact that she has been open and honest with the American people. They commented on the interview that she gave to you talking about how Donald Trump had apologized to her and how she had forgiven him. They think that she isn't hiding anything and she's a real person. They really like that about her.

They also think she's going to be a great first lady. If Donald Trump is elected, they think that she will empower women. They think she's a smart woman and a smart business person and maybe even inspire women to start their own small businesses.

And really, Anderson, that's so important here in the State of Pennsylvania because as you know, the new CNN poll shows that Donald Trump is lagging 15 points behind Hillary Clinton among women in the State of Pennsylvania. So, if they don't fall in love with him, you can tell they certainly have a real affection for Melania Trump, Anderson.

COOPER: Yeah. Randi, thanks very much. A lot to discuss, here to do it, CNN political commentator and Trump supporter Kayleigh McEnany and Amanda Carpenter, CNN political commentator and former Communications Director for Senator Ted Cruz. Also back with us, Dana Bash and Gloria Borger.

It is interesting to hear, particularly that woman in the audience saying that she's looking for a reason to be able to support Donald Trump and Melania Trump helps her with that.

BASH: I thought that was so fascinating and quite telling, especially, since I was up in the Philly suburbs a few weeks ago and I was at an Ivanka Trump event. So these were rock solid Republicans.

And what I heard from them more than anything else, these are people who are just -- it was right after the "Access Hollywood" tape came out and they were still very much all in for Donald Trump, is that they just can't stand Hillary Clinton.

So, I don't know if that particular voter was one of those who just doesn't like Hillary Clinton and is looking for a reason to vote for Donald Trump. But that is a great example of why they sent Melania out there.

The other thing that struck me about Randi's piece is, you know, and if we don't like to talk about it because it seems superficial but it is a glamour factor. It is that she said this woman said, you know, she would be like the next Jackie O. People are fascinated by her. She is a fashion model. People, you know, like to look at her because she was paid to have people look at her. It's, you know, it's not a coincident.

BORGER: Well, and she hasn't been center stage in this campaign, but women have been thinking about her because after the videotape, everyone was thinking about Melania. What's her reaction going to be? And when she gave the interview view and she was very upfront, she said I'm an independent woman, I'm a big girl.

COOPER: And she said, don't feel sorry for me ...

BORGER: Don't' feel sorry for me. I think a lot -- that resonated with a lot of women. She can take care of herself.

So, even though you haven't heard a lot from her, she's been a big part of this campaign in her absence. And so, people are curious, particularly, people who are looking for a hook to vote for him.

COOPER: Amanda, you're certainly have not been a Donald Trump fan, what you do make of her on the stump today?

AMANDA CARPENTER, CNN POLITICAL COMMENTATOR: I mean, I think the Donald Trump's campaign has served her very poorly. On two occasions, she had a beautiful speech at the RNC. It was a great speech it's that it had a fatal flaw that contained plagiarized content from Michelle Obama's speech.

Today, she had a beautiful speech that showed to people she was more than just a pretty face. She worked hard to get ahead. She talks about the shared American values she had with her husband.

And then, it brought up a subject that her husband is very compromising. And you might as well just flush that speech down the toilet because everyone is reminded of the horrible things that Donald Trump has said to journalists, to women, to everyone online.

And so, I really questioned why the staff put her in that position, but also why are you introducing new content this late in the game. People aren't going to vote on what a first lady's agenda might be a week out from the election. So, it seems kind of desperate and I really questioned why the campaign put her in that position.

COOPER: Kayleigh, what about that? I mean, she had mentioned that, I think, in the interview that I did with her which was a couple of weeks ago, but this was the most she had clearly talked about it on a, you know, much bigger stage.

KAYLEIGH MCENANY, TRUMP SUPPORTER: Yeah, unless -- with Van Jones who said in the last hour, look, we shouldn't use this moment and this opportunity to tear someone down who is trying to put forth something she cares about. And she's trying to put forth something positive that she wants to do for this country.

So, I don't think anyone should be tearing her down for something that she cares deeply about. I think what we saw was a strong independent confident woman who's an entrepreneur in her own right.

But today, what I think was very important is one, she talked about her **immigrant** story. And I think that relates to a lot of people, particularly Cuban voters, let's say, in the Miami area who **immigrated** in their own right. And to hear her story, I think they can feel with her on that level. [20:45:10] Not only that, when she talks about Barron and the types of conversations she has with her son, she says look, I realize my son is privileged but we have the same conversations you have with your children, about life, about sports. I think that really kind of soften Donald Trump that this is the family dynamic that goes on in their household and this one that goes on in households across the country.

COOPER: Gloria, you've raised the point that we haven't heard a lot of the speakers giving a lot of their personal anecdotes ...

BORGER: Right.

COOPER: ... about Donald Trump even if that going back to the convention I think to one person, you know, did business with him, talked about going to a boxing match with him and he was really nice to somebody who worked there at the boxing match. But, you know, it's not like in past conventions or in past - you've had the oldest friends of people out on the trail sort of giving the character references for.

BORGER: Right, or even children. I mean, what I think you saw from the adult children of Donald Trump is a relationship that revolved around his business. And they are his business partners. And trying to get them to tell personal stories about their father is really difficult. And I think with Melania, I mean, first ladies or would be first ladies very often talk about the other side of the person you don't see on the campaign trail.

BASH: Ann Romney was ...

BORGER: This is -- Ann Romney was probably the best at it. This is the man I know. This is why you should trust Mitt Romney with, you know, the nuclear code or whether he's going to send your kids into war. And this is the man that I've been married to for years.

That's not the kind of speech Melania is giving and that's not the kind of speeches we hear from his family. It's just different from what we're used to. Maybe it's because he hasn't been in politics his whole life. Maybe there are -- Ann Romney is a little bit more polished at it, her husband had been in elected office, but couldn't be more different from the Ann Romney model.

CARPENTER: Well, she hasn't had the practice. I mean ...

BORGER: Right.

BASH: Absolutely.

CARPENTER: ... so absent on the trail. It felt like this is the speech that you would normally see after he secured the nomination. This is our biography, this is my background. And she's still doing that with this late in the game.

And Donald Trump is in desperate need of high profile female surrogates. He doesn't have someone like Condoleezza Rice or Meg Whitman or even Kelly Ayotte who's willing to appear in public with them just earlier this week. She was saying, "I wouldn't trust my daughter in a room with Donald Trump."

He has a problem. The women in his life have been sorely missed and they've got to try to make up some ground to the best way they can and that's why you see this desperate last move push to get Melania Trump out there this week.

COOPER: Kayleigh, do you wish she had been out on the trail early? I mean, she has talked about this before to look -- her priority, obviously, is taking care of Barron and raising their son and being there for him, which is obviously, you know, the most important thing.

But as a Trump supporter, I've heard from a lot of people said they would have loved to, we just heard in that piece, they would have loved to have seen her out there because they think she is a very effective speaker.

MCENANY: Oh yes, I would have Melania Trump in multiple states every single day. I respect her being a mom and making that her priority. But as a political person, I've want to see her everywhere.

And I think it's important when we talk about, you know, the Trump children not humanizing Donald Trump or Melania. They have done that. I remember Donald Trump Jr. saying, "I remember riding the tractors with my father," or the various construction tools that he used to do, he used to use with his father out on the construction sites.

We saw Melania today say the first thing, "What I had in the common with my husband when we met was love for this country. I've seen him in our home get upset when he hears about factories closing." So we have heard that.

But I think we've heard something from the spouses, the spouse of Donald Trump and the children of Donald Trump that we don't hear a lot from others because these are folks who have achieved in their own right. Ivanka has achieved in her own right. She's created a company. So had Melania Trump.

These are very successful individuals who have really great ideas for this country. So, we see the humanizing part, but we also see people who have achieved getting their vision for this country as well.

BASH: But for his wife, it's not just a bout humanizing. It's about the woman who he sleeps next to every night explaining who he is.

And that, when your candidate is Donald Trump and we know all of his baggage, you know, historical baggage and recent baggage and everything that's been out there on the campaign trail, that's a whole different level of, "This is the guy I know," that she has the opportunity to talk about, which she didn't today.

Now, I don't fault them for not doing that because as we said, she just hasn't had the experience because she decided not to do it all.

BORGER: I also think she hates it. COOPER: Right.

BORGER: I don't think she likes being out there on the campaign trail so I have to give her credit for doing it.

COOPER: Right, yeah.

BORGER: You really do.

COOPER: And no doubt. I think a lot of people no doubt in the campaign were probably trying to eagerly get her out there.

BORGER: Sure.

BASH: Absolutely.

BORGER: Sure.

COOPER: You know, it takes a lot of strength to say ...

BORGER: No question.

COOPER: ... look, no I'm staying home.

(OFF-MIC)

BORGER: Yeah.

COOPER: I want to thank everybody in the panel.

Coming up, Hillary Clinton says, Donald Trump spent the whole campaign offering dog whistles to his most hateful supporters. The KKK newspaper is supporting him. The Trump campaign quickly did announce that endorsement. Like or not, the campaign is getting support from some hateful places. Well, let's take a look at that, next.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

[20:53:26] COOPER: There's more breaking news tonight. Some commentators have been saying for months that Donald Trump has been promoting messages that resonate with hate groups. And now, Hillary Clinton is saying it on the campaign trail as well.

Here's what she said in -- at a rally in North Carolina earlier today.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

CLINTON: He has spent this entire campaign offering a dog whistle to his most hateful supporters. He re-tweets white supremacists and spreads racially tinged conspiracy theories. And you better believe he's being heard loudly and clearly.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

COOPER: Well, Clinton went on to mention that the official newspaper of the KKK has expressed support for Donald Trump. It's true they put it on the front page. Now, in a statement, the Trump campaign called the publication "repulsive," their word, and said the GOP nominee denounces hate in any form.

Former KKK Leader David Duke is also a vocal Trump supporter, which has prompted a strong response from Trump's son, Eric. He was on a Denver radio show today and the host said, Duke, "Desperately needs a bullet in the head."

Here's how Eric Trump responded.

(BEGIN AUDIO CLIP)

ERIC TRUMP, DONALD TRUMP'S SON: If I said exactly what you said I'd get killed for it, but I think I'll say it anyway. The guy does deserve a bullet. I mean, these aren't good people. These are horrible people.

(END AUDIO CLIP)

COOPER: Whether Donald Trump encourages this or not, the fact is his campaign is getting some support for some hateful places. CNN Senior Investigative Correspondent Drew Griffin tonight reports.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

DREW GRIFFIN, CNN SENIOR INVESTIGATIVE CORRESPONDENT: He may disavow them all he likes, but Donald Trump's allure to racists is raring its ugly head in this final days of this contentious campaign.

[20:55:00] Last night, a mob scene in New Orleans, after the Former KKK leader and current U.S. Senate candidate squeaked into a debate on a black college campus. David Duke is one of Donald Trump's biggest and least-welcomed fans in Louisiana. Duke is barely getting 5 percent in the polls, but it was enough to get him on a debate stage and voice his admiration for Donald Trump.

DAVID DUKE, FORMER KKK LEADER: I will be Donald Trump's most loyal advocate, to make sure his nominees go to the Supreme Court.

GRIFFIN: Mark Potok with the Southern Poverty Law Center says racist groups of the past have gotten new life, like it or not, from Trump.

MARK POTOK, SOUTHERN POVERTY LAW CENTER: I think some of the point- of-view of the radical right Donald Trump has been playing a careful little game of footsie with them since the very beginning of the campaign. I think they feel clearly that Trump is essentially on their side, if not precisely holding the same views.

GRIFFIN: It's been an ongoing problem for Trump, stumbling over questions and how to handle support from known racists.

TRUMP: Well, just so you understand, I don't know anything about David Duke, OK. I don't know anything about what you're even talking about with white supremacy or white supremacists.

So, I don't know. I mean, I don't know. Did he endorse me or what's going on? Because, you know, I know nothing about David Duke. I know nothing about white supremacists. And so, you're asking me a question that I'm supposed to be talking about people that I know nothing about.

JAKE TAPPER, CNN ANCHOR: But, I guess the question from the anti- defamation league is even if you don't know about their endorsement, there are these groups and individuals endorsing you. Would you just say unequivocally, you condemn them and you don't want their support?

TRUMP: Well, I have to look at the group.

GRIFFIN: Trump did eventually go on to disavow Duke, but he has been walking a thin line ever since.

TRUMP: We're going to watch Pennsylvania. Go down to certain areas and watch and study and make sure other people don't come in and vote five times.

GRIFFIN: His recent calls for poll watchers to protest against rigged elections has led to charges of racism because of the focus on inner city polling places. And his campaign has gotten support in the form of robocalls.

Last week, it was a robocall in Utah, which labeled a third party Trump opponent as a homosexual. Earlier this year, white nationalist robocalls went out in New Hampshire saying, vote for Trump to keep Muslims out and illegal **immigrants** deported.

Jared Taylor, who calls himself a white advocate told CNN, Donald Trump may not like him, but he likes what Trump says.

GRIFFIN: Do you think that Donald Trump wants your support?

JARED TAYLOR, AMERICAN RENAISSANCE: I don't know whether he wants it or not. I think he wants support from everyone. Whether or not he would agree with me is an entirely other matter. Remember, it is I who have been supporting Donald Trump, not Donald Trump who's supporting me.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

COOPER: Drew, has Trump's candidacy actually given rise to these groups in numbers? Or are we just seeing a rise in the noise they're making?

GRIFFIN: You know, Anderson, the Southern Poverty Law Center really struggles with that question. These groups, alt-right, clan groups, hate groups, they are not one group and there's no indication that they're actually growing in numbers of people.

But what disturbs them, Anderson is that for whatever reason, Trump's campaign has given them an actual voice in the political dialogue of this election. They are able to voice their views, and even have some of those views accepted when just a few election cycles ago, they may have been shunned, Anderson.

COOPER: Drew Griffin. Drew, thanks very much.

Quick reminder, we are just five days from Election Day. We still have nonstop coverage right here on CNN. Be sure to join us for that.

And also, be sure to stay with us for another hour of "360." We'll take a look at what we can learn from early voting data and the latest poll numbers in the key battleground states. There's a reason both candidates campaigned in North Carolina today. We'll break it down, next.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

**NEW\_DOCUMENT\_HERE**

Anderson Cooper, Sunlen Serfaty, Brianna Keilar, John King, Kayleigh McEnany, Corey Lewandowski, Paul Begala, Bakari Sellers, Gloria Borger, Kirsten Powers, Tom Foreman, Gary Tuchman, Dana Bash, Kyung Lah

10699 speakers\_end

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

[21:01:02] ANDERSON COOPER, CNN ANCHOR: Just past 9:00 p.m. here in Washington, D.C., do you know where your candidates are? With just six days to go, the polls tightening. Donald Trump, Hillary Clinton campaigning day and night. Trump back in Florida, Clinton in Arizona. She's no longer in what a football fan like myself would call prevent defense. I don't know what that means. It's a bit more -- I know nothing about football. I'm sorry.

CNN's Sunlen Serfaty is traveling with the Trump campaign, Brianna Keilar is with the Clinton forces. We begin the hour with Sunlen and Donald Trump.

So, Trump back in Florida. He continued to stay on message today. What did he talk about? What's his focus?

SUNLEN SERFATY, CNN CORRESPONDENT: Well, closing message, Anderson, is really all about Hillary Clinton. He's really trying, from the podium here in his last campaign events here, to define Hillary Clinton for voters on trying to attack her credibility. He's at every turn, bringing up the FBI investigation, bringing up the hack WikiLeaks e-mails and it seems quite clear that he remains dedicated to staying on that message. He is not going off script. He is reading off the teleprompter for most of his campaign rallies.

Clearly the calculation from this Trump campaign in this final stretch is to keep the candidate focused on the message. Don't have him deviate anything say -- anything controversial like he's been known to in the past that might step on that message. And Trump opened up his rally tonight talking about this new found restraint that he's found. Here's what he said.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

DONALD TRUMP, (R) PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE: We've got to be nice and cool, nice and cool. All right, stay on point, Donald, stay on point. No sidetracks. Nice and easy. Nice. Because I've been watching Hillary the last few days and she's totally unhinged.

(END VIDEO CLIP) SERFARTY: And you could almost sense Donald Trump was just remembering from up there on that stage tonight, Anderson, all the things that his campaign advisers were telling him behind the scenes. Don't rock the boat. Stay on message. Don't do anything to disrupt this in the final days. Anderson?

COOPER: He had events all over Florida again today. I mean, the -- Trump and the campaign certainly seemed to understand that is a must- win state for him.

SERFARTY: They do. He had -- he's having four events in 24 hours here in the State of Florida. He'll have one midday tomorrow. Trump has admitted that this is a must-win state for him, so critical to his path to 270. This is his second hometown, he likes to say.

And at these rallies, it seems to me that he is making an extra effort in this final stretch to really make sure that his supporters are turning into actual voters. He regularly polls people from the podium, says have you voted? Are you going to bring someone to the polls with you? So really trying to call out his supporters to actually show up.

That said, he's also dispatching his campaign surrogates. And many family members within the Trump family are out on the campaign trail. I was looking at the schedule today alone. You had Donald Jr. in Michigan, Eric Trump in Ohio, Ivanka Trump hit two states, Michigan and North Carolina. And, of course, tomorrow there will be a big speech by Melania Trump. She'll be giving what campaign advisers say is a warm speech, it's her -- one of her many -- only a few solo speeches of this campaign. We haven't heard from her much since the convention. She'll be giving that speech tomorrow in a suburb of Philadelphia. She'll be talking about her time growing up abroad and campaign advisers say she'll also hit on what she would potentially do as first lady. Anderson?

COOPER: All right, Sunlen, thanks very much.

From the must-win and ultimate toss-up state to the state that always seems just within reach for Democrats until on election day just slips away. That would be Arizona, which has been shifting demographically for quite sometime and has a number of fascinating down ticket races that could also pull the top of the ticket one way or the other. Hillary Clinton is there tonight in Tempe so is CNN's Brianna Keiler.

How confident or not confident the Clinton campaign that they could actually turn Arizona, which is a traditionally red state, blue?

BRIANNA KEILAR, CNN SENIOR POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT: Well, I don't know if they're completely confident but they certainly see it as a possibility. They're seeing opportunity here and it would be a very big deal, Anderson because Arizona has not gone for a Democrat since it went for Bill Clinton back in 1996. And that's why Hillary Clinton has had some of her very big name surrogates including the First Lady Michelle Obama here in Arizona trying to convince voters.

[21:05:09] All of her big name surrogates have been just blanketing these battleground states, including the President who is in North Carolina arguing that his legacy is tied to Hillary Clinton. That he needs to pass the baton to her.

And for Hillary Clinton, she was in Las Vegas on her way right now here to the Phoenix area. Her argument has been one that's actually pretty negative. It's not that positive one that she was hoping for when she had a little more breathing room in the polls before Friday when her e-mail controversy exploded again, Anderson.

COOPER: And -- I mean from now until election day, does this blitz continue?

KEILAR: Certainly. So she will be, obviously, heading here from Las Vegas. She's going to North Carolina for a couple stops tomorrow. She'll be in Michigan. She'll be in Ohio on Friday. And you're going to see her do this through election day with three major focuses. One, women, you've seen an ad come out recently from the Clinton campaign highlighting some of the misogynistic comments of Donald Trump over the years.

She's also porting African-American voters. There's going to be a radio ad out highlighting his comments, questioning really the legitimacy of Barack Obama as the first black president by pushing the birther movement and also his characterization of basically all African-Americans living in inner cities when most of them do not.

She's also going to be targeting, as you'll see here in Arizona, Hispanic voters. She has a Spanish language ad out. And she's really counting on her running mate Tim Kaine for this as well. He's going to be here Thursday, tomorrow, he's going to be giving a speech entirely in Spanish as she tries to sway more Hispanic voters her way.

COOPER: All right, Brianna Keilar. Brianna, thanks very much.

Arizona is in flux so are plenty of other states. There's the state of the African-American vote, Democratic and Republican turnout, almost too many other things to count. That said, we do have about 25 million other things to count namely votes, 25 million or so ballots already cast, which already speaks volumes. John King is back to break it down for us.

So we know early voting is more and more popular. Where does it matter the most and who has the edge heading to the final days?

JOHN KING, CNN CHIEF NATIONAL CORRESPONDENT: Let's start, Anderson, with that more popular part. About 30 percent of the electorate voted early ballot or absentee ballot four years ago. People have been studying these numbers, the political professors think we might get close to 40 percent, maybe even hit 40 percent this year. So there's a bigger part and more comfortable part of the American political culture and that puts a premium on organizing, in organization by the campaign. So, it will also cost a lot of money to turn people out.

Let's just look at the numbers you mentioned. Oops, let me bring this back over here, bring this up. 24 million -- almost 25 million votes cast so far because this data's from early this morning. 12.4 million votes in the battleground states, in the states we think are going to decide who is the next president of the United States.

Where does it matter most? Well, if you look at this number, this is what -- we had a little debate in the last hour, I'm sure we'll get back into it. This is what concerns Democrats at the moment. I want to emphasize at the moment because they say there are reasons for this. African-American turnout down, 5.3 percent in North Carolina from 2012, down about the same amount in Georgia from 2012, down a little bit smaller amount from Florida. This is a comparison to 2008 data. Also, down a little bit we know in the Cleveland area, in Ohio where it is critical. Now Democrats say there are reasons either later dates for early voting or fewer sites. And they say by the end of the week, look at the numbers. That's important.

We should look at those numbers by the end of the week. But if you're the Clinton campaign, this is a huge part of your early vote turnout. Remember, President Obama lost both elections in ballots cast on election day. The reason he won two big Electoral College landslides, early voting, especially among African-Americans. So this we need to keep an eye on this in the next few days.

COOPER: So can Democrats make up of that deficit? I mean, you said we got to look at the end of the week.

KING: They say they can. You've had a lot of events in churches, you've had a lot of events in other places over the weekend. And as you heard the President in the last hour in North Carolina for example, there are more open sites now, there are more registration sites. So the Democrats think, will they match it exactly? The Clinton campaign doesn't think it can get there exactly because she is not the first African-American president. You don't -- even Barack Obama didn't match in 2012 when he had that first election in 2008. Do they think they can get close enough? Yeah, so then they think they have this. They think -- and we talked about this a bit earlier, they also think they can do better among Latinos. A, because in most states the population is growing and B, because they believe with Trump as the motivating factor and with her history in the community they can get these numbers to go up.

Now, that's pretty modest so far in North Carolina among Latinos, pretty modest up in Georgia, but in a state where this could be the difference, a very, very close race right now. Watch Florida, it's up 4.5 percent in 2008. And we're -- Brianna is in Arizona, it's not just the presidential race, Sheriff Joe Arpaio of Maricopa County on the ballot running for re-election in Arizona, Democrats and Republicans tell you they see a lot more intensity among Latinos because of that race.

COOPER: As we -- we talked about last hour, a new poll shows Colorado tied. Talk about the significance of that.

KING: Well, let's just go to the map and take a look. Let me switch maps here and come over and go to the electoral map. Colorado has been a trending blue state. It used to be a toss-up state. George W. Bush won Colorado back in his election. It has been trending blue because of the Denver suburbs.

If you look at the map here, let me come back where I was playing with the scenario last time.

[21:09:59] Here is where we are right now in the race. If you take Colorado, which is a tie, if you take it away -- I've got to take this off. I think I'm doing something wrong here. What have I got? There we go. I know what I'm doing. Bring this back here. If you take that down, number one, if Colorado is a tie, that takes Hillary Clinton under 270. That's significant right there. Number two, it just gives Donald Trump more paths when you get there.

We've been talking about the blue states that Donald Trump has to turn. You know, if you turn in New Hampshire, you're getting four. It's great. It's four in the right direction. But it's only four. You want to go to the bigger prizes. So Colorado, it gets you more. If you come this way -- that Colorado is in play. Number one, it tells you something's happening out in the west because our new polls shows him leading in Nevada, shows him leading in Arizona. We'll see what the third party candidate does in Utah. But it tells you something is happening in the west, number one, it also just gives Donald Trump more options.

Now, he's running out of time. Let's be honest. The hill was this way last week for Donald Trump to get to 270. It's more like this. Still a steep hill for Donald Trump, but he has more options and you can make plausible paths. Adding Colorado to that mix, gives you more plausible paths.

COOPER: All right, John, thanks very much. He's going to join the panel coming up.

Kayleigh, Corey, I mean, where do you want to see Donald Trump focusing resources, focusing, you know, his own presence in these coming days?

KAYLEIGH MCENANY, TRUMP SUPPORTER: I want to see him focus where he is now, these blue states that need to be turned red. Because as I mentioned, he needs to be perfect, he's got to win Florida, has to win Ohio, has to keep North Carolina and I think he will.

And I think in many polls, he's leading in those states. But he has to flip a leaning blue state red. That means Pennsylvania, that means Michigan, that means Wisconsin, that means New Hampshire. Just one of those he needs to flip. So what he is doing now, pulling resources into Michigan, going to these states, that's very good. I think he's taking right path.

COREY LEWANDOWSKI, FORMER TRUMP CAMPAIGN MANAGER: And I think if you look at the Clinton campaign and where they're spending their resources, right, if all of these surrogates going to Pennsylvania, they're now concerned about that where they weren't a week ago.

You know, a week ago at this time where you're talking about the Clinton campaign winning in Texas ...

COOPER: Right.

LEWANDOWSKI: ... winning in Arizona, this is going to be a blowout of epic proportion. We're not seeing that now. What we see is Donald Trump at his campaign. Ivanka Trump is in New Hampshire tomorrow. Donald Trump is in New Hampshire on Friday. Donald Trump is back in New Hampshire on Monday. Barack Obama is in New Hampshire on Monday. It's going to be a battleground state because this could literally come down to one or two electoral vote. And if you factor in the second congressional district in Maine, which Donald Trump is going to win, comes down to one state and that could be Colorado, it could be Michigan, it could be Wisconsin, it could be New Hampshire.

And look, we see the last time there was a close election like this. If Al Gore would have won his home state of Tennessee, he'd be the president of the United States. If he won New Hampshire, he would have been the president of the United States.

COOPER: Paul, let me ask you, though. If -- you know, so much -- Democrats made so much about the heavy hitters and surrogates that Hillary Clinton had. Given all the arguably heavy hitters that she has, why is this race still so close? I mean, the Democrats seem to be saying early on, we got President Obama, Joe Biden, and you got Elizabeth Warren, you got Michelle Obama, they're all wildly popular and yet -- I mean, is she that bad a candidate that even with all these surrogates it's still ...

PAUL BEGALA, CNN POLITICAL COMMENTATOR: Hillary is now actually in a stronger position on this day of the election than Barack Obama was in the last election.

COOPER: Really? You believe that?

BAGALA: Yes. I know it. I mean, I can do that.

BAKARI SELLERS, CLINTON SUPPORTER: It bears out in fact.

COOPER: OK.

BEGALA: I'm not going with my feelings. I'm going with data. And the data are clear. Hillary Clinton is in a strong position to win. Trump has to pull an inside straight in order to win. But neither side is just sitting pat, right? They're acting on this.

The president of the United States is wildly popular with the folks that Hillary needs. He's going to turn them out.

She does have a greater arsenal. Some of this is called leadership. Bernie Sanders is out there campaigning for Hillary Clinton. None of Trump's opponents are campaigning for him except Chris Christie who's, I think, trying to avoid testifying in court. None of them are because he hasn't been able to unify his party.

MCENANY: Yes, he has.

COOPER: Well, he has Scott Walker.

(CROSSTALK)

SELLERS: Can I mention something? BEGALA: Scott Walker. OK. That's two ...

LEWANDOWSKI: Ben Carson is now in the campaign trail.

SELLERS: Can I mention something?

COOPER: Bakari?

SELLERS: I mean one of these things that we talked about, and John brought it up earlier and we were talking about how the African- American vote is somehow solved. But then you show the increase in Hispanic turnout. In Florida, up until this point, they've had 139 percent increased in Hispanic turnout. 365,000 Hispanic voters have voted more this year than they did in 2012. So when you add those dynamics in, when you're talking about the way that this coalition now looks, you have to begin to talk about these variables.

And when you're talking about Hillary Clinton spending money in Wisconsin, I mean, there's a Senate race there, or Michigan or Pennsylvania, or New Mexico, or Colorado, I mean, what do you want her to do? Take money home with her? She has more money than she knows what to do with. She ...

GLORIA BORGER, CNN CHIEF POLITICAL ANALYST: But you also -- you have to admit it's not just -- a week ago we were talking about her just running up the score and that's not the case anymore. Well, it's not the case anymore. She's playing defense a little bit more.

BEGALA: You and I talked about this.

COOPER: Right.

BEGALA: She was 10 points up and I said no way, this is a dead heat ...

BORGER: OK.

(CROSSTALK)

LEWANDOWSKI: The super PAC pulled out of Colorado, the super PAC pulled out of Virginia, right, they said these races had done, all the sudden, you always see ...

(CROSSTALK)

COOPER: One at a time.

LEWANDOWSKI: Do you know what's the amazing part is? Is that only in a campaign when you're taking donors' money should you say, well, we shouldn't take it home. How about this? How about you give it back to the people? How about -- you know what Donald Trump does? He uses his own money so he's much more judicious with this. You know what the Democrats do?

[21:15:01] COOPER: Paul, you're the super PAC ... LEWANDOWSKI: They say, hey, guess what, we'll take all the money and we'll spend it even if we don't need to. What you're now saying, I think that's disgusting, to be honest with you. I want to give the people their money back.

KING: Donald Trump did triple the rent on his own campaign and his own building.

(CROSSTALK)

KING: Kirsten is happy with this because she does -- she's smarter just tonight.

But look, we do -- yes, we were -- you're -- I'm sorry. Gloria's right. A week ago the Democrats thought that, you know, she could get 358, 360. Even some Republicans were saying that because Trump was having such a problem post to "Access Hollywood". You're right in the sense that once that filters out and Republicans come out. So, we essentially have the Romney-Obama race ...

BORGER: Right.

KING: ... with a couple of states and a little bit different.

COOPER: But do you agree that she's doing better than Obama ...

KING: Yes. On this day, yes, she is.

COOPER: On this day.

KING: Now, we love to talk about "Access Hollywood" tapes, we love to talk about FBI investigations. The truth is in most campaigns states go back to their DNA.

COOPER: Right.

KING: And so, she has a six-point lead now in Wisconsin, now a 12- point lead. President Obama won Wisconsin by six or seven points. She has a six-point lead in Pennsylvania, now at 10-point lead. President Obama won it by six points.

States tend to go back to their DNA at this point in the campaign and that's what we're seeing. Now, there are a couple surprises. Nevada is a surprise. Arizona was a surprise when she was ahead. Now it seems to be going back to normal. Colorado is a surprise if that one poll is right, it's only one poll and that's a tie.

So there are a few surprises out there. But mostly, she's up six in Virginia. That's where she is supposed to be. That's where the Democrat is supposed to be right now. She's up six or seven in Pennsylvania. That's where she is supposed to be. North Carolina and Florida are going to be two by fours to the final day, that's where they're supposed to be.

COOPER: John, you're way too rational and complicated.

(CROSSTALK)

LEWANDOWSKI: Iowa is now clearly a Donald Trump place and that's a place where Barack Obama ...

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: And Ohio.

LEWANDOWSKI: And you look at Ohio, a state where Donald -- where Barack Obama won twice. I think most polls, the poll of polls say Donald Trump is going to win Ohio. Donald Trump is going to win Iowa. So, if you take the 206 electoral votes that Mitt Romney got and you add Iowa in and you add Ohio in, now you obviously at the battlegrounds of North Carolina and Florida and others.

BORGER: And Utah.

KING: But North Carolina is counted in the 206.

LEWANDOWSKI: It is, but ...

KING: And you have to take those back. That's the problem.

LEWANDOWSKI: ... if you look at that, right, winning Ohio has always been critical for the Republican nominee. It has never been done without that. And what it looks like now with six days to go, Donald Trump is going to win Ohio, and he's going to win Iowa.

(CROSSTALK)

KIRSTEN POWERS, CNN POLITICAL ANALYST: But we already -- Ohio and Iowa, everyone's already knew ...

(CROSSTALK)

POWERS: But the point is -- but -- even talking about Hillary campaigning in these places she does need to make sure that her people turn out and that's normal.

And so I don't think we have to say because she's in a state, that that therefore means she's losing it. She's covering all of her bases. And so, I also think that if you look at the averages, as you're always saying, look at the averages. She's up. And she just needs to be up before -- when we go into, you know, game day and -- because she has an operation and he doesn't.

MCENANY: But more important ...

POWERS: Kayleigh, hold on. He hasn't -- and that's going to give you one or two points. And so, if we look at Barack Obama was up one point the day before the election, I mean, so she is still up. So I just think that -- I said give ...

KING: Nationally, he was up one. I think he was down in Ohio.

POWERS: Yeah, give Donald Trump his due. What I mean is, he's been able to close the gap and I agree with Paul that I don't think people who knew what they're talking about ever thought this was going to be a blowout. This is -- everyone's coming home right now.

COOPER: We got to take a quick break. Much more with the panel ahead. We're also looking into whether early voters can change their ballots if they have a change of heart. Donald Trump is certainly encouraging Democrats to do it. Is it even possible or likely? That's next.

Also, busy night in the campaign trail, we'll keep an eye on events going on right now. We'll be right back.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

[21:21:57] COOPER: Donald Trump has been encouraging Democrats who cast their ballots early to change their votes. Here's what he said yesterday in Wisconsin.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

TRUMP: This is a message for any Democratic voter who have already cast their ballots for Hillary Clinton and who are having a bad case of buyers remorse, in other words, you want to change your vote. Wisconsin is one of several states where you can change your early ballot if you think you've made a mistake.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

COOPER: Well, that is true. In a handful of states, early vote are allowed to change their minds, whether it actually ever happens or happens often that's a different matter. Tom Foreman joins me now with the low down. Tom?

TOM FOREMAN, CNN CORRESPONDENT: Hey, Anderson, let's bring in the map because by our count there are at least seven states where you can get a do over. You can vote again if you wish. Only one vote but you can change it. That is Wisconsin, Michigan, Pennsylvania, New York, Connecticut, Mississippi, down here, and Minnesota as well, although, their deadline passed earlier this week. Generally, pretty simple process. You have to show up in person to do this. You have to nullify your previous vote, which means you have to tell an election official that you officially do not want this counted when election day comes. And then you have to cast a new ballot. In many cases, you have to do that on election day. However, every state has its own little quirks and rules. And I have to tell you, Anderson, it's not really easy to find these rules, especially for a lot of normal voters out there.

COOPER: I -- which brings up the next obvious question. Is this something that actually happens much?

FOREMAN: It sure doesn't seem to be that way. For example, in Wisconsin, we spoke to one of the clerks there in Oshkosh who said that in -- even though their state allows you to change your vote three different times, three times, you can decide how you want to vote and finally come to a conclusion that has never happened in that clerk's experience in that state, ever, that they know of in their particular area. If you go over to Connecticut, same thing, the Secretary of State's Office got curious about this. They started calling around the out of town clerk and said what about your experience? Have you ever seen this? She said that in eight years of covering elections there, she's seen one voter change the vote.

So it is legal, it can be done. But if Donald Trump is counting on some kind of a landslide of votes of people changing over to his side, history says, Anderson, not likely.

COOPER: All right, Tom Foreman. Tom, thanks very much. Back now with the panel. It is interesting -- I mean, first of all, I didn't know that was an option in a number of states but the fact is, why would Donald Trump spend time talking about it if it rarely ever happens?

BORGER: Well, because he can.

POWERS: Because news came out that he thinks he might change people's votes.

BORGER: Right.

POWERS: But the fact of the matter is mort people who show up to vote early know who they're going to vote for. They're not people who are probably going to change their vote.

And the other problem is people don't -- it's hard to get people to the polls one time, let alone getting them twice. And I think that's another think that he faces a problem with, with all his secret Trump voters, right, have to be turned out. And people don't generally -- who typically who don't vote don't typically show up.

[21:25:11] KING: And Donald Trump was talking about Democrats want to change their vote. The worry in the Trump campaign is that a fair amount of Republicans already voted for Clinton. You know, soft Republicans, moderate Republicans, suburban women who were turned off by the "Access Hollywood" tape or the women coming out and making the accusations against Donald Trump to switch over. The Clinton campaign got them to turn out early.

So, are you going to get Democrat to change your vote? I think not. Did Donald Trump -- how many? Who knows? But they lose some Republic votes in early voting who might now say, oh, Obamacare premiums to the FBI investigations. What's the number? I don't know.

COOPER: Although, gosh, I mean there were so many Republicans who, after the "Access Hollywood" tape, seem to be, you know, Chaffetz was saying, oh, look, I just can't do it anymore, I'm out. And now they ...

POWERS: Exactly.

COOPER: ... changed their mind again.

BORGER: Right.

COOPER: I think Hugh Hewitt also, I think I just recently saying he'd now ...

BORGER: He's voting for him.

COOPER: ... is likely is going to vote for me.

BORGER: He's voting for him.

DANA BASH, CNN CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT: Can I just say -- can we just take a step back to that point and talk about where we are? That the pendulum, whether it's actually in the polls or more importantly in the narrative can swing so aggressively ...

COOPER: Right.

BASH: ... to one side or another depending on where the news is? Because the fundamentals of these candidates are so poor with regard to how people -- what people think of them. It's really remarkable that, you know, that Donald Trump has a horrible few weeks with the "Access Hollywood" tape and then, you know, the issues about women. And the Clinton campaign, people are leaking that there are -- they're going to give some of their money to the Senate races and everybody thinks it's over.

And then boom, now you have another frankly flawed candidate who has her own issues and the focus is on her and things are looking bad for her. It's remarkable how volatile things are. And it's volatile because these two candidates are frankly just not well liked.

COOPER: It's also ...

(CROSSTALK)

COOPER: ... that window focuses on one of the candidates. It's not good for them.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Yes.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: They do badly.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Exactly.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: They do badly.

COOPER: And that doesn't speak well to either of them.

BORGER: It's the most schizophrenic race I've ever seen because, precisely, because of Dana's point which is that these candidates are so disliked, both of them. So that people flip back and forth because they're -- which one do I like more today, or can I deal with more today, or can I think of as president more today?

And so what Donald Trump is doing is trying, and who can blame him for trying, I'm not so sure, it's really going to work in reality. But reminding people, some of those guys who voted early they may have made mistakes. And so, don't you do that. It's just sort of a way to remind people. KING: And because of all these bouncing balls and flashing lights.

BORGER: Yeah.

KING: And they're really exciting, bouncing balls and flashing lights. A lot to talk about this dramatic.

BORGER: Yeah.

KING: I mean, it's dramatic. And it is important some of the character questions have been about the candidates more than about policy. This is not a tax and spending election. This is not even a, you know, military defense strong America election. It's two characters of the candidates which is why I would say you go back to the fundamentals.

If the candidates are bouncing around, you look at the climate, the mood is analytical. Analysis that came out the other day are very reliable predictor, looks at the unemployment rate, looks at the President's approval rating. And they say that based on their model Hillary Clinton will get essentially what Obama got in 2012.

MCENANY: I couldn't agree more about how extraordinary the volatility as in the election. I think you're absolutely correct about that. And I think that's what magnifies what happened Friday. I think the momentum started trending in Donald Trump's direction. Friday we find out about this reopened investigation, whatever you want to call it, it's Hillary Clinton's e-mails. Monday we find out about this white collar department investigation in the FBI into the Clinton foundation that has a lot of tentacles.

And on top of that we see now for the first time in this race more Republicans supporting Trump than Democrats supporting Clinton. That's not before happened in this race. That's in the latest national poll ...

SELLERS: Where are you seeing that?

MCENANY: This is the ABC poll. 87 percent ...

(CROSSTALK)

SELLERS: Oh, the ABC poll that had a ...

MCENANY: The ABC poll you were touting last week for Clinton ...

SELLERS: The same one ...

(CROSSTALK)

MCENANY: ... 12 points ahead for Donald Trump.

(OFF-MIC)

SELLERS: ... I already know that. MCENANY: So, not only that but the enthusiasm is in Donald Trump's direction. That's in ABC poll this morning. I found it incredible Democrats touting in last week when Clinton was 12 points. And now that Donald Trump is favored it's no longer a viable poll.

SELLERS: You can look at all them together. But let me just you a really simple question here. When the FBI information came out and we already -- we got the "Access Hollywood" tapes who were coming at the 13 or 11 women who were accusing Donald Trump of sexual assault, we had the taxes, all of that stuff was baked in. We had the e-mails with Hillary Clinton. I'm really saying baked in and that is -- that we have to bury that phrase, Gloria Borger, after this election, baked into the cake. But how many new voters out there? I mean, we're at a point now where as a candidate, and I just know this from running a few times before, once they what, as a candidate when you're this close to the election date you're not going to get new voters, you're not convincing people to vote for you.

BORGER: It's enthusiasm.

SELLERS: You're getting new voters.

BORGER: You're going to -- fresh voters. You're going to ...

SELLERS: No, you're going to get your voters to the polls.

BORGER: Right.

SELLERS: But that is the goal at this point. We're at 11 days out. The goal is not to convince people to like you or to convince new voters.

COOPER: Corey, do you buy that?

SELLERS: It is to get your voters to the poll.

LEWANDOWSKI: Look, I think you've got to make a closing argument to the American people of why you need to be next president of the United States. And what we saw in this clip earlier with Hillary Clinton is not going high where she says Donald Trump goes low, we go high. What we see is that she's going after Donald Trump and particularly in her paid advertising campaigns because she wants to attack him because she knows this race is very different than what they thought was it was going to be a week ago.

[21:30:15] And what we see Donald Trump doing is talking about Hillary Clinton as well. FBI investigation, WikiLeaks, Clinton Inc., all those things that they don't want to be talking Obamacare premiums. This race is now about ...

KING: They're both going low.

LEWANDOWSKI: That's right. Who is this like the most at the end of the day, right? At end of the day, they're going to go and say, who is this like more than the other? And if you think that honest and trustworthy is the number one fact, Hillary Clinton is in trouble. If you think that you want, you know, the experience issue then Hillary Clinton is going to do well.

COOPER: Paul, you like a low -- you like a ...

SELLERS: I like low too. They go low, we go lower.

BEGALA: Beware of false equivalency. Hillary is the least popular least trusted major party nominee except for Donald Trump. And she's 10 points better than Trump on the negative. It's still awful objectively but the greatest political strategist ever with any young men, every time someone asked him, how do you like your wife? He said, compared to what? How is Hillary? He said, compared to what? She's 10 points better than Trump ...

COOPER: We're going to have more of the panel ahead, we also have more from Henny Youngman, and also we're going to hear from voters in Florida who tried to deal about what they like when Trump is pretty much staying on teleprompt. We'll be right back.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

COOPER: Well Donald Trump just wrapped up an event in Pensacola, Florida, where he reminded himself to stay on point. Trump has pretty much stuck to the script in recent days. The question is whether his supporter is in the all important Sunshine State appreciate that. Gary Tuchman spoke with Trump fans in Orlando. Take a look.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

[21:35:03] UNIDENTIFIED MALE: I got lock her up. We support jail time for Hillary.

GARY TUCHMAN, CNN NATIONAL CORRESPONDENT: The items for sale and the items some people here in Orlando are wearing are an active reminder of some of the things Donald Trump has said or alluded to during this campaign.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKERS (in unison): Lock her up. Lock her up. Lock her up.

TRUMP: And as you know ...

TUCHMAN: But as Election Day approaches, Trump appears to be sticking to the script more often.

Do you feel it's a good thing that Donald Trump over the last few days has gotten more diplomatic, more disciplined?

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: I do. Short answer.

TUCHMAN: And a longer answer?

CAMERON GOODYEAR, TRUMP SUPPORTER: He's getting more refined now.

TUCHMAN: Do you want to see him refined?

GOODYEAR: I like seeing him more refined like he is now. I like being -- without teleprompters, he was kind of a little bit too much.

TUCHMAN: So you think it's good that he is mellower?

GOODYEAR: Yes. I think it's helping him and I think it's bringing in voters that were, I don't know.

TUCHMAN: But meet Brian Manning who wore this t-shirt in honor of Trump.

Would it make you happy if Donald Trump said that during this rally today?

BRIAN MANNING, TRUMP SUPPORTER: It doesn't -- what Donald Trump says is the truth. Not a lot of people like that.

TUCHMAN: Would you think you'd be happy if he said that or do you think that would hurt him (inaudible) went away?

MANNING: That would hurt him. Yeah.

TUCHMAN: You would like to see that?

MANNING: I would like to see that.

TUCHMAN: Indeed, a major reason many people are spending all this time in the hot Florida sun is they like the fact that Donald Trump says what's on his mind. Critics be damned.

TAMBRA NORTH: TRUMP SUPPORTER: I think he should take whatever he build. I like the aggressive part of him and I think he's comes back down to that freedom of speech. Everybody has it, even him as a person.

TUCHMAN: Many Trump supporters say his free wheeling style has emboldened them. These two women say they would cheer if Trump would lead their t-shirts during his rally. We're not reading the front of the shirts because they're too graphic.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: In the back says, Trump that bitch.

TUCHMAN: OK. Now, are you proud to be wearing shirts like that?

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Absolutely.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Very.

TUCHMAN: How come?

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: I support the man. She's corrupt.

TUCHMAN: But that's could be conceived as obscene by a lot of people.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: It could be.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: It could be.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: But not one person in this line has had one issue with it. Can we hear anything?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKERS (in unison): No.

TUCHMAN: And then there are some people here who say Trump has always been disciplined in that message and it is Hillary Clinton who hasn't been.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: All she does is criticize everybody. I mean, she's just nasty. She's not nice. She hates people. We're deplorable. We're in a bad stand.

TUCHMAN: However, almost all the Trump supporters we talked to here do acknowledge he's had stretches where he's been off message. But there is a prevalent belief here that a president Trump within his way would be presidential.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: He will be diplomatic, he will be assertive and he will make America great again.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

COOPER: Gary joins me now. Among of the people you talk to want Trump to stay, you know, off the cuff now on the teleprompter. Do they think he would be off the cuff in the White House if he won the presidency?

TUCHMAN: Not only are they thinking it Anderson, they're counting on it. Many of people at this rally and other rally believe that a Donald Trump became button down if he made it to the Oval Office, he would be very similar to the other men and women who he's battled for the nomination and the presidency over the last 17 months. Anderson?

COOPER: Gary Tuchman. Gary, thanks very much.

Back to the panel. Dana, you have some reporting on this?

BASH: Well, I'm working on a story on this for tomorrow morning for cnn.com. And to that exact point, I was talking to a source -- I talked to several of them but one of the sources close to Donald Trump who I spoke with about this today recalled a conversation that they had. They have with Donald Trump about this, one of the many that he had with Donald Trump, begging him to stay on message over the past many, many months. And the response was, I hear you, I get it but you're wrong because Trump told the source that what his people want to hear from him and what people in general want to hear from him is being real. And that the way he talks makes him different. He said even if that means I'm off the mark sometimes.

COOPER: But it's also interesting, Kirsten, because -- I mean, he has said I think in interviews to people, people have recounted that he has said to them, that he reads a crowd. And he has a very finely tuned antenna of when he is losing a crowd ...

BASH: He's a performer.

COOPER: ... and -- right, that he -- I mean, he wants to entertain the crowd. I'm not using that in a, you know, in ...

POWERS: Well, yeah, and also that I think that he, in his mind, has a strategy. And so, you know, like when I had interviewed him when he first said he would going to make his pivot, you know, to being presidential and I said, well, why haven't you been doing it in the primary? And he said, well, that was intentional because I had all these people that had to beat and I was one of 17 and there's no way to break through.

So I think that, you know, and Corey can certainly speak to what's in his mind more than I can but I think that he has seem to have sort of a strategy that he feels that he understands what people want and how to get from A to B in a way that other people don't.

COOPER: And Corey -- I mean, it always struck me as, particularly early on, when you were there that he -- I mean, it is a strategy that -- is it a strategy that he came up with? That he just instinctively knows what -- how he wants to be? I mean, because I don't think anybody writing a political play book would have said, you know, do this, do this. It seems like a lot of it was just instinct.

[21:40:03] LEWANDOWSKI: Yeah, I think that's right. And I think what you've seen for the last almost two years of this campaign is Donald Trump has had his finger on the pulse of many people in the electorate who have been disenfranchised with the broken Washington D.C. And if you think about the issues that he has talked about from the beginning of this campaign whether it's **immigration** or bad trade deals or rising debt, right, he has done more as a candidate than most selected officials have done throughout their tenure. He'd done more to raise the issue and say, hey, let's go and re-negotiate our bad trade deals. Let's talk about TPP which Hillary Clinton originally said it is the gold standard. Now has changed her position and said, hey, I don't like that anymore.

Let's talking about the problem we have with illegal **immigration**. It's not the forefront of the American electorate which it wasn't prior to Donald Trump coming on to the scene.

COOPER: Bakari?

SELLER: I just think -- it reminds me of the skit that Dave Chappelle used to have on the "Chappelle's Show". It's when keeping it real, goes wrong. And what we've done is we begun to normalize the behavior that Donald Trump has displayed on the campaign thrill. And although it rouse up his audiences, I think that his audiences were a very small percentage of the electorate. I mean, we come up 15 million, 16 million voters during the Republican primary. Now the goal is to get to 60 to 65 million next week.

And so, one of the things that we have to be very, very careful about is we don't need someone who keeps it real in the White House. This is about temperament. This is about the person who was going to lead the country and that's what draws fear from a lot of people not just Democrats but from Republicans as well.

(CROSSTALK) COOPER: But to that argument, a lot of Republicans are coming back to Donald Trump. So ...

SELLERS: Well -- I mean, I think that a lot of Republicans are coming back to Donald Trump and the reason being is it has a lot to do with what happened last Friday. And they were reminded about why they dislike Hillary Clinton so much.

MCENANY: But Bakari, we need -- we don't also want a mannequin candidate. And today, something that was so just interesting to me in the WikiLeaks today is there was a fervent debate back and forth between John Podesta and the Clinton team about whether Hillary Clinton should use the phrase "Yo Mama" to try to get the black vote back. This is a poll tested candidate who focus test (ph), who vigorously debates whether she should use two words. Donald Trump is just himself. He's authentic.

(CROSSTALK)

BEGALA: He was himself when he attacked John McCain as a POW. He was himself when he attacked ...

SELLERS: Thank you.

BEGALA: ... the Khan family who sacrificed their son for America's freedom. He was himself when he attacked that very that very lovely Miss Universe. He was himself when he called women all kinds of horrible names. That is the real Donald Trump.

We don't see what's in the Trump e-mails though because somehow ...

MCENANY: He doesn't have e-mail.

BEGALA: ... this cyberterrorism -- his campaign does, Kayleigh, the cyberterrorism has been exclusively targeting the Democrats.

(CROSSTALK)

LEWANDOWSKI: The American public continue to believe Donald Trump is more honest and trustworthy than Hillary Clinton. So for all the things that you've said, the American public and every poll indicate is, that Hillary Clinton is not as honest and not as trustworthy and at the end of the day ...

COOPER: It would be interesting though ...

LEWANDOWSKI: ... in the White House ....

COOPER: Yeah, but it would be interesting if Republican e-mails were leaked as well to see ...

(CROSSTALK)

LEWANDOWSKI: ... to the Russian government is when Hillary Clinton gave a path (ph) our Uranium to the Russians. That's a fact and she approved that as the secretary of state. COOPER: Well, Donald Trump said ...

(CROSSTALK)

SELLERS: Can I just say one point ...

COOPER: Bakari?

SELLERS: I mean, what we've done is we've weaponized the media. WikiLeaks, there are stolen e-mails. We know that the Russian government is interfering in our elections and for some reason, the Trump campaign wants us to believe that they were hacking in alphabetical order and just stopped after Clinton because somehow they ran out of money. But, no -- I mean, it is tilted. I mean, that is what it is. And it is despicable that we don't have more of a sense of urgency. All of us up here, everyone in the media that a foreign entity is trying to disrupt our election.

LEWANDOWSKI: You know we've learned about the WkiLeaks -- what we have learned is that they have never denied the authenticity of these e-mails, because if they did, they would put up the e-mails. And what we know -- and what we know is that there's a number of people who've been in the media that had been doing something that they shouldn't have been doing that is now been exposed. We see the media bias from multiple reporters who are favoring the Clinton campaign on numerous occasions as a bias to Donald Trump and has exposed what is the cabal of the media and that's what the American people are fired up.

SELLERS: Donald Trump has never, ever, ever spoken out against the fact that a foreign entity is trying to disrupt. He's running for president of the United States.

(CROSSTALK)

BEGALA: He not only did not speak out.

COOPER: Paul, and then we going to go.

BEGALA: He not only did not speak out. On July 22nd, he called a press conference asking of a hostile foreign power to commit cyberterrorism against Americans. That's what Donald Trump is.

BASH: That was before the teleprompter.

MCENANY: Democrat strategy, attack Russia when you're caught.

BEGALA: No, I'm attacking Donald Trump.

(CROSSTALK)

BEGALA: There's a hostile foreign power to commit crimes against the Americans who have been benefiting from that crime.

COOPER: Just ahead, what Clinton and Trump supporters say about the issues when they are alone with two questions, one camera and no reporter. Let's see that ahead. (COMMERCIAL BREAK)

COOPER: Hillary Clinton will be speaking shortly now in Tempe, Arizona. The fact that Arizona is even a focus in this final stretch is one of the many surprises in this election.

Tonight a new CNN/ORC poll shows Donald Trump leading Hillary Clinton by five points in Arizona, 49 to 44 percent, Garry Johnson at 5 percent and Jill Stein at one. Arizona has voted for a Democratic presidential nominee just once in the last 64 years, Bill Clinton '96, which is to say it is dependably red. But this year, there are signs that it maybe possibly could turn blue. Votes are pouring in. Kyung Lah tonight has more.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

KYUNG LAH, CNN CORRESPONDENT: Early votes in Arizona now being counted in this glassed off secured room in Maricopa County have removed web cast on multiple cameras to the public. The votes, boxed. Then sealed

On official early vote totals from the Arizona Secretary of State shows as of today, registered Republicans are outpacing Democrats by 6 percentage points. But in 2012 with one week to go, Republicans had an even bigger lead, outpacing Democrats by 10 percent. Mitt Romney won the state by nine points. This reliably red state, now a battleground because of voters like Luz Gamez, a new U.S. citizen, a new Democrat in Arizona.

LUZ GAMEZ, EARLY VOTER: With Trump, I don't trust him. You know, I think he is more doing this for fun or just to be on T.V.

LAH: Millennials like Nicole Crook also voting blue.

Do you feel the state changing?

NICOLE CROOK, EARLY VOTER: I do. I do. I feel a lot of the older people are being a little more liberal and the younger people are having more of a presence.

LAH: Across Arizona, early voting isn't just up, it's way up.

CAROLYN JAGGER, SCOTTSIDE CITY CLERK: Scott Brenner, Christina.

LAH: More than half of all projected ballots have already been cast.

JAGGER: Julie Norwood, Chris, Sam Tober (ph).

LAH: In primary Republican Scottsdale, Arizona, early voters are waiting more than an hour.

JAGGER: This is the busiest. We've never seen early voting like we've seen this time.

[21:50:03] LAH: Never?

JAGGER: Never.

LAH: Waiting to vote, Laura White, a lifelong Republican, the face of a changing Arizona.

May I ask, who did you vote for, for president?

LAURA WHITE, EARLY VOTER: I pretty much I'm a registered Republican and I pretty much voted Democratic all the way across. I do. I think Donald Trump is corrupt, and I don't know any other word I had to say. He's part of the problem.

LAH: And we've heard that about Hillary Clinton, as well.

WHITE: Yes.

LAH: Yes, we have. Even with the latest Clinton e-mail controversy, it's not enough to flip her back to the GOP. The e-mails did affect Republican Karl Owens who wrote in independent Evan McMullin for president. He is frankly disgusted with 2016.

KARL OWENS, EARLY VOTER: Trust factor with Hillary and Trump. Where do I begin?

LAH: When you hear that Arizona is in play, that Arizona could go blue, what's your reaction?

ROBERT GRAHAM, CHAIR, ARIZONA REPUBLICAN PARTY: My first reaction is it makes you nervous.

LAH: It should. Robert Graham is Arizona's Republican Party chairman. He is watching the early-voting numbers and the smaller GOP spread.

Are you concern about the spread?

GRAHAM: I was a week and a half ago and now, I'm not. We had to turn up the volume a little bit to make sure that we really executed on this great operational structure that we have statewide.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Please vote for Donald J. Trump.

LAH: The state GOP now pulling out all the stops to get out their vote and seeing day-by-day growth in the number of registered Republicans early voting like Blaine Erskine.

BLAINE ERSKINE, EARLY VOTER: I think it's going to be closer than it ever has been but I do think that it will stay red.

LAH: As far as Hillary Clinton being in Arizona ...

GRAHAM: And when they're not spending in other states it gives us opportunities to pick up those other states.

LAH: So, you're saying she's wasting time and money here?

GRAHAM: Absolutely. I wouldn't -- you know, I'm -- I would be happy to take her out to lunch and share with her all the reasons why she should probably go somewhere else.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

LAH: And here's what Arizona's GOP chairman cannot tell us. They know the early vote tally. They know registered Republicans that they're ahead. They don't know how they voted. Did they cross party lines just like the Democrats don't know if registered Democrats are indeed voting for Hillary Clinton. What we can tell you Anderson is that everyone we spoke with, they do feel like for the first time ever, Arizona Democrats are in the game. Anderson?

COOPER: Kyung Lah. Kyung, thanks.

As you've probably seen in the campaign coverage especially at Trump events when we are active sending reporter, producer to interview people can cause a stir. Donald Trump routinely calls the press names some of his animosity rubs off and supporters, it all makes getting unvarnished thoughts from voters that much harder, which is why we tried following kind of eye opening experiment at Trump and Clinton campaigns stops North Carolina recently.

Set up a camera, hand people some questions then leave them alone. Here's how it played out.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

COOPER: The format was simple, a microphone and two questions. Why are you supporting Donald Trump or Hillary Clinton? And why is it important that he or she win? We handed them a sheet of paper with the questions and got out of the way.

Our first stop, outside at Donald Trump rally in Charlotte, North Carolina.

CHRIS O'SHEA, TRUMP SUPPORTER: It's important for him to win because not only was he going to make the country great again, but the other alternative, Hillary Clinton, she's corrupt and she really shouldn't be running for president. She should probably be in jail.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Why is it important for him to win? We're killing far too many babies and he certainly is against killing babies. That's one reason I support him.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: It's important for him to win because if he loses this election, our country's done. It's -- we'll never get it back.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: I support Donald Trump for president because America needs a boss. President Trump is going to fire people who don't do their jobs.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: If Hillary Clinton is elected, she will continue the same path we've been on for the past eight years. We're already circling the drain and I believe she will take us all the way down.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Donald Trump is going to change America, not like Obama said he would. He's going to actually change it and change it good. Obama changed it all right and he's changed it for the worst.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: We just got to get Donald Trump in there to make sure that we have a good Supreme Court, that we defend the Second Amendment, and that we make sure we don't have terrorists coming in the United States.

COOPER: Our next stop, a Hillary Clinton rally at Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. And the same two questions, why are you supporting Donald Trump or Hillary Clinton, and why is it important that he or she win?

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: I'm supporting Hillary Clinton for the president of the United States because I think it's important that we have a president that's going to support all of our families, all of our children and every citizen of the United States and not make the country more divided than it is.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Truly, she is the only and the best choice, not only do we have a lot of stuff on the line right now, jobs on the line, voting rights on the line, criminal justice reform is on the line, and Hillary Clinton is the only person that is going to make sure that we have a future.

[21:55:02] UNIDENTIFIED MALE: We need someone in the White House who knows what they're doing. Hillary is the best person between the two candidates to do that. She qualified with all of her 30 years of experience and will be good for the country.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: I am a feminist and I believe she is, too, and it would be such an honor to see a female in the White House.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: People in my generation and younger deserve a female role model that proves that anyone can be president.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: It's important that Hillary win for the integrity of our country, for our citizens, and to continue the progress of the Obama administration and for our reputation throughout the world.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: We also think that there's just no comparison between Hillary and the Republican nominee. He's a megalomaniac and has proved to be a complete nightmare.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

COOPER: Pretty interesting insight into what both Trump and Clinton supporters are thinking without any reporters present. We heard from dozens more voters. If you want to watch all of them, those clips will be online tomorrow at cnn.com/ac360. We'll be right back.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

COOPER: Before we go, a quick programming note about Tuesday. We'll be on basically wall to wall, bringing late election coverage. Tuesday Election Day, all day right here on CNN.

[22:00:01] That does it for us tonight. Thanks for watching. "CNN TONIGHT" with Don Lemon starts right now.

News; Domestic

**NEW\_DOCUMENT\_HERE**

Anderson Cooper, Pamela Brown, Sara Murray, Jeff Zeleny, John King, Tom Fuentes, Jeffrey Toobin, Gloria Borger, Kayleigh McEnany, Paul Begala, Bakari Sellers, Jack Kingston, Gary Tuchman

10289 speakers\_end

31 October 2016

[21:00:57] ANDERSON COOPER, CNN ANCHOR: And good evening.

Breaking news here in Washington, where you can bet there is a lot of late-night pizza being consumed right about now, especially at FBI offices just down the road in Quantico, Virginia. They are scrambling right now to analyze e-mail found on a device shared by top Clinton staffer, Huma Abedin and her estranged husband, Anthony Weiner.

Now, back in headquarters, they are also scrambling to defend the bureau from allegations that Director James Comey acted improperly in revealing the existence of these e-mails on Friday.

As for the Clinton and Trump campaigns, they are both seizing on this, however, as you might imagine in very different ways. And as you also might imagine, pundits and professionals alike are trying to assess the impact of all this on voters. We'll look at all of that in the hour ahead, starting with a pretty stunning piece of news about how much we can expect to hear from the FBI or how little. CNN's Pamela Brown joins us now with that late item.

So, what are your sources saying, Pam?

PAMELA BROWN, CNN JUSTICE CORRESPONDENT Well, Anderson, despite the backlash following his controversial letter on Friday, James Comey stands by his decision and believes he did the right thing, according to a person familiar with his thinking.

He has told FBI and DOJ officials that he doesn't plan to provide the public any additional updates until this investigation is complete. And that could take time. And after the election, Anderson, we're expecting for this come to an end.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

BROWN: Tonight, the FBI is in a race against the clock. CNN has learned a team of agents is using special software at FBI facilities in Quantico, Virginia, to sift through thousands of newly discovered e-mails to isolate those relevant to the investigation of Hillary Clinton's private server. Those e-mails will then be searched for classified information. A process that likely won't be resolved until after the election.

In July, when Director Comey initially recommended no charges, he said no reasonable prosecutor would bring a case against Clinton despite finding classified information on her private server.

JAMES COMEY, FBI DIRECTOR: We don't want to put people in jail unless we prove that they knew they were doing something they shouldn't do.

BROWN: CNN has learned some of the e-mails found in a computer belonging to Anthony Weiner, estranged husband of longtime Clinton aide, Huma Abedin, passed through Clinton's private server. A source says Abedin has no idea how her e-mails ended up on her husband's computer.

Law enforcement sources say several weeks ago, agents stumbled upon the new e-mails while investigating Weiner's alleged sexting with a 15-year-old girl. Comey found out in mid-October, but wasn't fully briefed until last Thursday.

A day later, he went against Department of Justice policy, sending a vague letter to Congress, revealing the discovery of the e-mails over the objection of DOJ officials.

Tonight, he's taking heat from every direction, even from his former boss, Republican appointed Attorney General Alberto Gonzalez.

ALBERTO GONZALES, FORMER UNITED STATES ATTORNEY GENERAL: I didn't understand it. I didn't understand what he was saying, what he was trying to say. I didn't understand the purpose of the letter. All of us somewhat perplexed about, you know, what the director was trying to accomplish here.

BROWN: Now, Comey is under intense pressure to publicly release more information before Election Day.

GONZALEZ: We are in a very unusual situation and it maybe that in order to protect the integrity of this election that he may need to say something else about what is in relation to this investigation.

BROWN: Tonight, the White House spokesman said he would neither defend nor criticize Comey, but acknowledged he is in a tough spot.

JOSH EARNEST, WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY: He's the one who will be in a position to defend his actions in the face of significant criticism from a variety of legal experts, including individuals who served in senior Department of Justice positions in administrations that were led by presidents in both parties.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

COOPER: Pam, what about the timing here? When will we know more about the substance of the e-mails? Is it not until Comey announces? Or I mean, short of any leaks coming out? BROWN: Right, short of leaks coming out, we won't really know the substance until it's complete.

[21:05:00] And as I pointed out earlier, that is likely to happen after the election because there's multiple layers here. First, they have to catalog the e-mails, weed out the ones that are relevant. And then once they do that, which could take a couple of days, then the lengthier process of taking those e-mails to the different agencies to see if there's any classified information, and to try to determine whether there was intent of someone knowingly and willingly sending classified information over e-mail. And so this could take some time.

And we are told, as I said, that Director Comey will not provide piecemeal information to the public. He doesn't want to come out and provide specifics until it's all wrapped up, despite the growing calls, Anderson, for him to provide more information.

COOPER: All right, Pamela Brown. Pamela, thanks very much.

Donald Trump spent the day in a state, Michigan, that seems out of reach for him. More on the possible strategy behind that shortly. But first, the case he made to voters there that this e-mail story validates the worst and everything he's been saying about Hillary Clinton. CNN's Sara Murray is traveling with the Trump campaign.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

SARA MURRAY, CNN POLITICAL REPORTER: Donald Trump is betting on blue territory and cutting attacks to turn around his fortune.

DONALD TRUMP, (R) PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE: I think we hit the mother lode, as they say. Hillary is the one who broke the law over and over and over again. We can be sure that what is in those e-mails is absolutely devastating. Thank you, Huma.

MURRAY: The GOP nominee seeking to capitalize on the latest FBI probe surrounding Hillary Clinton's e-mails.

TRUMP: And I have to give the FBI credit. That was so bad, what happened, originally. And it took guts for Director Comey to make the move that he made in light of the kind of opposition he had with her trying to protect her from criminal prosecution. It took a lot of guts.

MURRAY: Insisting they'll reveal criminal activity, even though the FBI says it's too soon to tell whether the e-mails are even significant.

TRUMP: Hillary is likely to be under investigation for a very long time.

MURRAY: Trump hitting the trail today in Michigan, a state that hasn't voted Republican for president since 1988.

TRUMP: In eight days, we're going to win the great state of Michigan. MURRAY: That's as Trump's advisers acknowledge they need to flip at least one or two states that tilt blue, adding stops in Wisconsin and Pennsylvania, after popping by Colorado and New Mexico this weekend.

But in between swipes at Clinton, Trump is still raising eyebrows with his conciliatory approach to Russian president, Vladimir Putin.

TRUMP: And Hillary, she has such a bad relationship with so many countries. Putin can't stand her, doesn't respect her. They want to get ISIS, we want to get ISIS. We've put everything together, we knock the hell out of ISIS. Wouldn't it be nice? Wouldn't it be smart?

MURRAY: As outgoing Senate Minority leader, Harry Reid, accuses the FBI of covering up ties between Trump and Russia without offering any evidence.

In a letter to FBI Director James Comey, Reid says, "It has become clear that you possess explosive information about close ties in coordination between Donald Trump, his top advisers, and the Russian government. A foreign interest openly hostile to the United States, which Trump praises at every opportunity."

As both sides trade barbs on the trail, they're also pointing to bright spots in early voting. Democrats are running ahead of their 2012 total in Colorado, and they're cutting into the GOP's advantage in both Arizona and Florida. But so far, Republicans appear to have made gains in Iowa and Ohio compared to 2012.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

COOPER: And Sara Murray joins us now for more in Michigan. So, a little bit more than a week left, Donald Trump focusing on several states, leaning towards Hillary Clinton, including Michigan today. Does he really think he can win the blue states? I mean, I talked to Kellyanne Conway, she says she does believe in Michigan that they can win.

MURRAY: Well, and, Anderson, it would seem crazy that you would spend your last stretch going to places like Colorado, like Michigan, like Pennsylvania and Wisconsin, especially when the public poll show Donald Trump with a relatively steep deficit in a number of these states. But the campaign is saying that their internal numbers are showing a much tighter race, and they believe they saw this tightening even before the latest FBI revelations come out.

But this also speaks to how narrow their path was originally. They're really looking at the math now realizing if they really want a shot at victory on November 8th, they're going to need to flip at least one of these states to red from blue, and I think that's what you're trying to see them do in the wake of the FBI's latest move. Anderson?

COOPER: All right, Sara Murray. Sara, thanks very much.

We have more breaking news tonight, a statement from Huma Abedin's attorney, Karen Dunn. It reads, "From the beginning, Ms. Abedin has complied fully and voluntarily with State Department and law enforcement requests, including sitting for hours long interviews and providing her work-related and potentially work-related documents. The statement goes on, Ms. Abedin's willing cooperation has been praised by members of Congress and law enforcement officials alike."

And this, I think, is the really important part. She says, "She only learned for the first time on Friday, from press reports of the possibility that a laptop belonging to Mr. Weiner could contain e- mails of hers."

[21:10:08] Dunn concludes by saying, "While the FBI is not contacted us about this, Ms. Abedin will be, as she always has been, forthcoming and cooperative."

Now, Hillary Clinton for her part campaigned today in a state where Donald Trump has enjoyed an edge lately, we're talking about Ohio. Our Jeff Zeleny is there.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

JEFF ZELENY, CCN WASHINGTON CORESSPONDENT: Tonight, Hillary Clinton is pushing back on the FBI.

HILLARY CLINTON, PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE: ... a lot of you may be asking what this new e-mail story is about and why in the world the FBI would decide to jump into an election with no evidence of any wrongdoing with just days to go. That's a good question.

ZELENY: Her closing argument against Donald Trump now includes another apology about her e-mail, and the controversy that's dogged her.

CLINTON: First of all, for those of you who are concerned about my using personal e-mail, I understand. And as I've said, I'm not making excuses. I've said it was a mistake and I regret it.

ZELENY: It's a concession she rarely makes on the campaign trail. But she said it's high time to move on. And she's confident the case of her top aide, Huma Abedin, off the campaign trail for a third straight day, will end like hers did.

CLINTON: They should look at them. And I am sure they will reach the same conclusion they did when they looked at my e-mails for the last year. There is no case here.

ZELENY: Clinton is trying to regain her footing and turn questions about her into questions about Trump's fitness for office.

CLINTON: Imagine him plunging us into a war because somebody got under his very thin skin. Now, thankfully, he's never been in a position where he had to help make life and death decisions for our country.

ZELENY: Changing the subject may be a tall order. For 18 months, Clinton's been trying to move beyond the e-mail controversy. Now it's front and center again, a cloud of uncertainty still in the air. With eight days to go, the race is tightening in key battlegrounds like here in Ohio.

At a cafe in Cleveland, she kept her eye on the campaign, not the controversy. But inside her Brooklyn headquarters, aides remained on a war time footing. And Democrats like Senate Minority leader, Harry Reid, took the lead in striking back. He fired off a letter to FBI Director James Comey, saying, "Through partisan actions, you may have broken the law. In tarring Secretary Clinton with thin innuendo, you overruled long standing tradition and the explicit guidance of your own department."

Advisers to Clinton tell CNN, they are still assessing the potential fallout, but acknowledge at least some souring from independents and Republicans who were leaning their way.

Nationally, Clinton retains an edge. She's up five points over Trump in the latest CNN Poll of Polls.

As Trump questions her judgment on e-mails, she's raising doubts about his fitness to serve in the Oval Office, calling him a threat to national security.

CLINTON: As I've said many times, a man you can bait with a tweet is not a man we can trust with nuclear weapons.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

COOPER: And Jeff Zeleny joins us now from Cleveland. So Clinton expressed regret today about her e-mail server saying, I made a mistake. What's the thinking behind that? Is that just sort of trying to get it out of the way as quickly as possible?

ZELENY: It is, Anderson. She also said, I'm not making any excuses here. And it's one of the few times we've heard her at a campaign rally on stage acknowledge this. She's done it a few times in interviews and other places, but never at one of her campaign rallies, acknowledging that she has, indeed, made mistakes. And that is what some of those independent voters, perhaps, want to hear here to her, you know, say she is not perfect by any means, but she's trying to change the subject so much to Donald Trump here.

The Clinton campaign is watching extremely carefully what is going on here in the final couple of days. They do not believe that they've lost much support. And one of the reasons is they've already identified all of their supporters. All of the Democrats they need. What they need to do is turn people out. So that's one of the reasons that her campaign is going hard after the FBI, to rally those Democrats. But the question is what happens moving forward here? It's an uncertainty that they can't plan for. That's what worries her Brooklyn headquarters. Anderson?

COOPER: All right, Jeff Zeleny. Jeff, thanks very much.

The panel is back this hour. John King, Tom Fuentes, Jeffrey Toobin, Gloria Borger, Kayleigh McEnany, Paul Begala, Bakari Sellers, and Jack Kingston. And yes, you will be quizzed coming up.

Gloria, I mean, I guess the million-dollar question and we don't know the answer but I'm going to ask it anyway is, does this have any impact on voters? Do voters care? And we won't know, I guess, until a couple of days later some polls.

GLORIA BORGER, CHIEF POLITICAL ANALYST: I think you have to say voters care.

COOPER: Right.

BORGER: But I think we're not sure of the impact. I mean, as John was saying earlier, you have to take this state by state. I think that Clinton voters are probably could be more enthused to go out and support her, because they think that Comey did her a bad deed.

[21:15:07] COOPER: Right and the Democrats are certainly trying to hit that idea to kind of mobilize that one.

BORGER: They're trying to hit that. And, you know, on the other hand, any story that's about Hillary Clinton and e-mails is bad for Hillary Clinton.

COOPER: Right. John, anytime it's not about Donald Trump's character, it's probably bad for Hillary Clinton.

JOHN KING, CNN CHIEF NATIONAL CORRESPONDENT: That didn't happen by accident.

BORGER: Right.

KING: She did not walk into that rally today and decide to say, I'm sorry, I did this -- she didn't use the word sorry, I regret this. I won't do it again, you know, but there's no case. Paul knows her better than I do.

COOPER: I'm shocked this was thought out.

KING: But there has to be something in the data, something they saw that made them decide she needed to go out and talk about this. They can't just beat up the FBI. They beat up the FBI, they question the motivation there, but she also had to address the her part of it and that's significant. They see something that we haven't seen yet.

COOPER: Paul, do you know what -- I mean ...

PAUL BEGALA, DEMOCRATIC STRATEGIST: I don't know what they know.

COOPER: Right.

BEGALA: I know what I think.

COOPER: What do you think?

BEGALA: I think two things. Gloria is right. This can motivate your base. If you feel like you're being unjustly attacked by law enforcement, a lot of Democrats in America feel the same way on a local level. And I think she can use that to rally her base. But the problem is, if there's damage, it will not be with her base, it will be with this college educated white people who go back and forth.

With each Trump crisis, she gets inflated, I told you every time, we had her at 10 or 12, that was nonsense, and it slides back down. The criticisms from politicians don't -- I think, move them. But the elite criticism of Comey, I think, has been very powerful.

COOPER: What do you mean the elite criticism?

BEGALA: Larry Thompson and Jamie Gorelick, the two top deputies in the Justice Department, one under a Democrat, one under a Republican, wrote in the "Washington Post" a column entitled, "Jim Comey is Damaging Our Democracy." When these -- when law professors of ethics say that this is unethical, when those kinds of elites, former Justice Department officials, legal scholars of legal ethics, when they do that, I think that speaks to those college-educated white folks and tells them...

COOPER: Congressman, do you think these matters?

JACK KINGSTON, (R) FORMER GEORGIA CONGRESSMAN: You'd have to ask, where were they when Bill Clinton was meeting with Loretta Lynch on the tarmac? If they were so worried about it, where were they when she was -- you know, this investigation took place, they did not have subpoena power. They had to give immunity to five different people. They did not get to empower a grand jury. The investigation was going sideways from day one. And that's what law enforcement community has been saying. And I think that Comey actually had an internal mutiny on his hands.

COOPER: Before we get to too much on the partisan side, I do just want to just legally, Jeff Toobin, where is the attorney general in all of this, Loretta Lynch? I mean, is she damaged politically because of going on, you know, having the (inaudible) with Bill Clinton and therefore hanging back from this?

JEFFRY TOOBIN, FORMER FEDERALPROSECUTOR: Well, I think she is paralyzed because of it. You know, this tarmac meeting, I think, has become very significant in that respect because she's not formally recused from any involvement in this investigation.

COOPER: Right. But if she looks like she was trying to stop it, then understandably a lot of people would ...

TOOBIN: It will be politically problematic. She has a deputy who has not been involved. I mean what is -- one of the many extraordinary things about this moment is that we have Jim Comey acting as investigator, prosecutor, public spokesman, and the rest of the Justice Department is completely silent.

BORGER: But she ...

COOPER: Tom, if somebody were ...

TOM FUENTES, FORMER FBI ASSISTANT DIRECTOR: Nobody in the FBI wanted that to be Jim Comey's role or the role of the FBI in this case.

BORGER: Right.

FUENTES: But they had hoped happened was, that when Bill Clinton climbed aboard her plane, she would have done like Harrison Ford in Air Force One, get off my plane. Because instead of a 15-second hello, goodbye, I thank you, Mr. President, it turned into 30-plus minutes that are now the mystery of what was the nature of that discussion, just days before the Hillary Clinton, FBI interview takes place, just days before Comey does the July 5th press conference and announces no charges. And then she doesn't say, I'm recusing myself, my deputy attorney general will now take oversight of the e-mail investigation, or career prosecutors will take over, who have been involved in the case from the very beginning with the investigative agents. She says, we're going to let the FBI decide.

BAKARI SELLERS, LAWYER: No, no, no. That's not -- you know, what she ...

FUENTES: Well, it is ...

SELLERS: What Loretta Lynch said was we are going to accept the recommendation of the FBI, that's what she said. And she also said -- what she said, I'm going to accept the recommendation. But what that does mean it -- what it doesn't give leeway to Director Comey then stepping out there and making this statement. It does not excuse.

I know we want to point to this meeting and that's fine because what you have then is when the attorney general does something like this, she steps back, and please correct me if I'm wrong, but that means that your deputy, which is Sally Yates, if I'm not mistaken, steps up and assume that role.

(CROSSTALK)

FUENTES: That's not what she said.

SELLERS: But she said, we will accept the recommendation. And whatever she said or did not say does not ...

COOPER: OK. Let Tom respond.

FUENTES: Yeah, and he made that recommendation. We recommend no charges. And the next day she says, OK, all of the cases against -- all of the principles in this investigation are now closed. And I've heard other people talking, recently, oh, it wasn't really closed, yes it was closed.

[21:20:02] In my carrier in the FBI, I opened then closed hundreds, maybe thousands of cases, and in many cases, reopened if new information cases ....

COOPER: So is this a reopening?

FUENTES: This was closed.

COOPER: So is this a reopening in this?

FUENTES: Yes.

COOPER: It is.

FUENTES: And the reason it is, is when they obtain subpoenas and obtain legal documents like search warrants, it requires that the investigation be an open investigation ...

TOOBIN: I think Tom is absolutely right. I think, you know, there have been semantic games about whether ...

COOPER: So when the Republicans just saying, reopening the investigation, this is a reopening of the investigation?

(CROSSTALK)

COOPER: All right. It's a good point.

TOOBIN: We can argue about whether it's appropriate or not but I think ...

COOPER: Hold on. OK. We've got to take a break. We'll have more on this subject with our panel.

When we come back, some of the travel choices the Trump campaign has been making also in these crucial final days and why is he spending any time in all states he doesn't appear to have a chance of winning? Do they know something that we don't? What's the strategy behind that? Stay with us.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

COOPER: Well, if you ask Republican pundits Donald Trump could have spent all day talking about two things, Hillary Clinton and e e-mail. Could have -- may should have they believe instead and this is key and he's done it before, he wandered off-message. Here's what he said at a stop yesterday in Albuquerque about what he claims would happen to **immigration** in a single week if Hillary Clinton were elected.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

TRUMP: You could have 650 million people pour in and we do nothing about it. Think of it. That's what going to happen.

You triple the size of our country in one week. Once you lose control of your borders, you have no country folks.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

COOPER: And we're back with the panel. I mean, Kayleigh, is this an example of Donald Trump not staying on message or ...

[21:25:04] KAYLEIGH MCENANY, TRUMP SUPPORTER: No, I think there's a story that's really been ignored and that's there's a flood of **immigrants** coming across our border. ICE agents have pointed it out. There are new stories out there about this. Do I think somebody will come in and one day ...

COOPER: 650 million?

MACENNANY: I think he's trying to illustrate a point here. I have an ICE officer who sends me pictures of the drugs he picks up on our border on a daily basis. There will be a big problem, a big influx of drugs. You think we have a problem in New Hampshire now? It's going to be doubled, tripled if Hillary Clinton is president and has the open borders that she told a Brazilian bank she hopes comes about.

COOPER: Paul?

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: She just tells us a lot.

BEGALA: It is. By the way, what she told that Brazilian bank was the exact thing to most word for word that President Reagan used to say. It's a sort of a dream that a lot of people have had of a trade zone from, I think, president used to -- President Reagan used to say from the tip of Tierra del Fuego to the Arctic and people like that say that and they never -- we don't have a free trade zone ...

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: But policy -- but if ...

BEGALA: But when Donald Trump speaks, we're now so inured to it that nobody even inspection (ph) to tell the truth. I mean, the fact checkers all have post-traumatic stress disorder. I mean, they just blow a fuse because he goes -- by some studies, no more than a few minute, no more than ...

(CROSSTALK)

COOPER: Let him finish and then response.

BEGALA: But people -- no, but who do this for a living have quantified. They -- he goes two three minutes per lie, it's just -- in his public statements.

(CROSSTALK)

BEGALA: OK, PolitiFact says, of the 18 people who ran for president, Hillary is found to be the most truthful ...

(CROSSTALK)

KINGSTON: (Inaudible) bragging and said Huma Abedin cooperated with the FBI, voluntarily. Oh, wow, what a great American. She did not have an option.

SELLERS: Yes, she do.

KINGSON: Well, get her an attorney. But the reality is when Hillary Clinton starts election, somebody about ...

(CROSSTALK)

KINGSTON: We've got to be saying, this is a woman who said, I had one server. Turns out it was 13. She said, I turned over all my e-mail.

SELLERS: She had one server.

KINGSTON: She had 13 devices.

BEGALA: Those aren't servers.

KINGSTON: OK. 13 devices, she said she had one. She said she turned over all her e-mails. 17,000 are still out there somewhere. She used BleachBit after it was subpoenaed, do not destroy the evidence. And 30 days later, they used BleachBit to destroy it and using hammers everything else.

And for her to talk about her lecture, anybody about lying, and she was the one who said open borders.

COOPER: OK.

SELLERS: I'm going to bring it back to your point here and the fact that Hillary Clinton must be a wizard if all of a sudden we're going to have 650 million new people come to the United States of America in one week. And Donald Trump has been laying out -- in one week. And Donald Trump has been laying out all of these large bits of hyperbole lies for the entire campaign.

But one of the things that -- and Jeff Zeleny pointed this out a little bit earlier, that I wanted to talk about is that Donald Trump still has to win voters. Hillary Clinton is at the point in the campaign where she's actually getting her voters that she's already targeted out to the polls. Those type of comments that Donald Trump makes, this hyperbole, these lies that he's been saying that PolitiFact says he lies over three quarters of the time, those are going to turn off the people that he needs to bring in.

MCENANY: Well, first of all, academic institutions have actually studied PolitiFacts and they find out Republicans lie three to one ratio over Democrats, so it is a partisan fact checker, that's number one and ...

SELLERS: Well, Donald Trump is an exemption to Republicans.

MCENANY: ... there's one candidate in this race that is under Federal Bureau of Investigation, criminal investigation ...

BEGALA: Who?

MCENANY: ... not on one point, not on just the e-mail servers, but this is a really important story that we haven't mentioned once tonight. "The Wall Street Journal", the bottom half of the story that broke last night said that four FBI field offices wanted to look into the Clinton Foundation. They were slapped down by the Justice Department multiple times. They were not given the investigatory power to go after the foundation as they wanted.

COOPER: Bakari?

MCENANY: There are two FBI investigations, not one.

SELLERS: You just said two different things. So first that, it wasn't that they didn't get to go as far as they wanted per say. They had a preliminary investigation that turned up nothing. That's first ...

MCENANY: According to the Justice Department.

SELLERS: But second, I mean, this is what you're going to see Hillary Clinton begin to do more of this week. She's now pivoting and she's now turning the light back on Donald Trump. Because you will begin to see that -- you will begin to see ...

KINGSTON: Because she has nothing to talk about.

SELLERS: ... you will begin to see more the articles come out about the FBI investigation into Paul Manafort and his Russian ties.

KINGSTON: He is not with them.

SELLERS: You'll begin to see more articles come out about Donald Trump and his taxes.

KINGSTON: His taxes?

SELLERS: You'll begin to see more articles come out about the relationship ...

(CROSSTALK)

COOPER: Let's not just get into a partisan like ...

SELLERS: We have eight days.

COOPER: We've got eight days. John, you know, to have ...

BEGALA: My head hurts.

COOPER: ... to have Donald Trump making -- in terms of the states that Donald Trump is going to, I mean, explain where he sees and where the campaign sees their path to 270?

KING: Look, sometimes, it makes no sense when you say, I'm sorry, when you see the Republican in New Mexico at this point of the election, you have to scratch your head.

But, you know, maybe they have data we don't have, but here's the point and I think we're going to go through this state by state in a few minutes, so I want to do it all now. But if you look at it, even if -- if you look at our six toss-up states on the board right now, even if Donald Trump won them all, even if he was perfect and won Florida, won North Carolina, won Ohio, won Utah, won Arizona, and won Nevada, he'd still be short.

And so he's got to turn something that's blue. If you look at that map on the screen right there, if he wins all the golds, he's still short. And so, he's got to turn something blue.

[21:30:02]: So, of course, if you're Donald Trump, you want to go into these blue states and at least test. Now, doing that eight days out, you want to do that 20 days out. You're going 20 or 30 days out and you do a poll and you see which one you might be moving and then you say, OK, put some add money in, send a surrogate in, send the candidate back. To do that in the last week is pretty hard.

As I've said before, he's trying to parallel park about six or eight aircraft carriers at the same time. It's very difficult to do. Not impossible but very difficult.

BORGER: And then he has to go to states like Florida, which she really needs to win if he's going to win this election. I was just talking to a Republican in this stage who's looking at early voting everyday, and says that African-Americans are down, but Hispanic voting is way up. And I don't know what Donald Trump can do about that in the State of Florida right now.

COOPER: We've got to take a quick break. We're going to continue the discussion in a moment. We'll also take a look at the question John King foreshadowed. Why is Trump campaigning in states that are deeply Democratic? We'll take a look at the map, break it down state by state.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

COOPER: Welcome back. So we've been reporting, Donald Trump is campaigning in Michigan today, a state that hasn't gone Republican in a presidential election in 28 years. The question is why. And when you have a political question about voting history, you go to John King. He joins us now to break it down by the numbers.

So, New Mexico Sunday, Michigan today, Wisconsin tomorrow, pretty reliably Democratic territory in presidential races, what does Trump see that the public polls don't?

KING: Well, you talked to Kellyanne Conway earlier in the evening, and she said they see data in all these states. They won't share that data with us, so we don't see it. The public polls certainly don't show it, Anderson. We're waiting to see if any new polls come out after the FBI revelation.

But let's go back through the history. So I'll go back to the Obama- Romney map. New Mexico is what had a lot of Republicans scratching their head, just because this has turned into such. It used to be a swing state back in 2000/2004, but it turned into such a Democratic state.

[21:35:04] You see a 10 points here in 2012. If you go back in McCain race, this is more of a Democratic year, but you see it's a blowout there. That's the one that had a lot of people scratching their head.

Mike Pence was there a week ago. Donald Trump was there this week. But Donald Trump's in Michigan, that's a less of a surprise in the sense that his trade message should sell there, his economic message should sell there, although every poll has shown recently, he's been down anywhere from 7 to 10 points. So, a big question heading into final week. Again, did the FBI revelation change it? We've seen no public data to suggest that yet.

A poll just last week, after a lot of Republicans did come home to Donald Trump, still had Hillary Clinton up seven. But in the final week, you're going see him, Anderson, not just in Florida, which is a swing state, but it went blue last time. North Carolina, this is 2008. I'm going to switch it so you see the 2012 map here to be a little more honest about the dynamic last time. Michigan today, Pennsylvania steady (ph) as always said. You look at these states in no -- none of them, none of them, was he close before the FBI revelation. We'll see if something changes after.

COOPER: Right. I mean, is the path to 270 any easier for him now?

KING: That's the big question. And again, we're waiting for more poll data, but let's switch to the map that matters which is the one that gets to the 270. And as of today, I think Bakari was talking about this last night and Jeff Zeleny talked it about earlier in the program, we have Hillary Clinton across the finish line, unless she loses something. Unless she loses one of these states that we have shaded either dark or light blue, Hillary Clinton will be the next president of United States.

So if you're Donald Trump, you're looking at the toss-up states. I'm not saying he will win these, I'm saying if he wins these. Clinton thinks she'll win Nevada, but let's say Trump wins it. Evan McMullin, the conservative could win Utah. Let's say Trump wins it for the sake of argument. Hillary Clinton was leading in the last public poll in Arizona. Let's say Trump wins it.

Florida's close. North Carolina is close, although she's ahead. Ohio is very close. Even if Donald Trump wins them all, it only gets him to 264, Anderson. That is why he's going to these blue states. Because if he pulls that off, which is like pulling off an inside straight flush in Vegas, but if he pulls that off, he still has to find something.

So you're going to look at Michigan. As I said, that's probably more of a stretch. But if you're going to look at Michigan, you go look at Pennsylvania, and you go look at Wisconsin, why? Well, because Virginia and New Hampshire have proven a little tougher. He was in Colorado, that one's been tougher. But if you're Donald Trump, and if you're perfect in the toss-ups, you've got to find something. That's why he's looking.

COOPER: You do know, John, that my knowledge of poker analogies is as bad as my knowledge of baseball analogies, don't you?

KING: Like winning the power ball?

COOPER: OK, I got it. And I'll get fine. Thanks. All right. All right, thanks.

We're -- Paul Begala -- I mean, in terms of Trump's road to 270, does -- to you, does it seem any different this week than it did three weeks ago?

BEGALA: No. And this e-mail story didn't break today. It has been four days. Now, that's not long in human life, but in the half-lives of this election, it's been assessed. And I think King is right. We got to wait a few more days and see. But the early polls, by the way, when asked, does this matter to you, some poll is 63, others 70 percent say, no, right? Did it fires up? Some of my partisans have fires up, some of Kayleigh's partisans, but no.

Trump has an exceedingly difficult path to 270. And that's because he's a first-time candidate. He doesn't know this. I give him a lot of slack. But it turns out, when you call women "fat pigs," you do badly in the women's vote. When you say that Latinos are rapists and murders, you do bad with Latinos. When you question the president's birth in America, you do bad with African-Americans. I mean, he has brought this on himself. The reason he has almost no path to victory is because he's **alienated** all the voters he needs to win.

KINGSTON: John, let me say this, you know, Paul's running a super PAC. One big difference and immediate difference is that Sheldon Adelson has now come in $25 million, which he has said is the minimum that he is going to contribute. But the other thing is, that has an effect on other big donors who have kept their money on the sidelines.

So I think that effectively spending this new money that's going to come in, in the next seven days is going to be a big factor that we'll see in the polls. But it may take three or four days to germinate.

COOPER: Kayleigh, I know you wanted to get a point in.

MCENANY: Yeah, I just wanted to say, you know, as bad as Donald Trump is, that the Hillary Clinton campaign has done a fantastic job of trying to caricature him to be the worst person on planet Earth. And despite all of that -- the hundreds of -- the millions and millions of dollars spent on advertising when Donald Trump was spending zero. Donald Trump is still two points behind in Pennsylvania, 3.5 in Pennsylvania. Those are the two most recent polls. He still in striking distance in Michigan, that's because this culture of ...

BEGALA: Where's he in striking distance in Michigan?

MCENANY: This whole shoal, when we've talked about this corruption and the FBI, this is what created Donald Trump. This is what created Bernie Sanders. It's people who feel like Washington (inaudible) behind and cheating ...

COOPER: Well, Bakari, to Kayleigh's point, why wouldn't Hillary Clinton be farther ahead?

SELLERS: I mean, that's a very interesting question. I had never really thought about, why isn't she farther ahead? I'm just trying to -- because she doesn't have to win by, you know, 200 electoral votes. She doesn't have to get to 300. She just has to get to 270, that's it, and she's president of the United States.

But one of the things that I want to talk to that the Congressman was saying is that, Hillary Clinton has $8 million a day to spend, plus a little bit more. And that's not even including some of the super PAC money and some of the other things and other resources that she's had.

[21:40:01] But she's also cultivated a ground game. I mean, people forget the data, the ground game. I mean, if you look at the field offices, the people that are making phone calls. And I know Donald Trump is a novice. But this is when you have to take a step back and say, look, we need to get people around us who know how ...

COOPER: John, do we have a sense of numbers? I mean, in terms of like people -- everybody talks about ground game, do we have any idea of like what kind of field operation versus Donald Trump?

KING: If she -- well, the Republicans say they have this operation, I'll believe it when I see it, in the sense that when you talk to people, you talk to state parties. The government of Ohio voted for John McCain today.

His state party -- is his state party doing everything it can do to help Donald Trump? No. And that those matter. And to the Congressman's point, if Donald Trump writes himself a check, if Donald Trump brings in more money, I suspect he's raising more money online after this FBI e-mail story. I bet Trump supporters are giving him money right now. It's only so much you can do in terms of buying more T.V. ads.

Now, that's basic, et cetera at some point. Where the money is important now, and if Hillary Clinton wins a close election, it may be because she disappeared in August and let Donald Trump get closer and raised all that money. Because each campaign has a list of voters. Big data has changed. This is not ...

COOPER: You made this point Friday. And if you could just repeat it, because I find it -- it taught me something to know.

KING: Politics is not the way it used to be when I started doing these 30 years ago, when Paul started doing it 310 years ago. No, these campaigns now have a list of voters. This is public record. They know how many they need to win. And they get in touch with them. And they know if you voted early and they can come back at you if they didn't vote ...

COOPER: But you were also pointing out, they target those who maybe on the scene (ph).

KING: They score you. They give you a number. And if you were a Trump supporter, and let's -- Kayleigh, I'm sorry, but if Kayleigh McEnany was a Trump voter and the "Access Hollywood" tape made her say, I can't do it, and she said she was going to vote for Clinton, the Clinton people identified you, then you're in the database but you're listed as a soft supporter because you were once for the other person. So on the first day of early voting they try to get you. And if you didn't vote, they come back at you at the second day.

COOPER: That's a priority for that ...

KING: And then they go after the Bernie Sanders supporters and they go after those college-educated white people who might go back and ...

COOPER: Let John finish.

KING: ... but they have that database and they will look at it every single night. You were talking about the FBI people having pizza. Guess what, Democrats and Republicans in campaign offices all over America are going through their list, who voted today? And then they go back out tomorrow.

Now, if the Republicans can do what they promised to do after 2008 and 2012 and get it right this time, we'll see. But we know the Democrats are really good at this.

BORGER: And that's what early voting -- this is why early voting matters. And this is why organization matters. If you go to a Hillary Clinton rally, and I'm sure you've been and we've all, they take people from the rallies to the -- to vote.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Correct.

BORGER: They are organizing on the spot. It's not as obvious at Trump rallies, and it's just a different level ...

COOPER: But the Trump people will say, look, our people are waiting for 12 hours out in the rain, and even in the cold.

(CROSSTALK)

MCENANY: One thing that President Obama did exceedingly well, and Republicans were behind in the times on this, is not only did he microtarget, he used social media to do so.

I remember seeing a story about how he would actually reach to voters in certain counties in Ohio, and say, hey, I know you care about manufacturing, go tell your neighbor, go told your unions to go out and vote. It was microtargeting that infiltrated social media. And the RNC has tried to up the game, up the game, and I hope that they have because that is important.

COOPER: But John ...

BORGER: They know, but if you drive a certain kind of car, they know who you're more likely to vote for.

COOPER: But they also get -- it's not just them directly calling you, like after a while, they won't bug you, they'll get your pastor to do it or ...

KING: A smart campaign. And some Republican campaigns do this, too. I don't want to give all the credit to the Democrats, but at the presidential level, the Democrats have kicked the Republicans in the you know what the last two cycles. We'll see if they can recover.

But if -- yes, the campaign will call you, but then they realize you're not responding. So, they will have the small businessman up the street where you go for coffee in the morning, they'll have your pastor come to your house, and they'll -- they will get local people who you might listen to more than a political ...

COOPER: We've got to take a break. We're really over time. I thank everyone in the panel.

Just ahead, the man at the center of all the drama, oh, hello. I've (inaudible) a quick zoom there. James Comey is back to the top job of the FBI in the moments that forged his reputation for fairness. We'll be right back.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

[21:47:33] COOPER: Over the past 72 hours, Donald Trump has been commending FBI Director James Comey for announcing that his agency would be reviewing e-mails, potentially related to Hillary Clinton's private e-mail server.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

TRUMP: It took guts for Director Comey to make the move that he made, in light of the kind of opposition that he had with it trying to protect her from criminal prosecution.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

COOPER: It's a major change in tune for Donald Trump, who has spent weeks, as you know, slamming Comey for not recommending criminal charges against Clinton. Here's what he said earlier this month.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

TRUMP: One of the worst things I've ever witnessed, as a citizen of the United States was last week, when the FBI Director was trying so hard to explain how she got away with what she got away with, because she should be in prison.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

COOPER: Well, this is not the first time that James Comey has been in the spotlight. He was making headlines even before getting the top job at the FBI. Gary Tuchman tonight reports.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: I, state your name.

COMEY: I, James B. Comey ...

GARY TUCHMAN, CNN CORRESPONDENT: James Comey became the seventh director of the FBI in 2013, in the beginning of President Obama's second term.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: So help me God.

COMEY: So help me God.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Congratulations, sir. TUCHMAN: But years before that, he became the number two at the Justice Department under President George W. Bush and was a registered Republican. Although now he says he's, "Not registered any longer."

But in the past, he donated to both the Mitt Romney campaign in 2012 and the John McCain campaign in 2008. He also served as a counsel on the Whitewater Committee back in 1966. But his reputation for bipartisan fairness has long been well known.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Bob Mueller and Mr. Jim Comey.

TUCHMAN: When Comey took over the FBI director spot from Bob Mueller, this is what Mueller had to say.

ROBERT MUELLER, FORMER FBI DIRECTOR: I have had the opportunity to work with Jim for a number of years in the Department of Justice and I have found him to be a man of honesty, dedication, and integrity.

TUCHMAN: Comey gained a degree of fame for his role in one of the most dramatic incidents during George W. Bush's tenure in the White House. Comey's boss, Attorney General John Ashcroft, was gravely ill in the hospital. Two of President Bush's top aides rushed there to try to get Ashcroft to endorse a warrantless eavesdropping program.

Comey was acting attorney general while Ashcroft was in the hospital. And when he found out about the plan, he rushed to the hospital and stopped it.

[21:50:05] COMEY: I was very upset. I was angry. I thought I had just witnessed an effort to take advantage of a very sick man.

TUCHMAN: The eavesdropping program was not endorsed. As a federal prosecutor, Comey dealt with the Khobar Towers terrorist bombing case. Following the attack 20 years ago, on a U.S. military facility in Saudi Arabia that killed 19 service members, he prosecuted members of the Mafia.

COMEY: We are here this afternoon to announce the unsealing of three separate indictments against 14 alleged members and associates of the Gambino crime family.

TUCHMAN: And he prosecuted America's domestic diva.

COMEY: Martha Stewart is being prosecuted not because of who she is but because of what she did.

TUCHMAN: Back in July, Donald Trump tweeted, the system is rigged after Comey's statement regarding about Hillary Clinton.

COMEY: We are expressing to justice our view that no charges are appropriate in this case.

TUCHMAN: But Friday, as the story was just breaking, Trump said this.

TRUMP: It might not be as rigged as I thought, right? Right? The FBI -- I think they're going to right the ship, folks. I think they're going to right the ship.

TUCHMAN: Gary Tuchman, CNN, Atlanta.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

COOPER: All right, a lot to discuss. Joining me now is Constitutional Criminal Defense Attorney, Page Pate, also James Cole, former Deputy -- excuse me, Deputy Attorney General of the United States.

Jim, you as well as former Attorney General Eric Holder, other former DOJ officials signed an open letter, and it read in part, many of us have worked with Director Comey, all of us respect him but he's unprecedented decision of publicly comment on evidence in what may be an ongoing inquiry just 11 days before a presidential election leaves us both astonished and perplexed. Explain why astonished and perplexed.

JAMES COLE, FORMER DEPUTY U.S. ATTORNEY GENERAL: Well, he has a number of very longstanding Justice Department policies that he violated. The long term and longstanding view in the Justice Department is that you don't talk about investigations. And an even stronger policy is that when you were in an election season, you do not say anything that has the potential to impact an election, and he did that. He violated both of those policies, and that was what the source of our astonishment was.

There's wild allegations going on, there's unfounded allegations going on about what he said and what he meant. And these are just the kinds of things that those policies were designed to stop. We now see the need for those policies. Go ahead.

COOPER: But hadn't he said to Congress that, you know, if there was something new to let them know about, that -- I mean, that he certainly felt he needed to, having told Congress he would update them?

COLE: Well, he did say that, and whether or not he should have said that, we can talk about it at another time. But the question I have is, did he really know that there was something new to say. He doesn't know very much about these e-mails at this point. He doesn't know whether they're particularly relevant to this case. He doesn't know whether the FBI has already seen them. He doesn't know if it has anything to do with classified information. He should have been more careful in determining what it is he had, before he went out and talked about it.

COOPER: Page -- I mean, former Bush Administration Attorney General Alberto Gonzales told CNN today that the Comey's actions were an error in judgment, is he right?

PAGE PATE, CRIMINAL DEFENSE ATTORNEY: I don't think so. I mean, I think it's very easy for these former Justice Department lawyers to kind of step back and play arm chair quarterback at this point. I mean, they were not in the hot seat. He had a very difficult decision to make. And I think given the fact he had been so public about his initial decision not to pursue criminal charges, it was his obligation to let Congress know that that had changed. And what is happening now is inconsistent with his earlier statement.

So, Jim Cole is right -- I mean, we can think, you know, was it appropriate to do that? Should he have even talked to Congress? Should he have gone public about the initial decision?

But once he did that, I do think he had the obligation to come forward and let people know that he's going to look into it again. He shouldn't go into any details and I don't think he is, but I don't think he can't just sweep this under the rug or not mention it. He wasn't looking for this. I mean, he's not trying to investigate Hillary Clinton. I think the last thing he wanted to see were these e-mails dropped on his desk this close to the election.

COOPER: Jim, was it a mistake for Comey back in July to go as far as he did?

COLE: I think it is. His role was as the investigator and as the head of the investigative agency. He's supposed to make his recommendations to the Justice Department in a confidential way, so that they're not influenced by politics, they're not influenced by pandering to the press, and then the prosecutors are supposed to make that decision, which is what they did. But he started to short circuit that process by going public back in July. Then when he talked to Congress, there's been a longstanding resistance by the department to talk about investigations to anybody, including Congress, because you don't want politics enter into those investigations.

[21:5503] And then when he did this, I think the biggest problem that we have is that he created his own problem by making these pledges to talk. And I think at that point, he really has to take a hard look at what he has done.

And I think going to the comments that were just made, once he says something about this, which I think there's a serious question whether he should have been in the first place, he now owes it to the American people to give them the context, to give them the limitations of what it is that he knows, and he doesn't know. And by not saying anything at this point, he's creating much more of a problem.

PATE: Anderson, I don't know how he possibly ...

COOPER: Page -- I mean, do you think he -- go ahead.

PATE: I don't know how he could possibly say anything more without first actually reviewing the e-mails. I mean, we know now that they have a search warrant. They're indexing those e-mails, they will eventually be reviewed, but I think it would be irresponsible for some of the same reasons Jim Cole is talking about, for him to come out and try to describe any more details about the investigation. He's done what he could do.

COOPER: Yeah.

PATE: He's done what I think he had to do in letting people know he's going to look into this again.

COOPER: Yeah. And he certainly seems like he's not going to be saying anything more. Jim Cole, I appreciate for being on, Page Pate as well, thank you.

Just ahead, President Obama hosted his last Halloween party at the White House, got a surprise, his reaction just ahead.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

COOPER: Well today, President and Michelle Obama hosted their last Halloween party on the South Lawn of the White House. Local school kids, children and military families were invited. One attendee came dressed as a lame duck, clever, but no word on whether the costume back in many expert candy there.

[22:00:10] That does it for us. Thanks for watching. "CNN TONIGHT" with Don Lemon starts now.

**NEW\_DOCUMENT\_HERE**

Anderson Cooper, Amanda Carpenter, Kayleigh McEnany, Ana Navarro, Jason Carroll, Phil Mattingly, Jonathan Tanisi, Karine Jean- Pierre, Maggie Haberman, Jeffrey Lord, Scottie Nell Hughes, Corey Lewandowski, Randi Kaye, Gloria Borger, Tom Foreman

speakers\_end

[21:00:00] AMANDA CARPENTER, CNN POLITICAL COMMENTATOR: No, you brought ....

KAYLEIGH MCENANY, TRUMP SUPPORTER: For Gallup, the media has the lowest approval rating in recorded history. This is not among Trump supporters ...

CARPENTER: So, aren't you doing what Donald Trump says it does?

(CROSSTALK)

CARPENTER: ... than everyone else because you studied and you know things and you went to a fancy school that I didn't? Isn't that what Donald Trump's campaign has become, their own worst enemy. They become -- Democrats have been all the time they said that Hillary Clinton was an enabler.

(CROSSTALK)

COOPER: One at a time. One at time.

ANA NAVARRO, REPUBLICAN STRATEGIST: Listen, we were working on Republican campaigns way before you were. So for you to sit there and say that we're not representative of Republican women, I think it's a mistake. I think we need to learn to live with our differences. We need to learn to embrace diversity of thoughts. I need to learn to live with your thoughts and try on focus in whatever the hell we might have in common. I'm sure there is something.

(CROSSTALK)

NAVARRO: OK, but let tell you something. 70 some percent, 75, 78 percent of Republicans are supporting Trump. 90 percent of Democrats are supporting Clinton. You want to talk facts? That's a fact.

ANDERSON COOPER, CNN ANCHOR: OK. Kayleigh?

MCENANY: First of all, I want to apologize to you for being a millennial. I know millennials aren't allowed to have an opinion in this day and age.

(CROSSTALK)

NAVARRO: Let me play my old ancient Stradivarius for you.

MCENANY: I think the fact that this panel has resented into very, vitriolic ad hominem attacks when statistics are brought up, when the numbers are brought up, when you don't have facts to retort to my facts, that ...

(CROSSTALK)

NAVARRO: 78 percent of Republicans are supporting Donald Trump, 90 percent of Democrats are supporting Hillary Clinton.

MCENANY: ... playing the violin.

(CROSSTALK)

NAVARRO: ... it's not a fact when I poke holes.

COOPER: We're going to take a break. We're just -- we're not, actually. Why would we? Wait, wait.

We just passed the top of the hour. I want to welcome you if you're just joining us. I hope you're having something to eat and drink and ...

MCENANY: Some wine.

COOPER: Some wine. I would like some wine right now.

Another breaking hour ahead ...

NAVARRO: Orange Kool-Aid could apply.

COOPER: ... we've got never-before-heard interviews. Donald Trump's kids telling a biography about the dad they know including their take on some the most controversial statements.

(BEGIN AUDIOTAPE)

IVANKA TRUMP, DONALD TRUMP'S DAUGHTER: He is who he is. He is going to say exactly what he's thinking. He doesn't need to hear what the question is or the story is in advance so he can craft an answer.

(END AUDIOTAPE)

COOPER: We'll have more on that in a moment. We're going to begin the hour, though, with new national polling. We just referencing that puts the presidential race at three points and narrows the margin in our CNN Poll of Polls to six points. Hillary Clinton still leading but leading by less than just a couple days ago. Donald Trump, who just wrapped up an event in eastern North Carolina, has been discounting the polls for weeks as rigged. He's now got boost there even as he takes a knock or two on new statements from one of his surrogates in his decision earlier today to step away from the battleground. More on that now from our Jason Carroll. (BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

DONALD TRUMP, (R) PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE: I'm tired of the excuses from our politicians. I'm tired of being told what cannot be done.

JASON CARROLL, CNN NATIONAL CORRESPONDENT: Donald Trump taking a brief break from the campaign trail to promote his new hotel in Washington, D.C. and striking an optimistic tone.

TRUMP: There is nothing we cannot accomplish. The United States is great. It's great. Its people are great.

CARROLL: Trump says his business acumen is what the country needs from its president.

TRUMP: This is what I want to do for our country and this is what we're working so hard to do. Right now, just about everything our government touches is broken or they break it. It's always over budget, behind schedule, and simply nothing works.

CARROLL: And Trump took an opportunity to again take aim at the media.

TRUMP: By the way, congratulations, Newt, on last night. That was an amazing interview. We don't play games, Newt, right? We don't play games.

CARROLL: The GOP nominee referring to Fox News's Megyn Kelly's interview with Trump adviser and former House Speaker Newt Gingrich. Gingrich losing his cool when Kelly pressed him about the women accusing Trump of unwanted sexual advances.

NEWT GINGRICH, TRUMP ADVISER: You are fascinated with sex and you don't care about public policy.

MEGYN KELLY, FOX NEWS ANCHOR: Me, really?

GINGRICH: So that's what I get out of watching you tonight.

KELLY: You know what, Mr. Speaker, I'm not fascinated by sex. But I am fascinated by the protection of women ...

GINGRICH: OK.

KELLY: ... and understanding what we're getting in the Oval Office.

GINGRICH: OK.

KELLY: And I think the American voters would like to know ...

GINGRICH: And, therefore, we're going to send Bill Clinton back East Wing, because after all, you are worried about sexual predators.

KELLY: He's not on the ticket. And the polls also show that the American public is less interested ... GINGRICH: They'll be in East Wing.

KELLY: ... in the deeds of Hillary Clinton's husband than they are in the deeds of the man who asks us to make him president, Donald Trump.

We're going to have to leave it at that and you can take your anger issues and spend some time working on them, Mr. Speaker. Thanks for being here.

[21:05:08] GINGRICH: And you too.

CARROLL: And Trump taking offense when CNN's Dana Bash asked him today's hotel ribbon cutting if it was worth it.

DANA BASH, CNN CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT: And so to people who say you're taking time out of swing states to go do this, you say?

TRUMP: I say the following. You have been covering me for the last long time. I did yesterday eight stops and three major speeches and I've been doing this for weeks straight. I left here -- I left there for an hour and a half. I'm going to North Carolina right, then I'm going to go to Florida, I'm going up to New Hampshire.

For you to ask me those question is actually very insulting, because Hillary Clinton does one stop and then she goes home and sleeps. And yet you'll ask me that question. I think it's a very rude question, to be honest with you.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

COOPER: Jason Carroll joins us now from Kinston, North Carolina.

The Trump campaign still saying all of these polls that show him behind, that they are all -- that they are almost all inaccurate, that he's actually winning, right?

CARROLL: Right. I mean, look, he mentioned these polls again tonight here. He talked about the phony polls, the national polls showing him behind, the polls showing him behind in some of the battleground states. He says those polls are phony polls put out there by the rigged media. But it doesn't mean he thinks all the polls are bad because he did mention a new poll out of the state of Florida which shows him up by two points. That poll head does agree with. He also said that many of those folks who are showing up in the state of Florida for early voting, he believes that many of those folks are Trump supporters.

So once again, he did mention the phony polls but those are just the polls that show him behind. The poll that shows him up, that poll he likes. Anderson?

COOPER: All right, Jason Carroll. Jason, thanks.

Hillary Clinton marked her birthday today. She did not, however, get a birthday present as we've seen in the latest polling, which may be why she's been campaigning hard, not just for president, but against complacency among her supporters. More on her day in Florida from CNN's Phil Mattingly.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

HILLARY CLINTON, (D) PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE: Florida can make the difference ...

PHIL MATTINGLY, CNN CORRESPONDENT: With new polling which could suggest a tightening race in Florida, Hillary Clinton is taking nothing for granted.

CLINTON: I am going to work as hard as I can over these next 13 days, reaching out to as many people as possible.

MATTINGLY: The Democratic nominee spending her second straight day in a state that could all but guarantee the White House, warning against complacency.

CLINTON: We can't take our foot off the gas even for a short time.

MATTINGLY: And throwing more jabs, Donald Trump's way.

CLINTON: Listening to Donald Trump's campaign, I truly doubt that he has ever read the constitution. Or if he did back in school, he certainly doesn't remember it and he doesn't understand. It is the most important founding document for the longest lasting, greatest democracy in the history of the world.

MATTINGLY: Her attacks, including a dig, Trump's detour in his campaign schedule today to attend a ribbon cutting ceremony for his new hotel in Washington D.C.

CLINTON: While the hotel may be new, it's the same old story. He relied on undocumented workers to make his project cheaper. And most of the products in the rooms were made overseas. And he even sued to get his taxes lowered.

MATTINGLY: Clinton punctuating her two events in the state with two new ads. The latest data from Catalyst provided exclusively to CNN showing more than 7 million votes have already been cast, including more than 4.6 million in battleground states, numbers that underscore the importance of the moment. One where Clinton maintains a comfortable national lead according to the CNN Poll of Polls. This all coming on Clinton's 69th birthday. A moment celebrated with a surprise cake before heading straight back onto the trail.

But now, a new headache for the Clinton campaign in the latest WikiLeaks released of hacked e-mails. Clinton's former spokesperson, Philippe Reines, now just to mess her private e-mail server created saying, "There is no good answer." It's an acknowledgement that adds to the continued fallout created by a separate e-mail.

This one from one of Clinton's most loyal advisers, Neera Tanden, saying when it came to the e-mail server, the Clintons, "wanted to get away with it."

(END VIDEO CLIP) COOPER: Phil Mattingly joins us now from Tampa. So, that new poll in Florida showing Trump leading over Hillary Clinton by two points, seems to fly in the face of what we've been seeing there for weeks. What are you hearing from operatives on the ground there?

MATTINGLY: Yeah, that's exactly right, Anderson. If you talk to Clinton campaign advisers over the course of the last two or three weeks, they're getting a lot more comfortable with where they stood in the state of Florida. Now, it's being born out in the public polling as well. But what this poll underscores, whether it's right or wrong, is where Donald Trump's support really is. It's in north central Florida. It's in the panhandle. And if he can turn out those voters, this is going to be a very close state in this race.

[21:10:12] And Anderson, it's worth noting, 29 electoral votes in this state. You talk to any Clinton adviser they will tell you, if they win Florida, the ball game is over. They win the campaign. That's why this is so important. That's why Hillary Clinton was here the past two days, that's why she'll be here again on Saturday.

One quick thing to keep an eye on, Anderson, that early voting. This coming weekend will be the first full weekend of in-person early voting, that's where Democrats usually start to close the gap with the Republicans on early votes, they're already. They've already closed that gap, Anderson. So that's an area Democrats feel very good about. But again, all eyes on Florida. This is a make or break state for the campaign. Anderson?

COOPER: Yeah, Phil Mattingly. Phil, thanks very much.

Back now with the panel this hour. Jonathan Tanisi, Karine Jean- Pierre, Maggie Haberman, Jeffrey Lord, Scottie Nell Hughes, and Corey Lewandowski.

Maggie, I mean, does the Clinton campaign have a contingency plan for a tightening of these polls?

MAGGIE HABERMAN, CNN POLITICAL ANALYST: I mean, I think that they still believe that they are ahead. And if you look at the average of the polls, they still are, but they are certainly concerned from the Democrats who I talked to about apathy among their voters. About people thinking, "Well, it's over so we don't need to turn out." And because of this something of an unpredictable election cycle previously leading up to this, they want to essentially make sure that they're doing everything they can to turn out their base.

I'm not sure that what we are hearing right now in terms of either WikiLeaks or everything that's coming out is actually sinking in with the public ...

COOPER: You don't think it is?

HABERMAN: I don't -- I haven't seen any polling that indicates yet whether it is or it isn't. I think we will know in a couple of days, but I think there is so much noise right now that everything -- against the Democrats. You have the WikiLeaks disclosures. Hence Donald Trump, you've had these accusers who claim that he has sexually assaulted them. And I think that it is all just becoming (inaudible).

I think that the Clinton team and the DNC have, and we discussed this in a previous block, have a ground game. They have field operations. And that's what they're leaning on and I expect that they will continue to do.

COOPER: Corey, Do you think the sort of the drip, drip, the WikiLeaks. I mean, there hasn't been one, you know, major e-mail that's leaked out that, you know, is going to change everybody's mind. But the -- you know, there's been days and days and weeks of this stuff. And do you believe that that's taking a toll, plus with ObamaCare premiums going up?

COREY LEWANDOWSKI, FORMER TRUMP CAMPAIGN MANAGER: Look, I think it goes to -- if you look at the polling data is, you know, Hillary Clinton hasn't trustworthy. Only 30 percent the American people think that she is and that's probably a function of the WikiLeaks.

Look, we saw her own staff or those around her, calling her the e- mailer in chief. Saying that she thought she could get away with this, you know, private server.

COOPER: Right. In addition, the poll that John King, I think, shared in the last hour, in addition to jobs, economy, which Trump was leading, also on trustworthy. I think he was plus six.

LEWANDOWSKI: That's right. So, I think you have that and then you couple that with Hillary Clinton saying before ObamaCare, there was Hillary care. What we know in the state of Florida is if you've got the Humana plan in the ObamaCare, your premiums are going to go up in 2017 by 35 percent. That's a real number. That's squarely on Hillary. She cannot walk away from Barack Obama and the disaster that this has become. She is tied to it very closely ...

JONATHAN TASINI, CLINTON SUPPORTER: The problem with WikiLeaks here in my view, the problem with that is it's complicated. It's confusing to people. Compared to Donald Trump being a sexual predator. So if you compare to those -- the things that have come out in parallel over the last two or three weeks, the average voter, particularly women who are listening to this, WikiLeaks is a morass. Being a sexual predator ...

COOPER: He's been accused. He's not a convicted sexual predator.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Thank you.

TASINI: The language that Donald Trump uses towards women is to me sexually predator -- being a predator.

COOPER: Well, he's described ...

TASINI: Whether ...

COOPER: But it doesn't mean -- he says he didn't actually do it.

TASINI: Fine. I believe he did and I believe all the women who came out and testified to that are a good judgment of that. What my point really was that if you compare the two, WikiLeaks, the issue of Wikileaks and trying to fair it through t who talk to who and what the e-mail is ...

COOPER: (Inaudible) has more power.

TASINI: Much more power to the average voter.

HABERMAN: Yeah, I actually -- what I was going to say was that -- I mean, I was thinking about this when Corey was talking. Part of the problem for Trump has been that -- there has been a tendency, particularly in the general election, to seize on whatever the headline of the day is. And it sort of chasing at a shiny object. There hasn't been a consistent message. It's not a surprise that premiums are going up in October. We have known this was coming for a while. The scope of it may not have been known, but we know it was coming. He could have tied that to a broader economic message and a disciplined economic message over many, many months. And that might have had as much impact ...

COOPER: So, Jeffrey, do you want in these closing days, these crucial days, where tightening the polls, do you hope Donald Trump doesn't have any -- I think that the sports term is unforced errors. I mean, do -- that ...

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Very good.

COOPER: I know, thank you. Jonathan has been teaching me about the World Series. But -- or -- I mean, to stay on message. Stay, you know, don't make any mistake.

JEFFREY LORD, TRUMP SUPPORTER: Right. And to be perfectly candid, Donald Trump, himself, yesterday was on a Rush Limbaugh show. And said, admit it, he said, you know, I do this and a lot of people say don't this ...

COOPER: Right.

LORD: ... but I believe it's important to answer issues, et cetera. I'm one of those people that would suggest him to stay on message and just drive that message home. Sum up the argument and do this over and over and over again. If he comes back to Pennsylvania -- anywhere in these swing states, where these health premiums have gone up, zero in on that.

[21:15:18] SCOTTIE NELL HUGHES, TRUMP SUPPORTER: And Jeffrey, don't underestimate ...

COOPER: Scottie?

HUGHES: Don't underestimate the power of ObamaCare. Remember in 2010, this is where the Tea Party movement came in and was able to take back the House and the Senate. It was on ObamaCare. And you saw a lot of those Democrats crossing. They were upset that they were seeing their premiums go up. So, this is an issue that effects, you know, this is a very -- actually, a very bipartisan issue. People see it. And that's where this power is coming in.

TASINI: But Jeff, can you admit -- can you admit, Jeff, that he's an undisciplined candidate. That's the problem in terms of focusing and what you're trying to say is make the ...

(CROSSTALK)

KARINE JEAN-PIERRE, MOVEON.ORG NATIONAL SPOKESPERSON: Look, we're 13 days out. 80 percent of the people who are voting have already made their decision, right? And early voting is starting. So, I mean, that's where are.

I think the bright light for, at least, for Democrats is that women, the women early voting is really high in record number and I think that's as well, you know.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: And young voters.

JEAN-PIERRE: And young voters as well.

COOPER: All right. I want to thank everyone in the panel.

Just ahead tonight, Republicans who find themselves in Hillary Clinton's corner. Randi Kaye talks to a number of them. Plus, a "360" exclusive of the Trump children on their dad.

(BEGIN AUDIOTAPE)

DONALD TRUMP JR: DONALD TRUMP'S SON: If you're asking, "Do I think that he knows that he is a polarizing guy?" Yes. I think the answer is 100 percent. Do I think he cares? No.

(END AUDIOTAPE)

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

COOPER: With the polls tightening, we've got new never-before-heard insight into who Donald Trump is. Trump biographer, Michael D'Antonio got more than five hours worth while researching his book, "The Truth About Trump" two years ago. He gave us the recordings. Last night, it was Trump himself and his ex-wife Ivana. It was fascinating. Tonight, we hear from Donald Trump's three oldest children.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

[21:20:02] MICHAEL D'ANTONIO, TRUMP BIOGRAPHER: Do you want your father to go into politics?

TRUMP JR: As an American, I do. As a businessman, I'd probably rather not.

COOPER: The recordings from 2014, the year before Donald Trump Sr. announced his candidacy. D. TRUMP: I am officially running for president of the United States.

COOPER: And two years before he finally gave up questioning the president's birth place.

TRUMP: President Barack Obama was born in the United States, period.

COOPER: Trump would go on to falsely claim that he ended the birther controversy by forcing President Obama to release his long form birth certificate back in 2011.

PRES. BARACK OBAMA, UNITED STATES: Yes, in fact, I was born in Hawaii, August 4th, 1961 in Kapi'olani Hospital.

COOPER: But in 2014, his son saw his questioning of the president's birthplace as admirable.

TRUMP JR.: I appreciate someone who has the moral conviction to stand by, you know, a belief. What's wrong with questioning something these days? And, you know, you see it, you know, whether it be political spectrum, whether it be across a racial divide, whether it be -- it's being increasingly difficult for, you know, now again, I mean, this is coming from -- I'm the white privileged son of a rich guy. Right? There is a point where I'm not even allowed to have this conversation in America today.

There could be, you know, potentially, you know, ramifications to his business for taking these stances. And again, he's got the conviction to say, "That's fine. I don't care. This is what I believe in. And to me, you know, as an American, that is a very powerful thing. And that's a very, it is a very admirable quality.

COOPER: Ironically, one argument Donald Jr. makes against President Obama is the same used to question his father's fitness for the Oval Office.

TRUMP JR.: ... a Community Organizing is a phenomenal position, but like, you're giving that guy the nuclear football? Well, you know, I don't know.

COOPER: And more than three hours of audio provide an early window into Donald Trump, an unpredictable candidate like no other.

D'ANTONIO: Does he understand that there is, I don't know, half the people out there who sort of have this weird opinion of him or think he's sort of a buffoon? Or think he's sort of a -- does he recognize that? Or does -- because I get the sense sometimes he thinks, I mean, really, everybody kind of -- there are people who hate him. But there's people ...

TRUMP JR.: I think, you know, if you're asking, "Do I think that he knows that he is a polarizing guy? Yes. I think the answer is 100 percent. Do I think he cares? No.

COOPER: On the tapes, his children, Donald Jr, Eric, and Ivanka can find little fault with their father. ERIC TRUMP, DONALD TRUMP'S SON: There's very few times in life when you come across a person who has never failed at anything that they've ever really done.

I. TRUMP: He is who he is. He is going to say exactly what he is thinking. He doesn't need to hear what the question is or the story is in advance sohe can craft an answer.

COOPER: From the tapes, it seems that even a year before Trump declared his candidacy, he and his family had their eyes on going all the way to Election Day.

TRUMP JR.: You can't run a primary and be incredibly right or left and then for the general, "We have to -- well, we've changed our views miraculously in the last 72 hours since we became the front-runner because now we have to have, you know, a view that appeases, you know, more of the centrist. You know, it doesn't work. And so he's not willing to bastardize hi beliefs for a bottom line, to appease, you know, a majority of the population.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

COOPER: And Trump biographer, Michael D'Antonio, joins us again tonight.

It's so interesting, I mean, the sort of the loyalty, at least, the public loyalty that all the kids have. I mean, clearly, you know, they had differences when they were younger, I mean, that have been well talked about and publicized. But now, there -- the sort of unified block and the kids are sort of cut -- so seem to be kind of cut from the same cloth or trying to be.

D'ANTONIO: Well, from the same (inaudible) colored marble at Trump Tower, you know, they really -- it is an us against the world kind of thing and it includes their business, you know, they're all in the family business. Two of three Trump kids went to Penn, so they have the same Ivy League affiliation. They even seem to have the same political beliefs. Although, I think there's a generational divide that's not been voiced by the younger generation. I think their attitudes are probably quite different.

COOPER: It was also interesting to hear Donald Trump Jr. defending his dad on the whole Obama birther controversy years after President Obama, you know, put out his birth certificate.

D'ANTONIO: Right. It's 100 percent. And I think even, this probably, in 2014, they were pretty sure they were going to run. And it's funny Donald said to me that based on Twitter, he was making the decision to run. And I said, well nobody is ridiculous enough to base a decision to run for president on Twitter. But the whole family was behind this. And I think they imagined much of what's happened today.

[21:25:10] COOPER: There also -- I mean, all the things about like winning, all the sort of the values that Donald Trump clearly, you know, puts everything into. I'm not sure value is the right word, but sort of the idea of winning. It seems like they are all about that too. I mean they all seem to have like there -- you know, Ivanka Trump has her own brand. She's marketing things, even, you know, with the clothes that she's wearing in public events so you can buy on, you know, and she tweets about that.

D'ANTONIO: There is a family perspective on life, a family perspective on business. Although I thought it was interesting that Don Jr. warned about the business problem that's could arise if you run for president and they really are seeing it now.

The younger generation talked to me about taking the brand in a different direction once their father was gone. Now they wanted to broaden the appeal, make it, you know, more than just a third of the country that sell to but the whole country. And I think that's been lost to them.

COOPER: Well, the other question is how does it affect, you know, Ivanka Trump who has been developing her own brand the sort of a, you know, young entrepreneur woman empowering women? How this has affected in the short term and in the long term?

D'ANTONIO: Well, she is in a terrible spot. If you think about the civil rights era and there were children of parents who expressed bigoted ideas. And those children woke up against it and identified themselves as part of something new and better. We're now in an era when bigotry based on gender or sexual orientation or all kinds of things is off the agenda. Nobody does that. But they've got a father who's expressing these very old-fashioned ideas. He's surrounded by other men, 70 plus, who are expressing similar ideas. It's not modern. And it's bad for their brand.

COOPER: It's basically not the brand that Ivanka Trump has been trying to develop.

D'ANTONIO: No, it's very destructive to her.

COOPER: Is there anything that really surprised you about them, about his -- their relationship with their dad?

D'ANTONIO: Well, I -- the level of worship. You know, they occupy offices one floor below his. And when they talk about him, they say he. And it's almost like they're praying to the heaven. And I think that they really do look to him for almost everything. And it makes some sense. They were a very embattled family when they were young.

COOPER: Right.

D'ANTONIO: And the kids banded together when they were young and I think they're together now. They're very supportive of each other, very supportive of their parent.

COOPER: It is also -- I mean, look, they're playing a kids from well off families who have not, you know, who fall by the way side and they have been very successful in many -- in however you define success, frankly.

D'ANTONIO: They're steady. COOPER: Right.

D'ANTONIO: They know -- and I think that people respect them.

COOPER: They have families of their own.

D'ANTONIO: Their family lives are exemplary, especially when compared with Donald.

COOPER: Right.

D'ANTONIO: You know, so they are a new generation of Trumps. It's just how will they fare if this doesn't work out well?

COOPER: It's fascinating. Michael D'Antonio, thank you so much, really great talking to you.

D'ANTONIO: Thank you.

COOPER: Just ahead, we're going to hear from some of Hillary Clinton's most committed supporters and one Florida's reddest counties. They're lifelong Republicans who've banded together to make sure Donald Trump doesn't win their crucial state.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

[21:32:16] COOPER: Some more breaking news tonight. A new Bloomberg Selzer poll shows Donald Trump now leading Hillary Clinton in Florida by two points, 45 percent to 43 percent in a four-way race. Florida, of course, crucial for Trump, he himself has called it a must-win state. Without its 29 electoral votes, he has virtually no path to 270.

Now, if Trump does win Florida, it will be without the support of some of the reddest Republicans, at least, until now. Randi Kaye, tonight reports.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

RANDI KAYE, CNN CORRESPONDENT: How many of you are lifelong registered Republicans? And how many of you are voting for Hillary Clinton?

In Sumter County, Florida, one of the reddest counties in the state, these five lifelong Republicans are not voting that way come November 8th.

LINDA FOGG, REPUBLICANS FOR HILLARY: A year ago, if you had told me I was voting for Hillary Clinton, I would have said absolutely not. There is no way that will ever happen.

KAYE: But that's exactly what is happening. Linda Fogg is so turned off by Donald Trump. She started a group called Republicans for Hillary. Dozens of neighbors have joined her.

Her husband Don Fogg had a disabled niece and wrote Trump off after he says Trump mocked a disabled reporter. But he also thinks Trump is weak on **immigration**.

DON FOGG, REPUBLICANS FOR HILLARY: It's impractical to deport that many people. It feeds on a fear that people have that **immigration** is bad for the country and is taking my job away, which is not accurate.

KAYE: Ed Mercer has voted Republican since 1972. But just this week voted Democratic on his entire ballot.

ED MERCER, REPUBLICANS FOR HILLARY: I am not some gigantic Hillary Clinton fan. I am not a socialist. I am not a big Democratic fan.

KAYE: Where do you think Donald Trump is weak?

MERCER: My fear of Donald Trump was his anti-trade rhetoric and his tax cut proposals. Because he is going to take the little foundation we have globally and just crumble it. And I don't know what that recovery will look like.

KAYE: This retired economist compared both candidates economic platforms, looking closely at their tax and spend policies and decided to vote Clinton.

DONNA THOMPSON, REPUBLICANS FOR HILLARY: I realized that what Hillary Clinton was putting forth in her platform was more doable.

KAYE: This group calls Trump's idea of a wall at the southern border impractical and none of them thinks Trump is cut out to handle ISIS either.

D. FOGG: Him saying I know more than the generals do. That's another blow hard tactic. And, you know, he throws out these generalizations that when you dig into them, there's nothing behind them.

KAYE: And for this group it's about how Trump treats others especially women whom they believe he doesn't respect. They cite the "Access Hollywood" tape.

[21:34:59] THOMPSON: I was offended by the language. I raised three sons, and to the best of my knowledge they would never talk about women in that way. Otherwise, they'd have me to answer to.

KAYE: And the growing number of women who've come forward accusing Trump of touching them inappropriately.

He's denying it though. You don't believe him?

L. FOGG: No, of course, I don't. He told us who he was many times by his comments. And now women come forward to verify, yes, that's who he is. And we're shocked?

(END VIDEO CLIP)

COOPER: Randi joins me now from Orlando. I noticed there were two women in the group you spoke with. Are they voting Clinton because they want to see a woman as president? KAYE: Actually, Anderson, they don't really care about that. They don't care about seeing the first woman president. They prefer to have a Republican in the White House even if it means a male president. They just want to make sure that that if it was a man, that he was qualified. And they don't think that Donald Trump is qualified.

Right now, they're OK with Hillary Clinton. They think that she has become more moderate and they consider themselves moderate Republicans so they are OK with that.

But I did I ask Linda Fogg, the head of the group, why not vote for Gary Johnson or maybe another party? And she said, you know what, this is a swing state Florida, every vote counts. She wants to make sure that Hillary Clinton gets enough votes, enough electoral votes to shut down Donald Trump in the state of Florida and deny him the presidency, Anderson.

COOPER: Randi, thank -- Randi, thanks very much.

A lot to discuss now with Maggie Haberman and Gloria Borger. Let's focus on Florida.

I mean, Gloria, in general, what are you going to be watching in Florida over the next two weeks?

GLORIA BORGER, CNN CHIEF POLITICAL ANALYST: I'm going to be looking for the percentage of Republicans who are going to be voting for Donald Trump. I just got off the phone with a lifelong Republican. Very involved in Florida state politics who has decided to hold his nose and vote for Hillary Clinton.

And we were talking about Mitt Romney last time. In 2012, Mitt Romney lost by a about a little under 1 percent of the vote. A battle ground state. Mitt Romney had over 90 percent of Republicans with him, 92-93 percent. Right now, if you look at the polling. Donald Trump has about 85 percent of Republicans with him. He needs to get a larger group of Republicans to go with him and say, "OK, I might not love you but I'm going to vote for you." In that sense, Marco Rubio might help him. Because maybe people who like Marco Rubio will also then decide to vote for Donald Trump. So, that's what I'm going to be looking for.

COOPER: Maggie, how about you?

HABERMAN: Very much everything Gloria said. I think the early vote tallies and how they're going to breakdown in terms of Democratic counties versus Republican counties is a key to watch. There's a Democratic strategist who a bunch of us talk to frequently who says particularly watch Hillsborough County. It's the county that voted for Obama twice. It voted for President Bush twice. They are -- Democrats are ahead in early voting there. I think it's roughly 7 percent or something like that. These are not huge margins right now, but given that voting has begun already. Given that people are watching what is happening every day in the race, if those numbers don't start creeping up for Republicans that is problematic. COOPER: And Gloria, I mean is Trump in Florida, is Trumps easiest path to victory a depressed vote for Secretary Clinton that the people just don't turn out and the number that the Clinton campaign needs?

BORGER: Well, he can hope for that, but to get out the vote effort on the Clinton campaign is supposed to be pretty good. I think what he has to do is convince those voters who might stay at home because they don't like either choice, to come with him. And I think that they've got some work to do on that front.

Again, I think Marco Rubio can help him. But this Republican I was talking to tonight was interesting on the subject, he said, look, I'm voting against Donald Trump the way I feel like I can atone for my sin is also to vote for Marco Rubio. So he believes that in a sense, some of these anti-Trump Republicans could actually help Marco Rubio win.

COOPER: Gloria Borger, thank you. Maggie Haberman as well. Thanks very much.

Just ahead, for at least the 30th time, Trump's campaign trail merges with him promoting his businesses. This time a new hotel, but he's also talked about everything from wine to -- well he said were Trump steaks. They were steaks being sold in a Trump Mar-a-Lago. But they weren't actually Trump stakes.

Anyway, now with the presidency at stake, what effect will all this have on the brand? Donald Trump spent so much time building, next.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

[21:43:15] COOPER: As we reported, Donald Trump had an event today. Among them are political events, he had an event that was not focused on the battleground states where he's having trouble on some of the polls, but on opening his new hotel in Washington. Dana Bash asked him about it and a lot more.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

BASH: ... to people who say you're taking time out of swing states to go do this, you say?

D. TRUMP: I say the following. You have been covering me for the last long time. I did yesterday eight stops and three major speeches, and I've been doing this for weeks straight. I left here -- I left there for an hour and a half. I'm going to North Carolina right now, then I'm going to Florida, I'm going up to New Hampshire.

For you to ask me that question is actually very insulting, because Hillary Clinton does one stop and then she goes on and sleeps. And yet you'll ask me that question. I think it's a very rude question, to be honest with you.

And what I do is I want to back my children. My children work very hard, Ivanka in particular. And, at the opening of the hotel, I want to back my children. It's very important to me. So we had a ribbon cutting which is very quick and I stopped in D.C. But the real key to this is, I want the American people to understand that, this is under budget, ahead of schedule. And we need that for ...

BASH: And I'd -- just so, you know, I've been reporting on the fact that you're going to North Carolina for a couple stops straight from here.

For my next question is, there's a new poll in Florida that has you up a couple of points. Other swing states have you really in the hunt. Given that, are you prepared to write a check ...

TRUMP: Sure.

BASH: ... to help yourself get over to finish line? And if so, how big? And I'm talking about advertising.

TRUMP: Let me just tell you -- let me just tell you that we have -- I have over $100 million in the campaign. Hillary Clinton has nothing in the campaign. She is all special interests and donors and they give her the money and then she will do whatever they tell her to do. But, I will have over $100 million in the campaign and I'm prepared to go much more than that.

[21:45:05] Now, here's the question. New polls are coming out, we're leading Florida, we're doing great in North Carolina, we're doing great in Pennsylvania, we're doing great all over. We're doing really well in New Hampshire, Ohio, as you know, and Iowa, are doing fantastically well. I'm telling you, CNN doesn't say it, but I think we're going to win.

BASH: So, but to do that you have a pretty big bank account, and time is running out. The clock is ticking.

TRUMP: It's OK.

BASH: Will you write a check and ...

TRUMP: I've already done it. I've already written a number of it.

BASH: But I mean specifically to get up on the air ...

TRUMP: Sure.

BASH: ... to combat the ads ...

TRUMP: Sure.

BASH: ... that you say Hillary Clinton is running against you.

TRUMP: In fact -- well, in Florida, she has 50 to 1 against me. Fifty. You were the one that told me that.

BASH: But you have the means to combat that.

TRUMP: Well, in the meantime -- sure I do. But in the meantime, 50 to 1 and I'm leading. How would you have spent -- you know, in the old days, you'd get credit if you would spend less money and have victory. That would be a good thing. Today, they want you to spend money. I'll have over $100 million. I'm willing to spend much more than that if I have to.

I'm seeing just great signs. You know, one of the other things we're seeing Florida, we're seeing it in other places, the lines going into voting booths, going to voting areas, are unbelievable. I mean, in Florida, yesterday, we passed four of them, the lines were three and four blocks long. Those are not her voters because her voters have no enthusiasm whatsoever.

BASH: Can you just be specific how much are you willing to ...

TRUMP: No ...

BASH: ... put up new ads.

TRUMP: No. I will have over $100 million in, I'm willing to invest more than that.

BASH: Like how much?

TRUMP: Don't -- let's go with your next question, Dana.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

COOPER: That is Dana Bash and Donald Trump at his hotel opening. This is at least the 30th time the Trump's campaign trail has done double duty as advertising for his businesses. Tom Foreman takes a look.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

TOM FOREMAN, CNN CORRESPONDENT: From the beginning, Trump's brand has been all over his presidential bid. References to his T.V. show, properties, helicopters and hotels.

It all started when he announced his candidacy with an escalator ride at his corporate headquarters and a shout out to himself.

TRUMP: It's great to be at Trump tower. It's great to be in a wonderful city, New York.

FOREMAN: And it has never stopped. And Trump (inaudible) of slew of Super Tuesday wins. He celebrated by plugging his private club in the Sunshine State.

TRUMP: It's so great to be in Florida. It's so great to be at Mar-a- Lago with friends and the press and the media and everybody.

FOREMAN: That's where he accepted the endorsement of rival Ben Carson too.

TRUMP: I brought some things up.

FOREMAN: On one primary night he trotted out a series of products his company either makes or once made, including steaks, bottled water, an airline, a magazine.

TRUMP: ... a magazine, it's great. Anybody wants around here, take one.

FOREMAN: Then he was off to open his new resort in Scotland where he had a little to say about the Brexit vote which had just occurred.

TRUMP: So, I wish everybody a lot of luck.

FOREMAN: But much more to say about his golf course.

TRUMP: And we have then number 11 which is a spectacular hole.

FOREMAN: Time after time, Trump has used politics to push his brand and his brand to push his politics, even in every debate.

TRUMP: I have a tremendous income. I have a very, very great balance sheet. And if we could run our country the way I run my company, we would have a company that you would be so proud of.

FOREMAN: Linking it all together however is risky. His tweet pushing for Latino voters while promoting Trump tower taco bowls blew up into an internet joke and in deed some have backed away from trading with Trump. And others who object to his policies want boycott of his business. It's too soon to know if it will last, but.

DANIEL MCGINN, TMG STRATEGIES, CEO: It's a different brand. There's no question about it.

FOREMAN: Daniel again advises companies on reputation and brand marketing.

MCGINN: The assumption is I think from many people, he's going to lose. And he's got a damage brand that needs to be rebuilt.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

FOREMAN: Trump has always said his name alone is worth a fortune. But you can take that as it will. Just last month the Trump hotel announced that their latest hotel brand will not bear the candidate's name, but instead will be called Scion. Anderson?

COOPER: Tom, thanks very much.

Just ahead, a major announcement by the Pentagon about the mountains of debt thousands of soldiers are facing after being ordered to payback bonuses they earned a decade ago.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

[21:53:14] COOPER: An update on a story that sparked a lot of outranges. Our senior investigator correspondent, Drew Griffin, reported Monday. Thousands of California National Guard members have been ordered to payback bonuses they received a decade ago for reenlisting.

The Pentagon blaming the take backs on crooked enlistment officers improperly awarding million dollars and bonuses. Well, today, facing growing pressure, Defense Secretary Ashton Carter suspended all efforts to reclaim the bonuses until the review is completed.

Presidential election understandably dominating the news spotlight right now, though, we want to focus on another important vote. It's time for you to help choose the CNN Hero of the Year. Voting begin just today.

The top 10 CNN heroes for 2016 were chosen from thousands of nominations from viewers like you-all around the world. You can vote for your favorite hero @cnnheroes.com, through Facebook messenger and on Twitter. And unlike the presidential election, you can vote up to 10 times a day per method. Voting ends on December 6 at midnight Pacific Time.

Here are the 10 top finalists.

In Columbia, Jeison Aristizabal hasn't let cerebral palsy stop him from giving thousands of young people with disability a brighter future.

Brad Ludden, is a former professional kayaker who brings life changing outdoor adventures to young adults with cancer.

Since 2007, San Francisco, Sherri Franklin has rescued nearly 4,000 senior dogs and found them forever homes.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: He's adopted.

COOPER: Umra Omar travels by boat, road, and air, bringing free medical care to thousands of people living near the Kenya-Somalia borders.

Luma Mufleh, is a Jordanian **immigrant** helping young survivor of war adopt to their new home in the United States through education and soccer.

[21:55:01] UNIDENTIFIED MALE: What are you going to do to (inaudible) like?

COOPER: In Chicago, Sheldon Smith is breaking the cycle of absentee fathers by helping young dads become positive role models.

Rebecca Stevens, she's dedicated her life to helping women escape addiction, trafficking, and prostitution.

In Los Angeles, Georgie Smith turns make-shift spaces into dream homes for young people who've aged out of the foster care system.

GEORHIE SMITH, CNN TOP 10 FINALIST: Three.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKERS: Home.

HARRY SWIMMER, CNN TOP 10 FINALIST: Take your reins.

COOPER: At 86 years old, Harry Swimmer using his horse farm to give special needs kids a leg up.

And in Richmond, Virginia, cycling coach Craig Dodson mentors the most out-risk youth living in Richmond public housing.

Start voting now. Don't forget to share your votes on Facebook and Twitter. We'll announce the CNN Hero of the Year on December 11th, 8:00 p.m. Eastern and Pacific Time this year. I'll be co-hosting our live event CNN Heroes and all-start tribute with the great Kelly Ripa. So, I'm very excited about that. We'll be right back.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

[22:00:00] COOPER: And that does it for us. What a night. "CNN TONIGHT" with Don Lemon starts now.

**NEW\_DOCUMENT\_HERE**

Anderson Cooper, John King, Dana Bash, Maggie Haberman, Jeffrey Lord, Scottie Nell Hughes, Corey Lewandowski, Jim Scuitto, Gloria Borger, Carl Bernstein, Ana Navarro, Amanda Carpenter, Kayleigh McEnany

speakers\_end

[20:00:14] ANDERSON COOPER, CNN ANCHOR: Good evening. Thanks for joining us.

Another big night ahead, including never before heard interviews, Donald Trump's kids telling a biographer about the father they know, including their take on some of his most controversial statements.

But, first, with the Trump underway in North Carolina right now, a fresh batch of polling that opens a new window on where the battle for the White House now stands less than two weeks from Election Day. Together, they raise the question, is this election closer than we've been thinking? Or is this one of those days when a few points of random variation just makes it seem that way?

CNN "INSIDE POLITICS" anchor John King joins us to break it down by the numbers.

So, John, new polling tonight. Some significant gains it seems for Trump. What exactly is changing?

JOHN KING, CNN CHIEF NATIONAL CORRESPONDENT: It is tighter, Anderson. We should not be surprised. Remember the country we have lived in the last 20 years, it should not be a surprise that this race gets tight as it gets to the end.

A new FOX national poll out tonight shows Hillary Clinton up just three points. Let's average that out, as we'd be smart to do, don't focus on just one poll -- when you average out the recent national polls, we have Hillary Clinton with a six point lead. That is still a commanding lead in this race nationally, but it's down from eight or nine just a few days ago because the new national polls show a tighter race.

Now, some of the state polls get more interesting. You say, does Donald Trump have a chance as we have 12 more days of campaigning? Look at these numbers in Florida tonight. Other polls have shown Secretary Clinton ahead in Florida in recent days.

But new Bloomberg poll, Donald Trump up, 45-43. Now, statistically, that's a tie, within the margin of error. But it does seem to indicate some Trump momentum in a state -- he just spent three days there -- in a state he absolutely has to win.

And, Anderson, when you look closer into this Bloomberg poll, it tells you a lot about the challenge for the candidates, heading into these final 12 days of campaigning after tonight. If this issue is about the economy and about changing Washington, look at this, Donald Trump has lopsided edges when voters are asked who is best on those issues. If he can focus on the economy and changing Washington, that gives him standing in the race.

If this is about who has the temperament to be president, who's the role model for our children, who's the best commander in chief -- well, that's Hillary Clinton's wheelhouse, which is why you hear her repeatedly saying Donald Trump is unfit. So, how the candidates frame this election in the final days could go a long way in telling us how tight this gets.

Let's look at battleground New Hampshire. And we skip here, touch Maine instead. Some conflicting advice out of New Hampshire tonight when you look at the polling.

A Monmouth University poll shows some Trump momentum, down to a four- point race. She had been well ahead. But at NBC/"Wall Street Journal" poll still shows a nine-point lead. So, we'll keep an eye on New Hampshire, some volatile in the polling there.

One more, Anderson, I want to get to, out in Nevada, Hillary Clinton thought a week ago this state was moving her way. She was about to put it away. But new NBC/"Wall Street Journal" out tonight shows a tie, 43 percent to 43 percent.

So, if you look at Nevada, you look at Florida, you look at the tightening national perspective -- no question, Donald Trump can claim some momentum. How much momentum? We'll filter through that in the next few days.

COOPER: So, do the better numbers give Trump a clear path to 270 electoral both?

KING: Clearer path, yes. Steep path still, dramatically.

Let me go to the other map and show this. I just want to show you this through.

We still have Secretary Clinton with an overwhelming edge when you go state by state. Dark blue, solid Democrats. Light blue, lean Democrat. But we're going to have to look at Nevada and Florida over the next couple of days.

If those numbers are right, we have Nevada leaning blue. What if Donald Trump can take it away? Now, we'll put it back to the tossup first if we do. But I'm going to give it to Donald Trump just for the sake of this map.

If Donald Trump is moving in Nevada and can hold that state, Florida is the most important state for Donald Trump, 29 electoral votes. If that vote tonight is correct, not an outlier, and that's moving his way, let's say Donald Trump gets that.

But here's, Anderson, here is how it gets so hard for Donald Trump. Let's say he has that momentum. He still has to be almost more than perfect, if you will, in the final days. He has to win where he is tonight, North Carolina, can't get it to 270 without it. He has to hold Ohio. That's a tie right now, maybe a slight edge for Trump. He has to hold that.

Even if he does that, wins Nevada, not easy. Wins Florida, not easy. Wins North Carolina, not easy. Wins Ohio, not easy. Even Republicans think in these close races, Clinton will win in the end because of the edge in her ground game.

But let's get them to Trump in this math. Why is Mike Pence in Utah tonight? Because they still have a problem in the ruby red west. Hillary Clinton leads in Arizona, Trump must get that back. He must get this one back. She's leading right now.

Even if he does all that, Anderson, and again, that's a perfect, perfect ten days ahead, he's still behind.

So, even if Trump is perfect, even if Republicans come home, even if he wins the close races, he still has a ways to go. So, is it better for Donald Trump tonight? Yes. Is the hill still very steep? Absolutely.

COOPER: Let me ask you, John, why should anyone believe these polls? I mean, if I'm sitting this at home, for the last couple of days, it seems like the Democrats have been crowing about how big things look, you know, cautiously, but still, they seem very optimistic. Suddenly, new poll numbers come out and the race is all of a sudden tightening.

I mean, how accurate are these things?

KING: Don't believe any one poll. Don't believe any one poll. Average them out. Look for trend lines.

What is happening in these polls, though? Remember, the tightening should not surprise people. Donald Trump cratered after that "Access Hollywood" tape came out.

[20:05:00] A lot of Republicans from Donald Trump. In the days since, a lot of those Republicans have come home. We live in a very evenly divided country. Republicans have come home. So, Donald Trump is back in play.

There is skepticism about the polls but these are professionals. Again, don't believe one. Average them out. Strap in, we got 12 days to go.

COOPER: All right. Strap in. John King, thanks very much.

Donald Trump, as we said, campaigning tonight in North Carolina. He is back in a battleground state, where GOP strategist want him to be after a detour to Washington, where attended a ribbon cutting at his new hotel, in the old Post Office building, just down Pennsylvania Avenue, from the House.

That is where CNN chief political correspondent Dana Bash managed to pull him aside for a rare face-to-face interview.

(BEGIN VIDEOTAPE)

DANA BASH, CNN CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT: First, I want to ask you about your event here. There's a new audio tape of you talking about the fact that you really have relied on your popularity and the fact that people come to your events, and that helps you with free advertising. Is that what this was about?

DONALD TRUMP (R), PRESIDENTIAL NOMINEE: No, not at all. This was just under budget, ahead of schedule. That's what this is. Under budget, ahead of schedule.

We built a hotel that is going to be one of the great hotels of the world. Just opened today. It officially opens today, and we built it for less money than was anticipated and we built it ahead of schedule by over a year.

And if the country would do that, we would have a country that would be in much better shape than it's -- you know, highways, they build highways for double and triple the cost, they build hospitals --

BASH: And so, to people who say, you're taking time out of swing states to go do this, you say --

TRUMP: I say the following. You have been covering me for the last -- long time. I did yesterday eight stops and three major speeches, and I've been doing this for weeks straight. I left there for an hour and a half. I'm going to North Carolina right now, then I'm going to Florida, I'm going up to New Hampshire.

For you to ask me that question is actually very insulting, because Hillary Clinton does one stop and then she goes home and sleeps, and yet you'll ask me that question. I think it's a very rude question, to be honest with you.

And what I do is I want to back my children. My children worked very hard, Ivanka in particular. And at the opening of the hotel, I want to back my children. It's very important to me.

So, we had a ribbon cutting, which was very quick, and I stopped in D.C. But the real key to this is, I want the American people to understand that this is under budget, ahead of schedule, and we need that for the United States.

BASH: And just so you know, I've been reporting on the fact that you're going to North Carolina for a couple of stops straight from here. But my next question is, there is a new poll in Florida that has you up a couple of points. Other swing states have you really in the hunt.

Given that, are you prepared to write a check to help yourself get over the finish line, and if so, how big? And I'm talking about advertising.

TRUMP: Let me just tell you that we have -- I'll have over $100 million in the campaign. Hillary Clinton has nothing in the campaign. She's all special interests and donors and they're giving her money, then she will do whatever they tell her to do.

But I will have over $100 million in the campaign, and I'm prepared to go much more than that.

Now, here's the question. New polls are coming out, we're leading Florida, we're doing great in North Carolina, we're doing great in Pennsylvania, we're doing great all over. We're doing really well in New Hampshire, Ohio, as you know, and Iowa, are doing fantastically well.

I'm telling you, CNN doesn't say it, but I think we're going to win.

BASH: So, but to do that, you have a pretty big bank account, you can -- and time is running out. The clock is ticking. Will you write a check --

TRUMP: I've already written a number of them.

BASH: But specifically to get up on the air to combat the ads that you say Hillary Clinton is running against you?

TRUMP: Well, in Florida, she has 50 to 1 against me. Fifty. You were the one that told me that.

BASH: But you have the means to combat that.

TRUMP: Sure I do. But in the meantime, 50 to 1 and I'm leading. How would you like to have spent -- you know, in the old days, you'd get credit if you would spend less money and have victory. That would be a good thing.

Today, they want you to spend money. I'll have over $100 million. I'm willing to spend much more than that if I have to. I'm seeing just great signs.

You know, one of the other things we're seeing in Florida, we're seeing it in other places, the lines going into voting booths, going into voting areas, are unbelievable. I mean, in Florida, yesterday, we passed four of them, the lines were three and four blocks long. Those are not her voters, because her voters have no enthusiasm whatsoever.

BASH: Can you just be specific how much are you willing to put down in order to put up new ads?

TRUMP: No, I will have over $100 million in, I'm willing to invest more than that.

BASH: Like how much?

TRUMP: Don't -- let's go with your next question, Dana. BASH: OK. Well, my last question, because I'm getting the hook over here, is -- in this speech here, you talked about the fact that this is the second best piece of real estate on Pennsylvania Avenue. In 14 days, are you hoping that you're going to be spending after that more time here or down the street?

TRUMP: Well, look, I just hope that -- I built a great company. This is truly a great company. Some of the great assets of the world. Not only in our country but in other countries.

And I predicted Brexit. You were one of the people that asked me about Brexit.

[20:10:00] And I said it's going to happen. I'm not even saying this is Brexit. But I think the result is going to be the same if not more so.

We are going to have I think a tremendous victory. People don't want four more years of Obama. They don't want Hillary with all of the corruption and all of the problems and you see all of these WikiLeaks coming out and they're a disaster.

And when you see John Podesta, who I think is terrible, the way he speaks about her, but that she has bad instincts, John Podesta saying the person he works for has bad instincts, I think it's terrible. But so many other things, even worse than is about her honesty and her dishonesty.

I really think that we're going to have a tremendous victory. And you know what? If I didn't think that, I would say we're going to be fighting hard. Now, we will be fighting hard, but I believe we're winning. I actually think we're winning.

I don't even think it's a question of we're going to try and win. You start looking into the polls, what's happening, and more importantly, starting looking at all the people going to vote and sending in their ballots, we're way ahead on virtually every state, every area. And I think we're going to have a great victory.

BASH: Thank you, Mr. Trump.

TRUMP: Thank you.

BASH: Thank you for your time, I appreciate it.

TRUMP: Thank you.

BASH: Thank you.

(END VIDEOTAPE)

COOPER: And Dana Bash joins us now.

So, why were you pressing him on whether or not he'll write a check? Explain the significance of that. BASH: It's because I have heard more and more frustration from Republicans, Anderson, who want Donald Trump to win, who think he can win, that he is sort of fighting with one hand tied behind his back in that as he even admitted to me, he is being sort of outspent or outgunned by Hillary Clinton on the air in these really hard-hitting television ads against him, especially in places like Florida.

So, the complaint among these Republicans is, you know, he has the means to go up with his own ads, hitting her, to have a fair fight. In fact, Anderson, I was told that earlier this month the RNC chairman, Reince Priebus, went to him and said, please, Mr. Trump, you've got to get out that bank account and add to -- yes, he's already given tens of millions of dollars, tens of millions, but even give more because it is such a nontraditional campaign that he is running. He's self-financed in the primary, he's been raising money alongside the RNC, but he's sort of in never-never land when it comes to the fundraising mechanism, certainly way different than any modern day Republican or any presidential candidate has had.

So, that is the reason. It is because people think this is doable, it is gettable, but he needs to be fighting a fair fight. And for somebody like Donald Trump, that means put your own money in.

COOPER: All right. Dana Bash -- Dana, thanks.

Let's bring in the panel, Clinton supporters Jonathan Tasini and Karine Jean-Pierre. Jonathan is a political strategist, host of the Working Life podcast. Karine is the national spokesperson for MoveOn.org. Also with us, "New York Times" presidential campaign correspondent Maggie Haberman.

And to my left, Trump supporters, Jeffrey Lord, Scottie Nell Hughes and Corey Lewandowski.

So, Maggie, you heard Donald Trump talking about being willing to put even more money into the race. How much of a difference could that make and do you think he actually would do that?

MAGGIE HABERMAN, CNN POLITICAL ANALYST: With 12 days left, he's talked about a $100 million figure, he's about $60 million, just short of that. So --

COOPER: Sixty million of his own money.

HABERMAN: Of his own money. That would mean another $40 million of his own money in the next 12 days. That's a lot of money that I don't think that's going to happen. He might put in more, I don't think it will reach that amount.

But Dana's reporting is correct. There is a lot of frustration from national Republicans that Trump has not -- he talks about his bank account. He has not put in more of his own money. He has struggled to raise from some of the party's traditional donors who don't like him or don't like his message or who he's criticized.

I don't think it can make much of a difference now. It could have made a difference on television ads and getting to go parity many weeks ago, or on working on the ground game and improving it, or adding additional staff. He has never liked putting in his own money. He did put in a lot more of it than I think people thought he was going to.

COOPER: So, what do you make of those polls? Why do you think they're getting tighter in Florida, for instance?

HABERMAN: I think John is right. I mean, I think that -- among other things, Florida is a tricky state. I mean, President Obama barely won it in 2012. It's important to remember how close it was.

But he's absolutely right, we're in a partisan country. People are looking for a reason to vote either Republican or Democrat.

And you also saw one thing that I think hasn't been talked about much. Clinton started making it more of a partisan race after sort of trying to isolate Trump as not a Republican, he's something different. She's now moved to helping down ballot Democrats, by definition, doing that is going to make the race sort of more partisan and less about wooing independents.

COOPER: Karine, does that worry you that she's focusing on down ballot Democrats?

KARINE JEAN-PIERRE, HILLARY CLINTON SUPPORTER: No, not at all. If anything, she's being smart. She wants to be able govern if she wins.

COOPER: But is it overconfidence?

JEAN-PIERRE: No, I really don't, because if Democrats coming out, it's good for everybody, right? So, I don't think so at all.

But, look, I mean, just going back to the polls for a second, if you look at the CNN polls averaging the polls after polls, she's up by six, which we've got to remember, the president I think won with less than five percentage points. So, six is -- for a divided, polarized country, six is not a bad number.

[20:15:00] I just want to talk about Florida for a second. I think that poll, the Bloomberg poll, is an outlier. I'll say this and the reason why I'm saying this is because Bloomberg is historically known for bad sampling.

The party ID for Republicans is plus four, which can't be the case, because Florida demographics is changing. African-Americans in that poll is at 12. And it should be between 14 and 15. So I think that poll is questionable.

COOPER: I mean, arguably, whatever happens in Florida, there's still a tough path to 270 for Donald Trump. How -- do you think the Democrats getting overconfident?

JEFFREY LORD, CNN POLITICAL COMMENTATOR: Yes, I do. I think they've got two problems. One, they've got the enthusiasm gap problem. And two, I think they're -- they've got this overconfidence problem. And the two of those together can be fatal for them.

What Donald Trump is going for him are the issues and he is getting at these issues every day. And through the gift of the gods, he's getting this gift about Obamacare.

And just giving you an example from Pennsylvania. Penn Live is the online version of the "Harrisburg Patriot-News", featured a story, and they've endorsed Hillary Clinton, featured a story saying Obama insurance rates were going up 33 percent and then went through chapter and verse what that went in the local area.

COOPER: And you think that's sinking in.

LORD: Yes, absolutely.

COOPER: All right. We're going to have more from panel in a sec. We've got to take a quick break.

Just ahead, top Trump surrogate Newt Gingrich tangling with Megyn Kelly over Trump's female accusers? Was it an example of, some are saying, of mansplaining and misogyny? What the encounter and the Trump's praise for Gingrich afterwards could be saying to woman voters. Different opinions ahead.

TRUMP: Defer their dreams to another day and another decade, which is really what they mean. Everywhere I go --

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

COOPER: With only some of the polling turning favorable late today for Donald Trump.

[20:20:01] He's in North Carolina, just wrapping it up tonight.

Back now with our panel.

Corey, I mean, it's always fascinating to me because I remember, I don't know -- I feel like it was eight weeks ago, it was all positive polls for Donald Trump. It seemed like he had momentum. Then all of a sudden, it switched. Now, we see polls getting close again.

I mean, should these polls be believed?

COREY LEWANDOWSKI, CNN POLITICAL COMMENTATOR: Well, look, I think John is right, you have to look at the totality of all the polls to be fair. But I do think that it is unquestionable that Donald Trump needs to win Florida if he has a path to the White House.

COOPER: Right.

LEWANDOWSKI: There's no question about that.

So, what we saw over the last two or three days, he had seven or eight events in Florida, North Carolina today --

COOPER: Do you think him spending time, big events in Florida, that's what's having the impact? Or is it just a natural tightening?

LEWANDOWSKI: It's going to be some of that. I mean, you know, when he gets to a local area and drives that local media coverage, which he does very well, has large rallies, consumes that local media market, that DMA, it's really good for him to get his message out in those areas.

And if you look at some of the places he's been in recently, they've been traditional counties where you have to lock up your vote. It hasn't been Hillsboro County, Florida, which is a bellwether county in the state. But, you know, what we see right there, the recent polls, it's one point race, which means anything can happen.

COOPER: You know, Jonathan, he was getting flack from some for going to the hotel opening. I don't quite understand that. I mean, A, he's able to travel to a lot of different places. It also does, to his point, I mean, you saw him repeat multiple times in that interview, under budget -- you know, on time, under budget. It does sort of reinforce his brand as a -- not a career politician, as a businessman who can do that for the country like he did for his hotel, no?

JONATHAN TASINI, CLINTON SUPPORTER: Actually, the interview, what I got from that, Dana's interview, what I got from that is again, his problem is going to be in the next 13 days is how undisciplined he is. Here he had a chance to talk to the country and he started arguing with Dana about her questions, then talked about Hillary taking a nap.

It does not give the country, viewers, a chance to see somebody talking about the issues that they care about, which I think is number one. Number two, just in terms of Florida, remember, and this is on the CNN website, Democrats are leading dramatically in the early voting. So, 7.3 million Americans have already voted. And aside from Iowa, Democrats are doing far better than they did in 2012, including Florida, where as CNN points out, deeply cut into the traditional Republican advantage in early ballots cast so far.

And the last point I would like to make, what John said about the ground game, we keep forgetting that. In close states, a close election, the ground game the Democrats have is good for at least two or three points in those races.

Hillary Clinton has 80-plus offices in Florida. Donald Trump has nothing. The Democrats have the labor movement in the industrial states, close states. In Nevada, where you have the unions, the casino workers, hotel workers are pulling out people.

And part of that is because of Donald Trump's continuing feud with the Republican establishment. He never put together the ground game. I think that's going to make the difference in the election.

COOPER: Scottie, do you buy that, he just doesn't have the ground game?

SCOTTIE NELL HUGHES, CNN POLITICAL COMMENTATOR: Well, but it depends on what ground game you're talking about. I mean, this shows the difference between the two campaigns. From day one, the Hillary Clinton campaign has a great ground game built on politician. Donald Trump has not built it on politicians, he's built it on the people.

(CROSSTALK)

JEAN-PIERRE: That's not a ground game.

TASINI: Scottie, 80 offices in Florida is not based on politicians, it's based on thousands of volunteers.

(CROSSTALK)

LEWANDOWSKI: Model years ago is a scam. Have you ever walked into Amazon and bought something? Why? Because you don't get to walk in to more store anymore. This notion that you have to have these stores and these offices --

(CROSSTALK)

LEWANDOWSKI: They have cellphones.

TASINI: It's nonsense.

LEWANDOWSKI: They have phones you can call from home. You can do these things over the internet. You don't need to bring people in to have 80 offices around the state. It's ridiculous. You know why? Running the campaign four and eight years ago.

JEAN-PIERRE: Wait. As someone who worked on the 2008 and 2012 campaigns, that's incredibly insulting what you just said.

TASINI: It's dumb, too.

JEAN-PIERRE: It's just not true. Face-to-face, having a face-to-face program, knocking on doors, talking to voters, actually works.

LEWANDOWSKI: It's not right now.

JEAN-PIERRE: It actually does work.

HUGHES: Trump is leading in Florida.

JEAN-PIERRE: That's one outlier. The last 16 out of 17 polls actually showed Hillary Clinton leading by three to four points in Florida.

And look, it's a battleground state. A battleground state is not a red state. It's not a blue state. It's a purple state. It is going to be close in those states.

TASINI: And the reason Democrats had the lead in the early voting is because of that ground game.

JEAN-PIERRE: Exactly.

TASINI: They knock on doors. Sign people up. Those people go and vote.

(CROSSTALK)

LORD: Why am I seeing hundreds and hundreds and hundreds of Trump signs all over -- and one Hillary sign. That's part of the ground game. Where is it?

TASINI: Jeff, OK, how do you explain in the early voting, I'm going to grant you something, let's say the polls are totally wrong, how do you explain that the early voting is overwhelmingly Democratic?

LORD: Why do you assume they're all voting for Hillary?

[20:25:02] TASINI: No, these are Democratic --

LORD: Remember the Reagan Democrats.

TASINI: Now, come on, now we're dealing at the UFO kind of level.

LORD: No, I don't think so.

TASINI: Democratic votes coming out, I'm going to shock you when I say this. Democratic voters who are coming out for early voting are voting for Hillary Clinton.

LORD: You know this.

TASINI: I know this might be a shock.

COOPER: All right.

TASINI: Do you really want to debate that, Jeff?

COOPER: We're going to take a break. We'll debate that during the commercial. A lot more to talk on 360.

We just had new details from the latest trove of stolen Clinton campaign e-mails, including what her staff that you ought about her use of a private e-mail server. Stunning stuff, ahead.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

COOPER: As you know, WikiLeaks has been releasing thousands of hacked e-mails from the Clinton campaign. More than a dozen batches so far. They've been dogging the Clinton campaign everyday for almost a month.

Tonight, there are new details about how key staffers viewed her use of a private e-mail server while secretary of state, plus intriguing if ambiguous references to her head.

CNN's Jim Sciutto has more.

(BEGIN VIDEOTAPE)

HILLARY CLINTON (D), PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE: Wow. JIM SCIUTTO, CNN CHIEF NATIONAL CORRESPONDENT (voice-over): Newly released stolen e-mails show the distress in Hillary Clinton's inner circle the moment the news broke in March 2015. On March 7th, Philippe Reines, one of her longest serving advisers, writing, quote, "There is just no good answer."

[20:30:03] One word per line. Seemingly for emphasis.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: I'm particularly honored that she's here ...

SCUITTO: In other stolen e-mails on March 2nd and 3rd, Neera Tanden, a co-chair of Clinton's transition team expressing to campaign manager John Podesta blistering criticism of Clinton's top aides handling of the private server issue. Why didn't they get this stuff out like 18 months ago? So crazy. And continuing in a follow-up e-mail, I guess I know the answer. Condon wrote, "They wanted to get away with it."

Condon specifically referenced Cheryl Mills, deputy White House council under Bill Clinton and close aid to Hillary Clinton. This is a Cheryl special. Now you love her but this stuff is like her Achilles heel or kryptonite. She just can't say no to this expletive.

The Clinton campaign has not commented on specific e-mails saying they are stolen and they can't verify their authenticity. The U.S. intelligence community blames the Russian state for the hacks which has solely targeted the Democratic Party.

Several hacked e-mails make reference to Clinton's head. Some in the right wing media are drawing connection to her injury based on those e-mails and questioning if she had fully recovered.

In one September 26th, 2015, John Podesta writes to Communications Director Jennifer Palmieri, how bad is her head? Palmieri writes back, don't know. Huma left here about an hour ago. I just pinged again to ask about prep. haven't heard back. Reached by CNN a Clinton campaign official did respond to this e-mail saying, they are clearly about her frame of mind or her mood.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

COOPER: And Jim Sciutto joins us now. So when the Clinton campaign was e-mailing about Clinton's head what was going on in the campaign at the time?

SCUITTO: Well, in that specific instance September 26th, 2015, in that same 24 hour period, AP story broke talking about how the Obama administration had discovered that the Clinton campaign had not released a whole trove of e-mails after the Clinton had said that they had reasonable to make a connection between that story and a campaign advisor asking where her head was on it. There was another exchange related to whether again mentioning her head and I can't believe we're talk about this Anderson but again mentioning her head in relation to whether she had notes on a particular policy issue. Whether she had to follow those notes or just go off script in effect.

You know, listen it's difficult to make a substantive connection between the mention of her head and any specific reference to what her state of mind was or her health was looking at these e-mails frankly doesn't seem to be a lot of there, there.

COOPER: That's a real conversation. Jim Sciutto, thanks very much.

All of this could now for Clinton critics, joining us now CNN chief political analyst Gloria Borger, and journalist author and CNN political analyst Carl Bernstein, his books include "A Woman In Charge: The Life of Hillary Rodham Clinton".

Gloria, I mean the words written by Neera Tanden, I guess I know the answer they wanted to get away with it. It does seem to reinforce the narrative, the Republicans have been reiterating for months and Hillary Clinton knew her e-mail server was wrong and when she got caught her aides, you know, when she got caught she tried to conceal it. Her aides wanted to conceal.

GLORIA BORGER, CNN CHIEF POLITICAL ANALYST: It sure does. And it's a bad story line for her, it continues. And it hasn't seem to move the needle at all Anderson. And maybe it is because it is a little bit at this point, at this late in the game like saying oh there is gambling gong on here in Casablanca. Sure. Of course Hillary Clinton plays by a different set of rules and the people who aren't going vote for her because of the e-mails have already decided to dismiss it.

And so the question is whether more of these revolutions will move the needle more in the future? I kind of tend to doubt it. These issues with Hillary Clinton have been around for a while. Donald Trump has trouble sticking to the script whether is talking about e-mails or talking about ObamaCare premium increases. And so with the different candidate opposing her, it might have made more of a difference but right now I think it's just a little late in the game and this stuff is already baked in.

COOPER: What Carl, I mean one of the other interesting things here there seems -- there was one faction within the Clinton inner circle that wanted more transparency. Wanted her to apologize right away and another faction that wanted her to be hunkered down and try to, you know, weather the storm I guess.

CARL BERNSTEIN, CNN POLITICAL ANALYST: Well, the women who have been around Hillary Clinton for many, many years the so-called Kool-Aid drinkers including Cheryl Mills, they have never wanted any kind of transparency when there has been trouble around Hillary Clinton or Bill Clinton. Whereas those who were charged with winning an election like John Podesta they wanted transparency.

Remember her favorability ratings at this time coming out of being Secretary of State were very high. They wanted her to appear transparent and do away with this old narrative of secrecy and hiding things and covering things up.

[20:35:07] And so they were very frustrated by this. Understandably.

COOPER: Well Gloria, I mean your attended also wrote in the e-mails that Hillary Clinton has in her words terrible instincts. How much does that hurt? I mean Donald Trump is certainly seize on that comment in the last few days understandably.

BORGER: Sure. And, you know, the thing about Neera Tanden's e-mails is that they all actually happened to be true. People who have covered Hillary Clinton and Carl you've written a book about it understand and I think she even said to you that she's not a natural politician like her husband was.

She doesn't have the greatest political instincts. She's a policy person, less than a political person. I think if it were up to Hillary, there would be more secrecy than maybe someone like John Podesta would like. She's been in public life for 30 years. We've all watched her. And Neera is kind of I think there just stating the obvious. And you see this infighting between the folks who have been with Hillary Clinton for a very long time who want to protect her as Carl says. And those who are kind of trying to get her elected president this time. And I think if she is elected, I would presume that this kind of stuff could continue.

COOPER: But Carl, I mean the e-mail from Jen Palmieri, she asked Hillary Clinton or she asked about Hillary Clinton saying, "How bad is her head?" We were talk about that with Jim Sciutto. Are people just going to see what they want in that comment? I mean some might think it is a reference to her health. Others will say it's, you know, her frame of mind.

BERNSTEIN: I think on that particular one, the Alt-Right movement, the Breibart's, the Drudges of the world will see it as they want but I don't think it will have much traction as Jim says.

What's so fascinating about the e-mails are, is that they show us who Hillary Clinton really is in a kind of nuanced way. They are an accurate picture of her. Both good and bad. The e-mails released about the speeches for Goldman Sachs for instance, show her how to be or she once said when she was a college student, a mind conservative and a heart liberal. We see how she likes policy. We see how she wants to have things both ways. There's a lot of nuance in these things. It's a pretty good picture of her and at the same time it is not a flattering picture. And if Donald Trump is going win, perhaps the combination of what's in the e-mails in some ways the unflattering stuff along with the excitement generated by new poll numbers and perhaps some other events, then he might have a slight way toward winning. But this is an advantageous thing for him, no question.

COOPER: Yeah, Gloria, thank you. Carl Bernstein as well.

Coming up, Newt Gingrich telling Megyn Kelly last night that she is fascinated with sex. That is exactly what he said. We'll play you the exchange talk about whether Trump and his surrogates are **alienating** women in general and public women in particular.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

[20:41:57] COOPER: Well Trump surrogate Newt Gingrich went head to head in explosive exchange with Fox News' Megyn Kelly on a program last night. Kelly asked Gingrich about current polling early voting in the battleground states, but the fireworks really flew when she asked about the women who have accused Trump of sexual assault. Take a look.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

NEWT GINGRICH, FORMER HOUSE SPEAKER: Well you want to know why Donald Trump has had a tough time ...

MEGYN KELLY, FOX NEWS ANCHOR: Is Trump is a sexual predator that is?

GINGRICH: He's not a sexual predator.

(CROSSTALK)

GINGRICH: I'm sick and tired of people like you using language that is inflammatory that's not true.

KELLY: Excuse me Mr. Speaker.

GINGRICH: Donald, Donald ...

KELLY: You have no idea whether it's true or not. What we know is that there are ...

GINGRICH: Neither do you.

KELLY: That's right. And I'm not taking a position on it unlike you.

GINGRICH: Yes you are. When you use the word you took a positions ...

KELLY: So what I say is ...

GINGRICH: ... and I think it's very unfair for you do that Megyn.

KELLY: ... incorrect.

GINGRICH: I think that is exactly the bias people are upset by.

KELLY: I think that your defensiveness on this may speak volumes sir.

GINGRICH: Where you want to go back to the tapes of your show recently. You are fascinated with sex and you don't care about public policy. You know, that's what I get out of watching you tonight.

KELLY: You know what Mr. Speaker, I'm not fascinated by sex. But I am fascinated by the protection of women and understanding what we're getting in the Oval Office. And I think the American voters would like to know.

GINGRICH: And therefore we're going send Bill Clinton back to the east wing because after all you are worried about sexual predator. You want a comment on whether the Clinton ticket has a relationship to a sexual predator.

KELLY: We on the "Kelly File" have covered that story as well sir. I will play the poll ...

GINGRICH: I want to hear your words. Bill Clinton sexual predator, I dare you. Say it Bill Clinton sexual predator.

KELLY: Mr. Speaker we covered ...

GINGRICH: Just ...

KELLY: Excuse me sir ...

GINGRICH: That this bar...

KELLY: Excuse me. Excuse me.

GINGRICH: 850,000 on a penalty.

KELLY: Excuse me sir. We on the "Kelly File" have covered the Clinton matter as well. We're going to have to leave it at that. And you can take your anger issues and spend some time working on them Mr. Speaker. Thanks for being here.

GINGRICH: And you too. And you too.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

COOPER: At the opening of his hotel today Trump congratulated Gingrich on that interview.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

DONALD TRUMP, (R) PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE: And by the way, congratulations Newt on last night. That was an amazing interview. That was an amazing.

We don't play games, Newt. Right? We don't play games.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

COOPER: Joining me now a panel there Republican political commentator, Trump supporters, Scottie Nell Hughes, Republican strategist, Ana Navarro who does not support Trump. Trump supporter Kayleigh McEnany and also Amanda Carpenter who run op-ed for the "Washington Post" by the way Trump is conducted his campaign and how she believes its affected Republican women.

Amanda, you actually wrote about Newt Gingrich in that "Washington Post". What do you make of that exchange last night?

AMANDA CARPENTER, WASHINGTON POST OP-ED: Well, another example of this unique ability that I think Trump has in bringing out the worst in people. In that clip you saw Newt act condescending. Shake his finger. And Megyn Kelly is particular figure of interest in this political cycle because she of course was the one who was the first to really publicly question Donald Trump about the sexist statements that he has made to women. And they have been hung up about that. They have targeted her again and again, labeled -- Donald Trump used his massive platform to label her a bimbo.

[20:45:01] And then you see Newt Gingrich shake his finger to -- at her saying she's obsessed with something she's clearly not. He is questioning her ability to cover a story. They've been trying to take her down as a journalist many, many times and it just played out spectacularly last night on Fox News.

COOPER: Scottie, I mean for Newt Gingrich to accuse Megyn Kelly as being fascinated by sex. I mean this is the guy who's went on his third marriage. Cheated on his first two wives, and was having an affair when he was impeaching Bill Clinton. Was in -- isn't that right?

HUGHES: Well he is a -- he was -- he is (inaudible) throw stones across word for anyone of us right now. I think what you saw last night was two people very passionate about the positions that they have had, that shows we're 13 days out from this election and that was a conversation I think that's happening at dinner tables across the United States right now.

COOPER: Right, but just I mean again to accused for a male like him with his record on relationships, to accuse Megyn Kelly as being fascinated by sex just seems a particularly ironic.

HUGHES: His main point was a point out media biased and right now what sort journalists ...

COOPER: I didn't hear the word ...

HUGHES: Well he did. He said certain journalists are focusing, look at the stories your focusing on, the time you spend on it, my -- and then look at the stories that actually do matter. Like her pay for play speeches that are happening. That something you know.

And that was the point of that entire interaction. And it was very uncomfortable to watch. It'll be the first to admit it. Those two are probably very good friends up until last night. They'll be friends again but this is a conversation that divide that's happening amongst the Republican Party, and we at least have to -- we at least have to respect that at least the conversation is happening and hopefully it won't be too damaging.

COOPER: Ana?

ANA NAVARRO, REPUBLICAN STRATEGIST: You said ironic. I think the word you were looking for is hypocritical.

COOPER: That would be another word.

NAVARRO: Yes, that would be another word. Now let's remember that Newt Gingrich's wife when he was running in 2012 told all of us, told the media. Said it in public, said it to a camera, that Newt Gingrich offered her the choice between an open marriage or a divorce. So maybe, just maybe, just maybe if all of that baggage is on your shoulders, maybe you shouldn't be the surrogate out there wagging your finger and accusing the woman who was reporting on sexual assault but it's also -- let me explain it slowly. Sexual assault and sex are two different things. One is unwanted. One is wanted. So maybe they need to understand that to begin with. But as not conflate sexual assault and sex. And if you are going to get a surrogate to speak on it and wag his finger on national TV, maybe, just maybe go find the pope or somebody that's been on his knees in a chapel for the last 20 years. Not Newt Gingrich.

COOPER: Kayleigh, was it a mistake for Donald Trump to at his event today single out Newt Gingrich talk about the interview last night?

KAYLEIGH MCENANY, TRUMP SUPPORTER: Not in the slightest, because I think we're really misreading this conversation. And I quite frankly think this entire panel discussion is emblematic of America's frustration with what's going on now. We're having conversations right now about Newt Gingrich's sexual indiscretion, about Donald Trump's that feels like the National Enquirer, quite frankly. Voters in every focus group tell us, we want to hear about the issues. So when Newt Gingrich said last night you're obsessed with sex. He is meaning the media. You were obsessed with sex. We want hear about public policy, voters tell us that ...

COOPER: I think he's talking about Megyn Kelly, because he then said I've seen your show ...

MCENANY: Right.

COOPER: ... you know, all you have been covering lately is sex stuff.

MCENANY: As an example of what the mainstream media is doing.

COOPER: Right.

MCENANY: He was ambled (ph) -- when he said ...

COOPER: There is a difference between sex and sexual assault, I mean as Ana pointed out. And what Megyn Kelly is talking about is sexual assault.

MCENANY: What everybody focus group has told us is they don't want to hear what we're talk about right now. They want to hear about public policy.

(CROSSTALK)

COOPER: What every rating point tells you is that is not true. I mean when that tape of Donald Trump was released it was -- probably it was the most, you know, downloaded most clicked on things, one of the biggest stories of this campaign so far which tells me that it's not a media fascination. It's a public fascination.

MCENANY: And I'm not saying that shouldn't have been covered. It absolutely should have been covered but the degree of coverage when media research centers says we cover that 7/1 over WikiLeaks, which actually affects public policy. If Hillary Clinton has a public and a private position, that affects public policy. That affects ...

COOPER: Amanda, is just about media bias then? CARPENTER: No, I think if there is one issue that Donald Trump has campaigned on deliberately relentlessly is media bias and what played out in that interview is really interesting. And it gets to Donald Trump cheer leading, high fiving Newt Gingrich publicly for taking it to Megyn Kelly.

Listen this is Fox News. This is a friendly place for Newt Gingrich for many, many years. He's a contributor there. They have respected him as an intellectual heavyweight to talk about Republican policies. This is a friendly interview and now they are to the point where they are so in the barricade with themselves that they think Megyn Kelly is out to get them? And you can see why this is hurting his campaign.

Ivanka Trump who's supposed to be appealing to all the independent progressive minded women, she is been so boxed in, that was I follow they said, they can't put her out in the campaign trail, she has done as a surrogate when she campaigns the places like Ohio, we see Dana Bash in the trail, she can't even take questions before an audience because they are so in the hole. The boxed themselves, talked up this thing about media bias so much that they themselves can not talk to anyone else.

[20:50:03] NAVARRO: You have to ask yourself, if Trump's focus group is Trump says that were people want to hear about is policy and agenda, why did he bring it up today some, why did he high five Newt Gingrich for that ridiculous exchange with a woman who Trump talk about her menstrual cycle, 18 months ago? Why are you picking a fight with this conservative darling? Again, if you are calling Fox media biased what are the rest of us?

COOPER: I want to get the Trump surrogates response to that. We're going to take a quick break, we'll continue the conversation in just a minute.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

COOPER: We're back talking about Newt Gingrich's contentious interview with Megyn Kelly at last night in Donald Trump's endorsement of it today. I just want to play his reaction again.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

TRUMP: By the way, congratulations, Newt, on last night. That was an amazing interview. That was an amazing. We don't play games, Newt, right? We don't play games.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

COOPER: Let's continue the conversation now with the panel. Scottie, I want to give you an opportunity to respond with the.

HUGHES: No, I'm sure that Megyn appreciates your defense Ana, but to be honest to be I think that she does not consider herself the conservative media darling. In fact she she's always called some prided herself on being an independent on being the journalist. But once again, the segment who ended out being about sex and not exactly about what American female voters wanted to focus on, on why they're supporting Donald Trump or why they're supporting Hillary Clinton.

American voters -- females want to hear right now about **immigration**, economy, Supreme Court justices.

[20:55:01] COOPER: You don't think character is a major issue for many voters?

HUGHES: For women today, I think American women, they're wanting to say, they're going to decide with their heads. They're going to talk about the issues that affect their pocket books. The once that affect their families. They're going to talk about more on the wallets and their jobs.

(CROSSTALK)

COOPER: And so why is he not doing well among women then.

HUGHES: Well, but because Republicans have traditionally had a problem with women. In the fact that we have this divide this time. I mean maybe it's because we're all united and binding is under Romney, so we're were all kind of, you know, they can go against to all of this together.

But the divide that we have right now, the truth is, those 74 percent of Republicans are backing Donald or saying that they're going to support Donald Trump right now. That's a good number and that includes many females. Because the females are saying I'm not looking to him to teach my children values. To be an example a role model for my child where it comes to how they should treat others and ethics.

I am actually -- my husband, the men in my family, they are two ones they're suppose set the example. I'm looking for a leader of my country that is going to revolve the economy and provide the economy, and protect our families. That's why they're voting for Donald Trump.

COOPER: It is amazing today that people no longer expect the president of the United States to set an example for the country. And I'm not blaming this on Donald Trump, you know, you can make the same argument about Bill Clinton when was in the White House. But I mean it's a that's -- I mean when I was a kid, you grew up ...

NAVARRO: I don't agree that's -- I don't agree with that. I don't think ...

COOPER: Kayleigh?

NAVARRO: ... that's true. I think look, I think that in today's culture, they are certainly, leaders are much more accessible than they once were. We see them in situations we never did because of Twitter, because of Snapchat, because of social media and all that. But I think we absolutely look at the leader of the free world, that the president of the United States, as the first lady, as somebody that permeates through culture into all of our lives and does set an example for children, does set an example for adults, does set an example for foreign leaders, that's an example for all Americans, because the duty, the responsibility, the weight of representing all Americans, there's something that means and requires character.

COOPER: To Scottie, you're saying that's not a pointed ...

HUGHES: Not at this point, no we're $19 trillion in debt. We've seen in deploy -- our military is in a horrible state right now, where we're seeing people without jobs, health care costs going up. I'm sorry I never told my child, yes, professionally it's great to be president. Look up to President Obama. But for some things he's done, I do not see him as a hero.

(CROSSTALK)

NAVARRO: Here's my problem, my problem is that I -- if I think the president is the lowest form of life, if I think he is an orange amoeba, I cannot get on discuss policy. Because I'm stuck down there, at the fact that he's not fit to be president.

HUGHES: But that's your business.

CARPENTER: It's unfortunate the way that Donald Trump has coarsened the political culture in such a dominant way. And I do hope it is temporary. And I do think the conversations that Trump and the male leaders of the party like Newt Gingrich and others have started by supporting him and also being condescending to women at the same time has opened up a new opportunity for conservative women.

I hear conservative women talking about, you know, I've never heard conservative feminism before. But maybe we need to forge a new way. Maybe we need to make the country the effort to call and the men in our party to be chivalrous, to be family man again. But also support us in the workplace and duties and making new modern effort, that's not outdated, that clearly there's some work to be done and I do think it is somewhat generational for the Republican men. You see people like Donald Trump act like this, I never saw my bosses like Ted Cruz, i never saw Marco Rubio act like this. I hope it's generational. I think there is a way forward, but we have to learn the lesson that's we see playing out and tell us every time.

COOPER: Kayleigh you were shaking your head no.

MCENANY: What's so interesting to me here, there has been such an effort to caricature Donald Trump as a male this chauvinist, you know, XYZ, whatever you want to call the media has done a great job in trying to make him that. But I believed in stats, I believed in statistics, I believed in numbers.

So therefore I look at the Fox poll today that just came out. Guess what? Donald Trump is only trailing among women by 8 points among registered voters. That is better than Mitt Romney, that is than John McCain, that is tied with George W. Bush.

So this whole notion that we're marred with women forever, polling does not bear that out. This panel is not representative of the way Republican voters think, because as Scottie pointed out, the same number of Republicans are consolidating around Trump as Democrats around Clinton. There is not of a sexist of Republican women. There is on political panels, there is in the political class in Washington D.C. but the average Republican woman is not represented by this.

COOPER: Amanda?

CARPENTER: And just another extension of the point largely made by the Trump campaign about media bias. They have picked a fight with the media. They have assumed the worst about the so-called main stream media that they have in ...

(CROSSTALK)

CARPENTER: Their reaction has been to expect people like Megyn Kelly to be bias for them. That's what Breitbart is all about, they set to be bias ...

MCENANY: Amanda why ...

CARPENTER: ... Breitbart to have an agenda for them. That's not the appropriate reaction if you want to bring unity in the country. It comes from a place of vengeance. And it is very angry and it's ...

(CROSSTALK)

COOPER: One at a time, one at a time. Let Kayleigh respond.

MCENANY: Amanda, do you know what the approval rating of the mainstream media is right now?

CARPENTER: Why don't you tell me ...

MCENANY: The lowest ...

(CROSSTALK)

MCENANY: Because I went to Harvard Law School and I believed in numbers and fact.

(CROSSTALK)

MCENANY: When you look at, I have a law degree from Harvard. I'm not getting any personal ...

[21:00:02] CARPENTER: Did you study there for years?

(CROSSTALK)

MCENANY: For Gallup, the media has the lowest approval rating in recorded history. This ...

CARPENTER: So I'm teaching (ph) what Donald Trump says to forgive does and ...

(CROSSTALK)

**NEW\_DOCUMENT\_HERE**

Anderson Cooper, Sara Murray, Brianna Keilar, Amanda Carpenter, Kayleigh McEnany, Kyung Lah, David Gergen, Philip Bump, Gloria Borger, Errol Louis, Tom Foreman, Dana Bash

8900 speakers\_end

[21:00:26] ANDERSON COOPER, CNN ANCHOR: Good evening.

Perhaps by this time a couple Tuesdays from now, we'll now who the next president of the United States is, or we could be bracing for a long night of vote counting, and as it has before, it could all come down in Florida. Donald Trump says he might not be able to win without it, and Hillary Clinton's campaigning is the same is true for her. So, two reports both from Florida tonight, first, Sara Murray traveling with the Trump campaign.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

SARA MURRAY, CNN POLITICAL REPORTER: Today, Donald Trump is taking aim at President Obama's legacy on the news that ObamaCare premiums are set to spike next year.

DONALD TRUMP, (R) PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE: ObamaCare is just blowing up.

MURRAY: Trump seizing on the issue as a government report reveals premiums for the benchmark silver health care plan under the Affordable Care Act are set to rise an average of 22 percent in 2017. But Trump is insisting the price hike will be even larger.

TRUMP: ... that Americans are going to experience another massive double digit hike. Now, they said 25 percent. Forget 20 -- you'll take 25 percent. It's going to be 60, 70, 80, 90 percent.

MURRAY: Trump appeared with his employees at his Doral property today to take a swipe at Obama, the billionaire businessman ended up inviting questions about what sort of health care he offers his employees.

TRUMP: And I can say all of my employees are having a tremendous problem with ObamaCare. I mean, you look at what they're going through, what they're going through with their health care is horrible, because of ObamaCare. So we'll repeal it and replace it.

MURRAY: Despite Trump's suggestion that all his employees are struggling with ObamaCare, the general manager of Trump National Doral clarified that more than 90 percent of employees are insured through the hotel. According to the general manager, only part-time or seasonal employees would be using the health care exchanges.

Trump's attempt to go on offense on policy comes as he appears eager to set aside his war of words with nearly a dozen women who have accused him of sexual misconduct. Telling Fox News this morning, he'd rather focus on other issues.

TRUMP: I just want to let people know I'm innocent. OK? Nothing ever happened. It didn't exist. This was all fantasy land. I'd like to get off the stuff because everybody ...

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: And it all -- also ...

TRUMP: ... everybody brings that up.

MURRAY: But as he spends his third day stumping across Florida ...

TRUMP: In Florida, the number of people at the voting booths are massive, the biggest they've ever seen and a lot of them are wearing Trump buttons and hats and shirts. So I assume they're voting for us, right?

MURRAY: Trump's electoral challenges are growing more pronounced. A new Monmouth University Poll in Arizona, a state that hasn't voted for a Democrat since Bill Clinton in 1996, shows Hillary nipping at Trump's heels. She's drawing 45 percent support to Trump's 46 percent.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

COOPER: Sara Murray joins us now from Tallahassee. So Trump was clearly dialed in on the ObamaCare issue today. Was he able to stay on message in Tallahassee tonight?

MURRAY: Anderson, he made it almost all the way there. He did talk about ObamaCare here in Tallahassee, but then he started mocking Vice President Joe Biden calling him a tough guy, and indicating that he would willing to fight Biden. That's after a couple of days ago, Biden said he wish the two of them were in high school, so he could take Donald Trump behind the gym. It gives you a sense how there's still this push and pull between what Donald Trump's advisers want him to talk about and the fact that he just feels the need to hit back at anyone who was critical of him. Back to you.

COOPER: All right, Sara Murray. Sara, thanks.

Judging by the battleground polls, Hillary Clinton does not need Florida to win the election. She's got any number of winning combinations unless, of course, the polling changes drastically. Still, or is it incorrect, still 29 electoral votes is tempting to any campaign so is making difference in the down-ticket races. And perhaps, most of all, so is being able to decisively slam during Donald Trump campaign. Superseding all of that, though, could be the real reason why Secretary Clinton's campaigning so hard in Florida, namely the fear of not campaigning hard in the closing weeks of this campaign. Brianna Keilar tonight reports.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

HILLARY CLINTON, (D) PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE: There are just 14 days, two weeks from today.

BRIANNA KEILAR, CNN SENIOR POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT: Hillary Clinton eyeing the Sunshine State and its 29 electoral votes today.

H. CLINTON: So, please join me. This is bigger than me, it's bigger than any of us. It's even bigger than Donald Trump, if you can believe it.

KEILAR: Expectations for Clinton are high. A new CNN/ORC poll shows nearly seven in 10 voters believe she will win the election and her campaign is spending their last two weeks racing through battleground states trying to convince voters not to become complacent.

H. CLINTON: I feel good, but, boy, I am not taking anything for granted. I'm going to work as hard as I can between now and the close of the election.

[21:05:06] KEILAR: Vice President Joe Biden in battleground Pennsylvania.

VICE PRES. JOE BIDEN, (D) UNITED STATES: This man is thoroughly unqualified based on his conduct, his abuse of power, and his lack of sustentative knowledge, just the minimum amount of knowledge needed to be president of the United States of America. So I'm finished with Donald Trump.

KEILAR: President Obama on late-night T.V.

PRES. BARACK OBAMA, (D) UNITED STATES: President Obama will go down as perhaps the worst president in the history of the United States, exclamation point, @realdonaldtrump. Well, @realdonaldtrump, at least I will go down as a president.

KEILAR: And about that new ObamaCare report showing significant premium hikes next year, former President Bill Clinton defending the program in North Carolina.

BILL CLINTON, 42ND UNITED STATES PRESIDENT: So Hillary says, fix the problem, don't repeal the solution. That's a terrible idea. More than 20 million people would lose their health insurance.

KEILAR: The former president's comments earlier this month now seem prophetic.

B. CLINTON: So you've got this crazy system where all of a sudden, 25 million more people will have health care, and then the people that are out there busting it, sometimes 60 hours a week, wind up with their premiums doubled and their coverage cut in half. It's the craziest thing in the world.

KEILAR: That statement put him in the dog house with Democrats and put his wife on defense with Donald Trump.

H. CLINTON: So if he repeals it, our Medicare problem gets worse. What we need to do is go after ...

TRUMP: Your husband disagrees with you.

H. CLINTON: ... the long-term health care drivers. We've got to get costs down, increase value, emphasize wellness. I have a plan for doing that.

KEILAR: A point Clinton echoed today in a radio interview.

H. CLINTON: The costs have gone up too much. So we're going to really tackle that. We're going to get co-pays and premiums and deductibles down. We're going to tackle prescription drug costs. And we can do that without ripping away the insurance that people now have.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

COOPER: Brianna, how confident is the Clinton campaign about Florida right now?

KEILAR: They're feeling pretty good because they're looking at some of the folks who already have been voting and they feel like they're getting an uptick in Latino voters and female voters and traditionally those are people who are trending towards Hillary Clinton, not Donald Trump. Also, they're just looking overall at the polls and she is leading. She's doing better in Florida than say Ohio, but they just want to make sure that they continue with that momentum. It's not a super, super comfortable lead. And that's why she's spending a lot of time there. And also some of her big-name surrogates are.

COOPER: All right, Brianna, thanks.

One piece of Hillary Clinton's polling lead is the double-digit advantage she has among women voters. And one big concern, obviously, for the GOP is that it will stay that way. Not just on Election Day, but years to come.

As you might imagine, flaws from the party's embrace of Donald Trump at the expense some are now arguing of Republican women. Those voices include CNN political commentator and conservative, Amanda Carpenter, who has an op-ed in today's "Washington Post." She writes, "I don't purport to speak for all women, but I know I am not alone. I am one of the many women the Republican Party left behind this election. The GOP is about to learn a hard lesson, "she says, "when it comes to the women's vote, defend us or lose us."

Amanda Carpenter joins us now, and back with us as well is Trump supporter, Kayleigh McEnany.

You feel that the Republican Party, Amanda, has abandoned women, has abandoned you. How so?

AMANDA CARPENTER, CNN POLITICAL COMMENTATOR: Well, I think somehow this decision was made along the way during the primaries that it was OK to appeal to this very angry, vulgar, alt-right section of the party at the expense of women. I mean, look at what has happened to some of these rallies. There are signs being printed and shirts being made -- I can't even repeat what is on those shirts.

When I was a staffer working for Republicans like Jim DeMint and Ted Cruz, if someone like that was at an event, they would be politely asked to leave. I don't know why people like that were not asked to leave those events. They were welcomed, they celebrated online. And at some point, someone in the Republican Party should have stood up and said this is not OK. We will not tolerate this kind of behavior. This is not what the Republican Party is about. Nobody did that in any concentrated way. You did see some people stand up like Mitt Romney, Ben Sasse, here and there, but they were ignored. They were told to just be quiet.

COOPER: So, you're saying it's not just Donald Trump and his comments, it's actually Republican leaders?

CARPENTER: No, I'm done aiming fire at Donald Trump. I want men in the Republican Party to be accountable for not standing up and defending women. Where's the chivalry? Where are these conservative men that talk about family values, but then go on T.V. and defend locker room talk? That's not OK.

COOPER: Kayleigh, what do you ...

CARPENTER: Republican women have had enough.

COOPER: Kayleigh, what do you say?

KAYLEIGH MCENANY, TRUMP SUPPORTER: Look, Donald Trump is the nominee of the Republican Party. He was put there by Republican voters. And the Republican Party is respecting their voters because, in fact, they don't exist without their voters. And this notion that Donald Trump is hurting the party with women and doing so poorly among women ...

COOPER: You don't buy that?

MCENANY: I don't buy that at all. In fact, you look at our CNN poll, he's losing women by 12 percent.

CARPENTER: That would be bad.

MCENANY: Mitt Romney, according to Gallup, lost women by 12 percent, McCain lost women by 14 percent. Even George W. Bush lost women. Women tend to be Democratic voters. We can talk about the Democrats' problem with men, but that's the way the genders tend to break out. And Donald Trump is not doing any worst than Romney or McCain did among women.

[21:10:13] COOPER: Do you agree with that, Amanda?

CARPENTER: Well, here's -- I can speak from my experience working for Ted Cruz, Jim DeMint, being in the position of having to defend the party from charges of sexism. I know female former staffers like me that question whether they could go work for the men who have defended Donald Trump. That means the party has a problem. You can't -- you're going to lose the women's vote by, you know, however many points. But if you can't get women to defend with you -- defend you, work with you in the future, once that becomes a problem, you have a problem as a party.

Before this election, I never really believed you needed a big push to put women in leadership positions to make sure they were in the room, because I trusted the men in our party to speak up for us, to defend us, to protect us. No, I don't believe that anymore. They need female supervision from now on.

COOPER: To an Evangelical, a very prominent Evangelical today who's opposed to Donald Trump who was saying, you know, he's gotten pushback from other Evangelical leaders who support Donald Trump. But oftentimes those Evangelical leaders say to him, well, you know, my wife is actually on your side in this.

You don't believe that there's any lasting damage, any kind of lasting impact to this election on women in the Republican Party?

MCENANY: Not in the slightest. And in fact, you look at the CNN poll, in fact, you see Republicans tend to support Donald Trump at the same rate Democrats support Hillary Clinton. And I think it's a myth that there's this huge never-Trump exodus of women.

And in fact, the question I would pose, maybe Amanda can answer it and to any Republican women out there, and to this Evangelical you spoke with, you know, you're upset with Donald Trump's words from years ago. And I understand that. I don't support the words he said on those videos. He apologized for those words. But the stakes are so high. You have a candidate who just sat on the stage. As a Republican woman, you should be so discomforting with the fact that she supports ...

CARPENTER: Don't tell me what to think. You should not tell me what to think right now.

MCENANY: Hillary Clinton supports late-term abortion. There is a five to four decision upholding the ban on ...

CARPENTER: I know you're going to be talking about ISIS. And We've heard all the arguments so many times. I know the lines you're going to go through.

MCENANY: Please, let me get this point out there.

CARPENTER: Sure, and I'll answer.

MCENANY: There is a 5-4 decision saying that a baby that comes out in full term cannot be murdered, 5-4 Supreme Court decision. Forever more, those in the Never-Trump movement, if Hillary ...

CARPENTER: You're going to tell me I'm a Hillary supporter.

MCENANY: ... that retracts the partial birth abortion ban, the Never Trump movement will have an answer for that.

COOPER: OK. So, Amanda, what do you say to that?

CARPENTER: OK. Here's the thing. And Republicans with I've spoken with, Donald Trump has no boundaries when it comes to the law. So once you have someone who has tyrannical impulses in the White House, forget the Supreme Court, it's over. This guy has no boundaries. But again, this isn't about Donald Trump. And I really hope the Republican Party doesn't stick their head in the sand and go along with Kayleigh's way of thinking, because they're going to lose.

Everyone knows we're going to lose this election unless something very surprising happens. So if nothing is learned from this election and we continue to become a Trumpian party, it's going to continue to fracture. There has to be some kind of reckoning going forward and there has to be a recognition that what Donald Trump did to women, it's hurting everyone down-ballot too. Just today, the political report said that the Senate could lose five to seven seats. Not only is the White House gone, but the Senate is gone too, because of a Donald Trump ...

COOPER: Kayleigh, do you think Donald Trump continues to -- I mean, right now he defines the Republican Party. Do you think if he loses, does he continue to -- or doe he just go off and go back to business or whatever it is, Trump T.V., whatever he may do, and the Republican Party then has to redefine himself? Or -- I mean, he talks about a movement, do you believe that he would want to continue with that movement in some sort of political realm, and shape the Republican Party for years to come?

MCENANY: I think he'll have a voice in leading that movement forward. I think someone like Mike Pence will probably carry the mantle forward.

COOPER: So, you don't think he'll become a Sarah Palin and just going to go off and, you know, continue being a celebrity?

MCENANY: I don't think he'll run for office again, you'd have to ask him, but I do think that he'll be on the outside being a voice for that movement. And I hope -- just to come back at Amanda's point, I hope the Republican Party never gets to a place where we say voters, 1,500 of you showed up to vote, but you were wrong and we're going to stand on the moral high ground and allow the Supreme Court to overturn these vital decisions because we believe we know better than our voters. I hope we never get to that point.

COOPER: It's interesting, Amanda, because you know, there was an autopsy done after 2012 and it was all about reaching out to women, reaching out to minority groups, having a bigger tent. I mean is a -- do you see a similar autopsy being done after this or is there just ...

CARPENTER: There should be, but it should be done by the same people, because they -- I think they misdiagnosed a lot of problems when it came to **immigration**, right? They said that the Republican Party needs to pass Comprehensive **Immigration** Reform, take this issue off the table ...

COOPER: Right.

CARPENTER: ... so that we don't have to deal with it in 2016. Well, it didn't work out that way, and that issue created Donald Trump. But that said, there needs to be wholesale change at the RNC, particularly Reince Priebus, you know, Mitch McConnell -- Mitch McConnell was telling his fellow Senate members as late as July that we will not lose one Senate seat because of Donald Trump. What a gross miscalculation that was. Reince Priebus is essentially letting Donald Trump hijack the party and say, "Get in the car, it's going to be OK, we're going for a joy ride." These guys all got it so wrong. And it's not because ...

[21:15:19] COOPER: But he did win the primary. I mean, what else were they supposed to do?

CARPENTER: It's not because of the "Access Hollywood" tape. So we knew what kind of guy Donald Trump was.

Listen, he has decades worth of interviews in print, radio, T.V., saying very lewd, vulgar things. And to say that he's the guy that's going to change the champion family values for the Republican Party? You let him in the party and you let him poison it. That never should happen.

MCENANY: It's just worth mentioning, we've got 14 days to go, there's no autopsy that needs to be written, because it could be the Democrats that will need the autopsy ...

COOPER: We'll see. Amanda Carpenter, Kayleigh McEnany, thanks very much.

Coming up, breaking news, the new Donald Trump tapes, hours of really revealing audio recordings. Donald Trump talking about what makes him (inaudible), we'll hear what he thought of President Bill Clinton and President George W. Bush two years ago and what he thinks -- whether he thinks he'd be a better husband.

Excuse me. Later, Senator Elizabeth Warren was one of the many recipients of Trump's nicknames and impulse, now she's fighting hard on the campaign trail. Take a look at their complex history.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

COOPER: Well, Donald Trump hates losing, he loves fighting, and he think it's hard to be married to him, just a few of the headlines from extensive interviews that we've obtained. Trump speaking 2014 with journalist Michael D'Antonio who went on to write a biography of Donald Trump. Kyung Lah has gone through the hours of audio tape and joins me now.

You know, we've seen obviously a lot of past interviews and recordings of Donald Trump come out in the last few weeks. His campaign has been making the case that the Trump of the past is not the Donald Trump of the present or the future. Trump, though, on these tapes offers a really fascinating take on people and whether they change. What did he say about that?

KYUNG LAH, CNN NATIONAL CORRESPONDENT: Basically, he's saying -- you're right, Anderson. We've been hearing from the campaign that we shouldn't be gleaning anything from these old interviews. But in this interview, what you hear from Trump is that he believes that personalities are set young. Here he's answering a questions about marriage. Here's what he said.

(BEGIN AUDIOTAPE)

[21:20:04] UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Do you pay better attention as a husband now?

TRUMP: I don't think -- OK. So I don't think people change very much over the course. You may slow down, you may -- but honestly? You know, I've known people -- I've known many people for many years. They've never changed. I see -- I don't think people change. I think I'm a very big believer in the fact that when you are a certain way, pretty much that's the way you are.

Now environmental situations change, conditions change, wealth changes, both up and down, lots of things -- health changes.

But I think, basically a, you know, a personality is set from very early, very close to the time of birth. I mean, if I look at myself in the first grade and I look at myself now, I don't think I'm that different. No really.

(END AUDIOTAPE)

LAH: There he's answering question about marriage, but if you listen to the entire context of the interview, it's very clear, Anderson, that he's talking about personalities in general.

COOPER: Donald Trump talks about a number of issues on the tapes, also including the Iraq War. What did he say about that?

LAH: Yeah, this one caught our eye, because he's been talking at length about Iraq. Every debate he's brought up, the withdrawal of the Iraq War, what Obama did or did not do, and that it left a vacuum for ISIS.

But here, in this interview and we want to remind everybody, this is in 2014, he's saying Obama should have pulled out faster but yet still less some troops. Here's what he says.

(BEGIN AUDIOTAPE)

TRUMP: I am not a fan of Bush. I was -- I think he was a terrible president. So, you know, I'm not one of these Republicans who, "Oh, Bush, Bush. Well, he was a disaster. He got us into Iraq.

But Obama didn't get us out fast enough. Obama kept us there for many years, and he didn't get us out fast enough. And then when he did get us out, he could have left some people behind and maybe wouldn't have had this. (END AUDIOTAPE)

LAH: So, a little confusing there, Anderson, because what exactly is he advocating? Pull out sooner or leave troops? It's a little hard to follow.

COOPER: Trump was also heard praising Bill Clinton on these recordings?

LAH: Very interesting. Because -- especially if you consider the context of everything we've seen in the last couple of debates where Trump has really try to glean some of the allegations from Bill Clinton's past. Here in 2014, he had nothing but nice things to say.

(BEGIN AUDIOTAPE)

TRUMP: Bill Clinton is certainly a great politician. And you should call Bill Clinton and ask him about me. He was on Larry King. He said, Donald Trump is a great golfer and he's a friend of mine. And, you know, now -- of course now it's a little different, because a lot of people want me to run, and, you know, his wife is obviously going to be running if she's healthy.

You could ask him. Maybe. I mean, you know, he may say something interesting. No, but he's a great politician.

(END AUDIOTAPE)

LAH: And the two men have certainly golfed together. It bears reminding that he has donated -- that Trump has donated to then Senator Clinton's campaign back in the early 2000s and he also donated $100,000 to the Clinton Foundation, Anderson.

COOPER: All right, Kyung, thanks very much.

Earlier this evening, I spoke with Michael D'Antonio, who interviewed Trump on those audio recordings and wrote the book, "The Truth about Trump".

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

COOPER: I think back to, you know, when President Obama at the White House Correspondents' Dinner sort of was poking fun at Donald Trump. I want to play that for our viewers.

OBAMA: Now, I know that he's taken some flack lately, but no one is happier, no one is prouder to put this birth certificate matter to rest than the Donald. And that's because he can finally get back to focusing on the issues that matter. Like, did we fake the moon landing? What really happened in Roswell? And where are Biggie and Tupac?

COOPER: Not the kind of thing he enjoys.

MICHAEL D'ANTONIO, TRUMP BIOGRAPHER: No and you know, the first thing he said to me was something about how much he hates Obama. I really think this was personal for him. I think that the campaign, to some degree, is very personal that he wants to avenge this humiliation. Now, other people would laugh at it and kind of get the joke and almost encourage people to see them as human. I don't think that's ...

COOPER: Well, even at that Al Smith dinner just, you know, last week, which is all about being self-deprecating, he really -- I mean, he was able to kind of poke fun at Melania Trump, and he just sort of -- the only thing he sort of said about himself is that he sort of made a joke about him being full of humility, but it wasn't really kind of -- the kind of self-deprecating humor that we often hear.

D'ANTONIO: No, he doesn't have that thing to do, that impulse in him to joke about himself and understand that it's OK. And you know, that sort of makes you feel sorry for him. How lonely must it be to be the guy who can't laugh at himself and has to be serious all the time?

[21:25:01] COOPER: The -- his -- I've never seen a public figure who pays more attention to how they are talked about in the media, who watches coverage -- I mean, most public figures I know don't watch themselves at all. Donald Trump, I mean, he watches this program and will tweet about, you know -- he might even be watching right now and tweeting about what you're saying. He cannot -- he watches stuff constantly. He watches television constantly.

D'ANTONIO: Yeah, he wants that feedback. And if you think about who wants to have a reflection of themselves all the time, almost the message about themselves coming from outside.

COOPER: Well, I know, that's -- that's what's so odd is the idea of a public figure looking to get their sense of themselves from the way other people talk about them on television is just such an odd idea.

D'ANTONIO: It's profoundly strange. But, you know, I identify this as kind of the ultimate example of the narcissistic culture. We now live in a world where people advertise themselves on Facebook. We're practically walking brochures.

COOPER: Right.

D'ANTONIO: And Donald pioneered that. And there is emptiness to it. I think of him as being a bottomless pit of need and the presidency was the one big rock he could get to try and fill that pit. And it's not going to work.

COOPER: That's interesting. You see him as a bottomless pit of need. I mean, that's a really stunning kind of portrayal.

D'ANTONIO: So much so that although I'm just a middle class guy, I felt like I wanted to give something to him. I left these encounters thinking how can I get this guy to let down his guard and just be real?

COOPER: There is a neediness for approval, I mean, in some of the interviews I've done with him that -- and other people I've talked to (inaudible) sense in him that like even in an interview setting like if you give him a compliment, you can see it sort of wash over him.

D'ANTONIO: It's really important to him. He runs number ...

COOPER: But the poll numbers ...

D'ANTONIO: Poll numbers matter, but he hit a home run in high school. And he remembers the article reporting that Donald Trump won the game. And he had to tell me about it. Now, this is a guy whose clippings could fill a library, but he remembers every single report about him and it all matters.

COOPER: It's fascinating.

D'ANTONIO: Yeah.

COOPER: Michael, thank you so much.

D'ANTONIO: Thank you.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

COOPER: Up next with the panel, things on the tapes and hear what Trump had to say during those interviews about his multiple bankruptcies.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

[21:31:16] COOPER: Well, if there's one thing we've learned from the tapes of the interviews Donald Trump did with Michael D'Antonio back in 2014 or at least what they've reaffirmed is that Trump doesn't like losing or even the perception that he's failed in any way. Listen to this exchange about his multiple business bankruptcies.

(BEGIN AUDIOTAPE)

TRUMP: I bought something and I throw it into a bankruptcy. I made an unbelievable deal. Wiped out a lot of the debt. Came back. The next day I read a story, "Trump files bankruptcy." I get all these people that don't understand business saying, "Oh, did you go bankrupt?" Do you understand that?

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: But this, this bothers you a little bit ...

TRUMP: No. It only bothers ...

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: ... because you talk about this a lot.

TRUMP: I do. I always do because -- I'll tell you why I do. What always bothers me is false stuff. Untruths. That bothers me.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

COOPER: Joining me now, CNN Political Commentator and New York 1 Political Anchor Errol Louis, "Washington Post" Political Reporter Philip Bump, CNN Chief Political Analyst Gloria Borger, and Senior Political Analyst David Gergen. David, it's interesting, you know, hearing Michael D'Antonio talking about his perception of the man he spent hours interviewing Donald Trump for this biography. He called Donald Trump a bottomless pit of need. And a lot of people have talked about sort of a neediness that they have sensed in him. I'm wondering what your reaction is to that?

DAVID GERGEN, FORMER PRESIDENTIAL ADVISER TO REAGAN, FORD, CLINTON & NIXON: I think that he's the most narcissistic political leader that I can remember in American politics. He does have an obsession with winning and to being adored. He wants to be the center of attention.

You know, Teddy Roosevelt had some of that quality. You know, where he said of Teddy, he wanted to be the groom at every wedding and the deceased at every funeral, in order to be celebrated. But he had all of these offsetting compensatory qualities that Trump doesn't have.

I tell you, Anderson, what comes to me more than anything else is he is not a deeply anchored man. He doesn't -- his value system is not deeply anchored. We look in leaders for what we call the true north, a sense of authenticity, what they believe the values they hold for a lifetime.

He doesn't have -- I don't think he knows what his true north is. He is, you know, I might call it -- he's all sail and no anchor.

COOPER: Gloria, I mean, you did a documentary on Trump for CNN. One of the things that I know struck you is how kind of alone he is. We all sort of Michael D'Antonio echoed that observation about Trump.

Trump's ex-wives told Michael that they're not even sure that they really know the true Donald Trump. That's pretty -- I mean, stunning from somebody, you know, who was married to Donald Trump.

GLORIA BORGER, CNN CHIEF POLITICAL ANALYST: Right. And Ivana Trump also said to D'Antonio that Donald Trump just wants to get noticed. And that's what he is about and that's what you see play out in the campaign.

When I talk to people who have known him for 30 years, and I would ask them, "Who is Donald Trump's best friend?" And they would pause, because they would never name themselves, and they would pause and say, to a person, he doesn't have a best friend. He is his own best friend. And that is because friendship is kind of a two-way street.

He can be generous to people. He can listen to people. He can be caring. A lot of them told me when they had a sick member of the family or a death in the family, he was very caring. But on a day-to- day basis, they say, nobody is really his best friend, because it's all about Donald Trump.

Everything is about Trump and what he gets from the crowds and what he gets from running for president is kind of the adulation that he craves that his biographer was talking about that he needs in order to survive.

And one of the reasons he ran, I believe, is because he wasn't getting that anymore in business, so he had to get it somewhere else.

[21:35:00] COOPER: Errol, I mean, I did think one of the things he said about himself that was pretty perceptive in this interview with Michael D'Antonio, is that it difficult being married to him.

And what he was saying is that, you know, and I think it's true of anybody who has a relentless drive and a, you know, determination to succeed and clearly Donald Trump wants to win in all aspects of his life. It's hard to have people around you who you're close to if you have that drive. It's incompatible.

ERROL LOUIS, POLITICAL ANCHOR, NY1: Well that's right. He doesn't have a lot of peers. You know, even in the billionaire class of New York and it's a pretty large group, I think 80 plus billionaires live in New York City. A lot of them, they made their money in very different ways.

I mean, very few, even in the real estate business, have done it the way Trump has done it. None, virtually none have done what he's done as far as the branding of his name and the franchising it all over the world and the -- so, yeah, he's in a constant whirl.

You know, the image that comes to mind for me is towards the end of Faust, right, the legend of Faust, (inaudible) Faust where it's a developer, it's somebody who's always improving, always moving, always in motion, kind of grinding over people and traditional values along the way and it is sort of a terrifying spectacle in the end.

COOPER: You know, Phillip, Gloria mentioned, you know, asking who his closest friends are. You know, I think back to the convention, you know, Hillary Clinton had, you know, an old friend, I think, at least one who was on the stage, who also cast, you know, a delegate vote.

Donald Trump had a business associate, who he had been a business associate with for many, many years. But the story he told about Trump was about going to a boxing match and, you know, there was somebody who Donald Trump paid attention to and wrote a little note to.

It wasn't sort of, I've been friends with Donald Trump from the time we were kids and this is how, you know, the way he was in seventh grade is the way he is now, you know. It wasn't that sort of a relationship. I don't know if he has those.

PHILIP BUMP, POLITICAL REPORTER, WASHINGTON POST: Yeah, that's exactly right. I mean, the only people who played that role at the conventions were his kids. They were the ones that knew him well, that were close to him, that spent time in Trump Tower and could actually speak to who he was as a person, because he doesn't have those close relationships or other business associates that were up there.

COOPER: And all the stories they told were basically about being in the office and while they he work or calling into the office. Yeah, which is -- I mean, I'm not criticizing it, but it is, you know, perhaps a very obvious reality of when you -- to get that level of success, that's what you have to do.

BUMP: Right. You know, I think that's exactly right. And, you know, and I think what's important in the context of the current campaign is that I think people pick up on the fact that he is a different sort of person in this way, right?

You know, and I think that, you know, the temperament is this big issue that we keep coming back to with Donald Trump. And there's something about him and something about the way in which he interacts with people that I think voters are picking up on and makes a lot of them hesitant.

COOPER: Interesting. Gloria, we're going to have more from you and David in just a second. Errol Louis thanks very much, Philip Bump as well.

I want to get Gloria and David's take on Donald Trump's contention that the polls are rigged against him. We've got a fact check on that coming up, not just now, but down through the years. We'll be right back.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

[21:41:50] COOPER: Donald Trump today called members of the media "scum." That's his opinion, he's entitled to it. It's become a staple of his campaign speeches. So is this, though, not always as in this case about Hillary Clinton's campaign chairman, personally.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

TRUMP: John Podesta rigged the polls by oversampling. He said, do this. By oversampling Democrats, a voter -- I mean, you see this. You see it all, a voter suppression technique.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

COOPER: Unlike his take on the media, which, again, is his opinion, the question of whether the polls are rigged is a matter of fact. So we asked our top fact checker, Tom Foreman, to check it out.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

TOM FOREMAN, CNN CORRESPONDENT: 2012, Barack Obama is fighting for re-election and Republicans are furious, saying polls showing him with a significant lead over Mitt Romney are skewed in favor of Democrats and dead wrong.

DICK MORRIS, POLITICAL ANALYST: Romney will win this election by 5 to 10 points in the popular vote and will carry more than 300 electoral votes.

FOREMAN: By Election Day, the polls have tightened to a deadlock, but the final result is anything but. The president cruises to re- election beating Romney, 51 percent to 47 percent.

Two years later, the 2014 midterm elections. The numbers suggest the president's party may be in for a rough ride, so this time, some Democrats are saying, "Don't trust the polls." And it turns out the polls are wrong. The news is not bad for Democrats.

WOLF BLITZER, CNN ANCHOR: We have a major projection to announce right now.

FOREMAN: It is catastrophic.

BLITZER: CNN projects the Republicans will take control of the United States Senate.

FOREMAN: The GOP takes the Senate, tightens its grip on the House and ceases more governorships, too.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: And it was not even close. It wasn't even close.

FOREMAN: It all encourages doubt and gives anyone losing in the polls an easy complaint.

TRUMP: Even the polls are crooked, I'm telling you. Look, we're in a rigged system, folks.

FOREMAN: Pollsters are undeniably facing challenges. Fewer voters willing to participate, new technology like computerized calling, which makes some polls cheaper, faster, and at times, less accurate.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Stand by. Stand by.

FOREMAN: And unbelievably close races with rapidly evolving news cycles can lead to occasional mistakes, which have often haunted the polling business.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

FOREMAN: Still, for all those troubles the presidential polls remain among the most accurate. Yes, there is still a margin for error, meaning the actual vote may be a little higher or a little lower than a poll predicts for any given candidate, but the vote will almost always fall within that margin, when you average several solid polls, as we do here at CNN, the results become even more reliable. Anderson?

COOPER: All right, Tom thanks. With us again, CNN Senior Political Analyst and former adviser to four presidents, David Gergen and CNN Chief Political Analyst Gloria Borger.

David, I mean, there's a big difference between some polls being inaccurate or outliers and being downright crooked or rigged, which is what Trump is claiming.

GERGEN: That's true, Anderson, and my experience has been over a long period of time working on polls is that there is great incentive on the part of the pollster to get it right.

[21:45:06] You know, every one of these news organizations that's taking polls is in competition with each other and if you come up, you know, over the course of the season if you've been consistently wrong, you get hurt in the market place. This is what capitalism is. The forces of capitalism have an effect on polling. People try to make it accurate and scientific.

There are two things you can count on. One is, in looking at the polls, the average is usually a much better -- a much safer assumption than anything else, an average of good polls. And secondly, the trend line. Which way are the polls moving, because definitely they move over time?

If you keep an eye on those two things, you don't have to get down in the weeds and understand every single poll and why is the "L.A. Times" tracking poll so much more favorable to Trump than say, the ABC poll that came out and showed Hillary 12 points ahead.

You know, those are questions interesting, but look at the poll of polls and watch the trend lines.

COOPER: Gloria, I mean, there are those years like 2012 with Obama and Romney, when the polls are so tight, no one really knows what to expect, and yet, this year, does it feel like that to you?

BORGER: No, it doesn't. I think when you take the averages, as David is talking about, and you look at it over a period of the last few months or so, this race has been surprisingly stable.

We do have outlier polls that give Hillary Clinton a dozen-point lead or so, but when you do these averages, you see that she has been up consistently, somewhere between four and five points. And what you see then is the effect on the battleground states.

To me, the battleground states generally tend to move once the national poll moves their reflection of it, lagging indicator if you will, and they all tend to move together. So you see the battleground states moving here.

And we also know that Trump has a very challenging Electoral College map and he's got to turn, you know, some of those states that Romney didn't win red, and he's having trouble with the Romney states. Utah comes to mind for example.

COOPER: Yeah.

BORGER: So, it's -- the trajectory seems to be clear, but honestly, I think it's pretty stable. It is stable, right?

COOPER: This whole idea, David, of a rigged system, a crooked system. If Donald Trump loses by a clear and significant margin, both in the electoral vote and the popular vote, I mean, what do you think he'll do on election night?

GERGEN: I don't know, Anderson. I think it all comes back to that very revealing set of interviews he had back in 2014 you've just had on the program. He has an obsession with winning. And I think this whole thing about being rigged is a way to say, "I would have won, had it not been for the rigging." And so -- and not accept defeat. I think one of the interesting questions on election night, the days that follow is, if he thinks he went through bankruptcy and then pulled out and then had these major successes, if he starts looking at this election like, "That was my bankruptcy, now I'm going to rebuild for the future and I'm going to run again," interesting problems for the Republican Party.

COOPER: So the idea, Gloria, that Trump, you know, genuinely thinks he's winning, poised for a victory. I don't quite understand why he'd be laying down all the groundwork for the rigged election argument because that would only then undermine his own win, if he, in fact, won. Or I guess he would say, "I overcame the rigging."

BORGER: Right. But, you know, we went through this in the primaries, Anderson, because he talked about the rigged delegates and all of that, until he won Indiana in early May. And once he won Indiana in early May, he actually came out and said publicly, "You know what, I was kind of talking about a rigged election, until I won."

GERGEN: Right.

BORGER: "And now that I won, I'm not talking about that anymore." So, we'll have to see.

COOPER: We'll see. All right, Gloria Borger ...

GERGEN: We'll see.

COOPER: ... David Gergen, thanks very much.

GERGEN: Thank you.

COOPER: Just ahead, you'll see why Senator Elizabeth Warren has become one of Hillary Clinton's most vocal campaign surrogates and why she's getting such mileage out of not mincing words.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

[21:52:29] COOPER: And tonight, Senator Elizabeth Warren is campaigning in North Carolina for Hillary Clinton. A short time ago, she came out swinging at Donald Trump.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

SEN. ELIZABETH WARREN, (D) MASSACHUSETTS: What kind of man does that? What kind of a man roots for people to lose their homes? I'll tell you what kind of man, a small insecure money-grubber. What kind of man does that? A pathetic bully. What kind of man does that? A selfish little sleazeball. A man who will never be president of the United States.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

COOPER: Well, Senator Warren has become one of Secretary Clinton's most vocal surrogates, outspoken, unafraid to trade insults with Donald Trump. And as an ally of Clinton, she may be invaluable. Now that said, the back storage to this partnership is what's kind of complicated. Dana Bash reports.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

DANA BASH, CNN CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT: Hillary Clinton has a stable of high octane headliners.

WARREN: Get this Donald, nasty women are tough. Nasty women are smart. And nasty women vote.

BASH: But none quite like Elizabeth Warren.

WARREN: He thinks it because he has a mouth full of Tic-Tacs that he can force himself on any woman within groping distance.

BASH: A hero to the left for her years of fighting big banks and student loan debt. Team Clinton is deploying Warren to rally factions of the progressive base who aren't in enthralls by Hillary Clinton.

But for the liberal icon, full-throated support for Clinton did not come easily. In fact, during the Democratic primaries, Warren was the only female Democratic senator who would not endorse Hillary Clinton.

When she finally did.

WARREN: I'm with her. Yes, her.

BASH: She immediately started taunting Trump.

WARREN: A small insecure money-grubber who will never be president of the United States.

BASH: Showing Clinton how to get him to take the debate.

TRUMP: Do you ever see her? I mean, this woman, she's a basket case.

H. CLINTON: I do just love to see how she gets under Donald Trump's thin skin.

BASH: But if Clinton wins it could be her skin, Warren gets under. The Massachusetts senator support for Clinton comes with conditions. That Clinton sticks to the progressive ideals she promoted to win the nomination.

WARREN: Fight for every single promise that Hillary Clinton has put forward in this campaign, including her promise to end the revolving door between "Wall Street" and Washington.

[21:55:02] BASH: One example, she wants Clinton to ban "Wall Street" executives with golden parachutes from getting big government jobs. She already torpedoed of President Obama nominee to the Treasury Department because he was coming from a "Wall Street" bank with a reported $21 million payout.

WARREN: When we talk about personnel, we don't mean advisors who just pay lip service to Hillary's bold agenda coupled with a sigh, a knowing glance, and the twiddling of thumbs until it's time to take the next swing through the revolving door.

BASH: Warren has a long history with Hillary Clinton that may give her reason to be weary. As first lady in the 1990s, Clinton went to see then Professor Warren to discuss a bankruptcy bill before Congress.

WARREN: And she says tell me about bankruptcy, and I've got to tell you, I never had a smarter student.

BASH: Warren said Hillary convinced her husband to veto a bill that protected credit card companies, but when Hillary became senator she voted for similar legislation.

WARREN: She has taken money from the groups and one of the points she worries about them as a constituency.

BASH: 12 years later with Warren the Senator and Clinton a potential president inclined to make deals with Republicans, Warren promises this time she would hold Clinton's feet to the progressive fire.

Dana Bash, CNN, New York.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

COOPER: We'll be right back.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

[22:00:07] COOPER: That's all the time we have. Thanks for watching. "CNN TONIGHT" with Don Lemon starts now.

**NEW\_DOCUMENT\_HERE**

Anderson Cooper, Jim Acosta, Jeff Zeleny, David Chalian, Maria Cardona, Errol Louis, Kayleigh McEnany, Corey Lewandowski, Kyung Lah, David Gergen, Gloria Borger, Randi Kaye

9069 speakers\_end

[20:00:09] ANDERSON COOPER, CNN ANCHOR: And good evening. Thanks for joining us.

Tonight, perhaps the best evidence yet is what makes Donald Trump tick. It comes from Donald Trump himself.

(BEGIN AUDIO CLIP)

DONALD TRUMP (R), PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE: If you lose a lot, nobody's going to follow you because you're looked at as a loser. Winning is a very important thing. And the most important aspect of leadership is winning. If you have a record of winning, people are going to follow you.

(END AUDIO CLIP)

COOPER: That's just a small sample from more than five hours of tape interviews that a autobiographer Michael D'Antonio did with Donald Trump and his ex-wife Ivana and his three oldest kids. He's made them available to "The New York Times". In just a few moments, you'll hear Donald Trump in his own words reveal more what actually drives him to win and why losing for him may be uniquely hard to bear.

First, though, with two weeks to Election Day, his drive to win a state he simply cannot afford to lose -- Florida.

Jim Acosta reports.

(BEGIN VIDEOTAPE)

JIM ACOSTA, CNN SENIOR WHITE CORRESPONDENT (voice-over): Donald Trump stepped off his plane in Florida to big cheers, having landed what could be a potent issue for the last two weeks of the campaign.

TRUMP: Americans are going to experience another massive double digit hike. Now, they said 25 percent. Forget 20 -- you'll take 25 percent. It's going to be 60, 70, 80, 90 percent. You're going to have to brush up on your negotiation ability, believe me.

ACOSTA: The GOP nominee is seizing on the latest report on Obamacare that find consumers who buy their insurance through the Affordable Care Act will see their premiums go up on average 22 percent next year.

TRUMP: Obamacare is just blowing up.

ACOSTA: Out to show how that spike will affect working Americans, Trump introduced reporters to some of his hotel employees in Florida.

TRUMP: And I can say all of my employees are having a tremendous problem with Obamacare. You folks, this is another group, is that a correct statement? I mean, you look at what they are going through, what they're going through with their health care is horrible because of Obamacare.

ACOSTA: The problem Trump and even the hotel's general manager later acknowledged those workers don't receive their insurance through Obamacare. They get it from Trump.

DAVID FEDER, TRUMP DORAL GENERAL MANAGER: I would say 99 percent of our employees are insured through the hotel. Through our insurance and maybe there's a few that are insured through Obamacare but very, very few because we supply it.

ACOSTA: Still, Obamacare's latest struggles come at a critical time for endangered Republicans like New Hampshire Senator Kelly Ayotte who turned the news into an attack ad against her opponent.

AD NARRATOR: Maggie Hassan can't stand up to her party. She supports the broken health care law that even Bill Clinton called --

BILL CLINTON, FORMER PRESIDENT: The craziest thing in the world.

ACOSTA: Trailing in the polls, Trump is eager for some kind of campaign game changer, conceding to FOX News, he has to win Florida or else.

TRUMP: I believe Florida is a must-win and I think we're winning it. I think we're winning it big.

ACOSTA: And he once again slammed the allegations from the women accusing him of sexual assault.

TRUMP: I'm innocent and I did nothing. There's zero. These were made up. No. Excuse me. These were made up tales.

ACOSTA: In the election's final days, Trump is offering himself as a fighter for every day Americans who he says are being misled by a dishonest news media.

TRUMP: Just about the biggest part of the crooked establishment are these people right back there with the phony cameras. They are a bunch of phony low lives.

ACOSTA: It's an image of a brawler Trump talked up in an interview two years ago.

TRUMP: I love to fight. I always loved to fight.

INTERVIEWER: Physical fight?

TRUMP: Yes, all kinds of fights, physical --

INTERVIEWER: Arguments?

TRUMP: All types of fights. Any kind of fight, I loved it, including physical.

ACOSTA: Back at his golf course in Florida, Trump asked a few of his employees to sing his praises that their tough-talking boss does indeed look out for working Americans.

TRUMP: I better say good or I say, you're fired. I say who is that guy?

(END VIDEOTAPE)

ACOSTA: And Donald Trump will be visiting one of his other properties tomorrow. He's scheduled to attend the ribbon cutting of his new hotel in Washington, D.C. You recall, he was at that hotel earlier this year when he acknowledged President Obama is an American citizen -- Anderson.

COOPER: Jim, thanks very much.

Hillary Clinton is hoping that Donald Trump will soon be returning to his hotel business and she will be making history as the country's first woman elected president. So, today, facing headwinds from Obamacare, but sizable advantages elsewhere, including words she'll be getting Colin Powell's vote, Secretary Clinton spent the day in south Florida, trying to keep one staunchly Democratic county blue.

More on that from Jeff Zeleny.

(BEGIN VIDEOTAPE)

JEFF ZELENY, CNN SENIOR WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT (voice-over): Hillary Clinton in Florida tonight, opening a two week fight to the finish.

HILLARY CLINTON (D), PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE: I feel good but, boy, I'm not taking anything for granted. I'm going to work as hard as I can between now and the close of the election.

ZELENY: She's firing up Democrats in the biggest of all battlegrounds, 29 electoral votes she believes will block Donald Trump's path.

H. CLINTON: Americans are coming together, at the very moment when Donald Trump is making an unprecedented attack on our democracy --

ZELENY: On a two-day Florida swing, Clinton is hitting Democratic strongholds to bank votes through early voting, one way to minimize any pre-election pitfalls like rising health care costs under the Affordable Care Act.

[20:05:10] Her long embrace of Obamacare --

H. CLINTON: Before there was something called Obamacare, there was something called Hillarycare.

ZELENY: -- suddenly could be an 11th hour liability.

As Republicans pounce today, she was silent about it at her rally. In a Miami radio interview, Clinton said millions of Americans now have health care under the law, but acknowledged major shortcomings.

H. CLINTON: The costs have gone up too much. So we're going to really tackle that.

ZELENY: But former President Bill Clinton under fire earlier this month for pointing out flaws in the system.

BILL CLINTON, FORMER PRESIDENT: It's the craziest thing in the world.

ZELENY: Now telling voters in North Carolina health care should be fixed not repealed.

B. CLINTON: Yes, there's something wrong. But you don't want to choose somebody who is the living embodiment of what's wrong.

ZELENY: With 14 days to go, Clinton is in command of the race but bracing for another wave of controversy. A new batch of campaign chairman John Podesta's hacked emails shows even he was flabbergasted about the decision back in 2009 to set up a private email server for Clinton at the State Department.

When "The New York Times" first revealed the private server in March 2015, Clinton friend Neera Tanden expressing outrage at Cheryl Mills, Clinton's chief of staff as secretary of state , who helped sign off on the e-mail arrangement. Tanden wrote Podesta, "Why didn't they get this stuff out like 18 months ago? So crazy." "Unbelievable," Podesta replied. "They wanted to get away with it," Tanden shot back.

Obama, who is heading back to campaign in Florida on Friday, weighing in last night on "Jimmy Kimmel Live" on ABC, reading a Trump tweet and his own response.

BARACK OBAMA, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES: "President Obama will go down as perhaps the worst president in the history of the United States, exclamation point. @RealDonald Trump."

Well, @RealDonald Trump, at least I will go down as a president.

(END VIDEOTAPE)

COOPER: And Jeff Zeleny joins us now from Coconut Creek, Florida.

Has Clinton said anything at all about these premium hikes other than that radio interview?

ZELENY: Anderson, no. Surprisingly, I mean, this is her signature political issue for the last 20 years, ever since that 1993 Healthcare Reform Act. She was utterly silent about it today at the rally here in Florida. Her aides say she doesn't want to litigate this in the final days of the campaign but the reality here is Republicans are litigating it.

Now, she has talked about this a lot on the campaign trail and at debates. She says that she knows it needs to be overhauled and fixed, but not repealed, because that would take away health care from some 20 million Americans.

But, Anderson, this is a political headache that she was not expecting or looking for here in the final days. It's why they want to bank those early votes now before this becomes even more of a controversy -- Anderson.

COOPER: All right. Jeff Zeleny -- Jeff, thanks very much.

More now on why Florida is such a must-win state for Donald Trump. It's such a prize for both candidates.

For that, let's bring in our CNN political director David Chalian.

David, just how important is Florida in this election?

DAVID CHALIAN, CNN POLITICAL DIRECTOR: Listen, it's the biggest battleground prize there is, 29 electoral votes and the candidates clearly know it, Anderson. Take a look at how many times they have been visiting the state since the conventions this summer. Hillary Clinton has been there six times. Donald Trump is on his ninth visit to the state of Florida since the conventions and I'm sure this is neither of their last visits to the state.

COOPER: Let's take a look at where they chose to visit. What does that tell us?

CHALIAN: Yes. I mean, take a look. Donald Trump was in Seminole County. Look at the 2012 results here. This was a county that went seven points for Mitt Romney. He was on a mission to go to a base county, a Republican county, and drum up the vote there.

Not dissimilar from what we saw from Hillary Clinton. She was in Broward County today. Look at this, this was a county that Barack Obama won 67 to 32 over Mitt Romney. She was doing early get out the vote, also deeply blue county. She was there to turn out her base voters.

COOPER: David Chalian, thanks very much.

Let's bring in the panel now. Clinton supporters Jonathan Tasini and Maria Cardona. Jonathan is a former Sanders supporter and host of Working Life podcast, Maria was a senior adviser to 2008 Clinton campaign. New York 1 anchor and resident Trumpologist, Errol Louis, joins us. So does "Washington Post" political reporter, Philip Bump. Also with us, Trump supporters Kayleigh McEnany and Corey Lewandowski.

Let me start with our nonpartisans and then we'll move over to our partisans. Philip, I mean, for Donald Trump obviously Florida is critical. The problem for him is also he's got to get a bunch of other states as well.

PHILIP BUMP, THE WASHINGTON POST: That's exactly right. I mean, Florida is must-win not in the sense that if he wins Florida, he wins. It's a must win in the sense that he doesn't win Florida, he's dead in the water. He's got to pick up a lot of states. He's got to do better than Mitt Romney did in 2012. That's the baseline to think of.

He's losing to Hillary Clinton in North Carolina right now which Mitt Romney won in 2012. Arizona looks like it might be a toss up. Georgia and Texas look closer. All these states he has to defend but at the same time, he still needs to win in Pennsylvania or in Ohio, and/or in Ohio.

There all these states he needs to pick up as well. And right now, the math just isn't there.

[20:10:01] Florida is a must win, but so are a lot of other states.

COOPER: Errol, what's more important for Donald Trump, energizing the base or trying to reach out to undecided voters who may still be out there?

ERROL LOUIS, CNN POLITICAL COMMENTATOR: At this point, with just two weeks left, it's probably better and this is what political strategists, Corey may even agree with this, will tell you, is you got to stick to your plan. There's not a lot of time shifting resources around.

The reality is he still has a path to victory, a very -- I mean, he's got to win Florida. That's tough. That's a battleground. If he can, he's got leads in Ohio or he's within four points in Iowa, and in Ohio. That brings him within 11 electoral votes. At that point, if he can get Pennsylvania, always going to be a stretch for Republicans, if he can get Pennsylvania he's in the ballpark. He wins. If he can flip Nevada, he gets closer and closer.

So, you can't start redrawing all of your strategy, you know, shifting all of your resources all across the country with two weeks to go. That's not rational.

COOPER: Phil, though, I mean, with this Obamacare premiums going up, does Hillary Clinton run out the clock as long as she can on this and try to not mention it until she absolutely has to.

BUMP: Yes. I mean, it doesn't do her any good to talk about it, right? One thing she mastered is not talking about things she doesn't want to talk about. But, you know, it's important to remember, there's already almost 10 million people that already voted, including Florida where Democrats and Republicans have run neck and neck.

A lot of votes banked and something that Hillary Clinton can rely on. Plus, she has a much stronger ground game. She's got a lot of folks that are focused on getting people out to the polls for whom it's probably not going to make any difference this Obamacare.

COOPER: All right. We're going to talk to our partisans after a quick break. We're going to take a break. We'll continue the conversation.

Later, Donald Trump in his own words on what drives him and what scares him the most. We'll bring you what he told his biographer in the last interview of this before running for president. It's very revealing and fascinating stuff when we continue.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

[20:15:25] COOPER: We're talking about Florida and why both candidates are fighting so hard for it right now.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

TV ANCHOR: You have four events today in Florida.

TRUMP: Right.

TV ANCHOR: That's a must-win for you, correct?

TRUMP: Right. I believe Florida is a must-win and I think we're winning it. I think we're winning it big.

TV ANCHOR: Twenty-nine electoral votes. You can't go the White House unless you win in Florida, you would concede that, right?

TRUMP: I think that's probably true.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

COOPER: Donald Trump earlier today.

Back now with the panel. Corey, do you think Florida is a must-win for Donald Trump?

COREY LEWANDOWSKI, CNN POLITICAL COMMENTATOR: I do. Absolutely. I mean, look, if you look at the map that Mitt Romney had, he won 206 electoral votes. You need to win Florida. If you give Donald Trump Ohio and Iowa right now, that leaves him 11 electoral votes short. There's a number of paths to get there as we've heard earlier. There's a Colorado path, there's a Pennsylvania path, there's a Nevada, New Hampshire and second district of Maine path.

And I think what you'll see and what Kellyanne Conway, his campaign manager, has talked about is, look, where they are deploying surrogates. Eric Trump was in New Hampshire today. Donald Trump just announced he's going to be back in New Hampshire and Maine on Friday. He'll be making a west coast swing to Nevada.

They clearly look at this differently than what the other polls are saying. Their internal numbers say it's much closer than what many other people think. What's important is if you look at some of the exit polling or some of the polling that's been done recently, look at the numbers that Donald Trump is getting with the African-American community. The Monmouth poll shows he's getting 16 percent in the African-American community in North Carolina. In Pennsylvania, he's getting 29 percent of the African-American community. In Wisconsin, he's getting 15 percent.

These are unheard of numbers for a Republican. That should really scare Hillary Clinton as this race gets much closer.

COOPER: Maria, does that scare you?

MARIA CARDONA, CNN POLITICAL COMMENTATOR: Well, I think Hillary Clinton should be scared and I think she acknowledged it today where she's not going to take anything for granted. I think that's actually how you win.

COOPER: Should she be scared about the Obamacare premiums going up?

CARDONA: Well, I think that she certainly needs to address it when she talks about it.

COOPER: You do think she needs to address it?

CARDONA: I do think she needs to --

COOPER: Because she's not addressed it so far.

CARDONA: Well, she had a radio interview today where she talked about it. But, look, her position is not new. She said before this is a law that needs to be fixed. It certainly should not be repealed. You have 20 million people who have coverage, who wouldn't have it were it not for this law.

But, yes, there are certain problems that need be addressed. That's not anything new. She needs to talk about it.

COOPER: So, Kayleigh, is this an issue you think that can make the difference for Donald Trump in the closing weeks?

KAYLEIGH MCENANY, CNN POLITICAL COMMENTATOR: Absolutely. Because it's so intricately tied to the economy. You have voters who feel like they are hurting economically. And when you look at facing double digit premium increases that directly affects net home income.

COOPER: You think it changes people's minds, people who were thinking about Clinton but you think --

MCENANY: I 100 percent do. And I think it's been an underexplored issue. I know it came up in your town hall. But it didn't come up in either the first or third debate. There's been no meaningful dialogue on Obamacare and this is a place that directly affects the pocketbook. And when people go to the polls, they will remember that $800 premium in some cases they're going to have to pay.

COOPER: Jonathan? JONATHAN TASINI, HILLARY CLINTON SUPPORTER: But the problem is, a few problems. One Donald Trump is not capable of talking about any issue. If you look at actually all the debates, he can't put together more than three or four sentences that are coherent in talking about an alternative.

The second thing I'll point out is, the Republican Party in general has no alternative to Obamacare. You may remember other than throw people off care and to not have people be covered for pre-existing conditions which Obamacare solved.

Last thing I'll say is, to Hillary Clinton's credit, she has publicly stated that one of the things she wants to do with Obamacare is improve it by offering what would be called a public option. Many of us have said and I think Hillary -- there will be a debate in the Democratic Party about this, the only way to solve the health care charisma in general is go to single payer Medicare for all systems, which is a public option which she supports is a step for us.

COOPER: But, Corey, it doesn't help Donald Trump when today he's saying -- you know, he's got all his employees and saying, hey, look they are having trouble with Obamacare and it turns out they don't have Obamacare because --

LEWANDOWSKI: Because he's fortunate enough to able to provide them health care through his corporate --

COOPER: Right. But is he the best messenger to try to prosecute a case against Obamacare?

LEWANDOWSKI: If you're a Florida resident, 1.53 million people were on the system and you take the Humana option which is one of the insurers down there. You know what your premium increase is? Not the average 19 percent. That's the average across Florida. It's 36.8 percent increase is what the Florida residents will see next year moving forward.

That is devastating if you are a Clinton supporter or an Obama supporter and you're going to the poll and saying, I'm going to see a 37 percent increase. That's 1.53 million

COOPER: Folks have voted particularly in Florida.

LEWANDOWSKI: If I'm Hillary Clinton I'm putting every person I can in the bank right now, because the more this is talked about, the more constraint she should have, because if my premium goes up 37 percent, I'm very concerned.

COOPER: That does seem to make sense, as more people hear about this, the more they'll vote --

CARDONA: Sure. But I think a couple of things, and we talked about this already, especially in Florida.

[20:20:02] There has been already a million people who have voted. Florida is a state that is tailor-made more Hillary Clinton. You have Latinos who are voting right now at 99 percent more than what they voted in 2012.

COOPER: So, you don't think this Obamacare --

CARDONA: I don't know. I don't think this is going to flip people for a couple of reasons. There's not enough time, number one. And number two, to your point Donald Trump is an awful messenger.

COOPER: I didn't say he was awful. I was asking --

CARDONA: No, no, you asked the question, but the point is he's an offensive line messenger. He sounded absolutely clueless about what it was, not even knowing that Obamacare wasn't something his own employees used. So, when that you have a kind of comparison, people are going to say, at least Hillary Clinton is addressing the problem, not wanting to take it away from me, because let's remember 80 percent of the people are not going to be affected by these hikes.

COOPER: The question is, will people believe they want to throw the whole thing out and start with something Republicans are going to offer or just amend what already exists?

TASINI: Well, people with look at history and know that the Republicans never offered anything but the free market solution which was devastating to people. Tens of millions of people did not have healthcare coverage. I'll give you a good example of what's happening now in California.

One of the reasons the premiums are going up is because of drug prices. Republicans opposed any attempt for Medicare and health plans in the exchange to negotiate over drug prices. There is a proposition in California, Proposition 61, which is attempting to reduce drug prices and the pharmaceutical industry spending $100 million, the pharmaceutical industry which is funding the Republican Party, big donors to the Republican Party is spending a $100 million to defeat this.

(CROSSTALK)

COOPER: What Donald Trump says is it is basically free market but free existing conditions are going to be covered and yet, he doesn't explain how preexisting conditions can be covered unless there's a mandate.

BUMP: Right. Well, I mean, it's -- you know, the Republican Party has been trying to put together a plan to be the replace part for repeal and replace for years now. There isn't really a very good option or haven't been many robust options --

TASINI: There's none.

CARDONA: Seven years.

BUMP: I do think it's worth pointing two things about this that I think will lessen the political effects over the course of the next two weeks. First is that most of the people on the Obamacare exchanges are subsidized. You're not going to see this big increase in their own pocketbook, but secondarily, this is also 2017 increase that's going to happen --

COOPER: Kayleigh, you said there is a good option.

MCENANY: Yes, there's this Republicans haven't put forward a plan. Paul Ryan has actually put forward a very detailed, very good plan, involving health care savings accounts --

(CROSSTALK)

MCENANY: And for Jonathan to sits there and advocates for the public option, two words: the Veterans Administration. We've had a so called government-run healthcare system and guess what? A lot of veterans died waited for the care, so --

TASINI: Actually, the V.A. --

(CROSSTALK)

MCENANY: -- further down this road is a very poor one and that will (INAUDIBLE)

TASINI: Actually, the public option best explained by looking at Medicare, and there is nobody who was on Medicare -- Medicare needs to be improved. But Medicare has kept millions of seniors from going bankrupt and from going into poverty. If he had Medicare for all like all industrialized countries, like Australia, like many of the European countries, we would not have this problem.

COOPER: We got to take a break. I want to thank the panel. Coming up, we have breaking news. New insight in Donald Trump's thought process. We've obtained hours of interviews of Trump two years ago with a journalist who wrote a biography of him. He talks about fame, his love of fighting and his marriages.

(BEGIN AUDIO CLIP)

INTERVIEWER: When you think about balancing your ambitions and your relationships with people you love, what's changed over the years?

TRUMP: Well, it's very hard for somebody to be married to me.

(END AUDIO CLIP)

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

[20:27:29] COOPER: Some new audio that had just come out contains some pretty fascinating moments and insight into Donald Trump's thought processes and also his first wife Ivana. The audio is from extensive interviews that journalist Michael D'Antonio did with Trump two years ago. The tape showed Trump loves fighting, hates losing and will not readily admit to failure. I mean, this was even before he announced he was running for president.

Our Kyung Lah has more.

(BEGIN VIDEOTAPE) TRUMP: You vote for her, you're crazy, OK? I'll tell you. She is the worse.

KYUNG LAH, CNN NATIONAL CORRESPONDENT (voice-over): It's a Donald Trump we don't often see. Not campaigning but instead contemplated, like when he talks about how he won't accept losing.

TRUMP: You can be tough, and ruthless and all that stuff, and if you lose a lot, nobody is going to follow you, because you're looked at as a loser. Winning is a very important thing and the most important aspect of leadership is winning. If you have a record of winning, people are going to follow you.

LAH: As we've seen this selection, this is a leader who enjoys a flight.

TRUMP: I like to punch him in the face I'll tell you.

LAH: And the tapes reveal that willingness began as a child.

INTERVIEWER: In eighth grade?

TRUMP: And I loved to fight. I always loved to fight.

INTERVIEWER: Physical fights?

TRUMP: Yes, all kinds of fights, physical --

INTERVIEWER: Arguments?

TRUMP: All types of fights. Any kind of fight, I loved it, including physical.

LAH: Ex-wife Ivana Trump also sat down for a rare interview. Ivana explained how six months into their relationship, she saw how Trump reacted when she outskied him.

IVANA TRUMP, EX-WIFE OF DONALD TRUMP: And then the ski instructor I told him, "Don't tell Donald that I can ski, OK? Because his ego, it's so big. He's not able to going to ski.

I went up. I went two flips up in the air, two flips (INAUDIBLE) in front of him. I disappeared.

Donald was so angry. He took off his skis, his ski boots and walked up the restaurant.

INTERVIEWER: So he left you?

IVANA TRUMP: Yes.

INTERVIEWER: Wow.

IVANA TRUMP: He could not take it. He could not take it. He went foot bare up to the restaurant and said, "I'm not going to do this (EXPLETIVE DELETED) for anybody, including Ivana." INTERVIEWER: Oh, jeez.

IVANA TRUMP: He could not take it, that I could do something better than he did.

LAH: For Trump, everything is a competition, especially business.

TRUMP: I never had a failure, because I always turned a failure into a success.

LAH: The theme weaves through his interviews, refusal to acknowledge any business failures.

[20:30:05] TRUMP:: I bought something -- I throw out into a bankruptcy. I made an unbelievable deal. Wiped out a lot of the debt. Came back. The next day I read the story. "Trump files bankruptcy". I get all these people that don't understand business saying oh did you go bankrupt. Do you understand that?

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: You talks about this a lot.

TRUMP: I do. I always do.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Right.

TRUMP: Because I tell you why I do. What always bothers me is false stuff. Untruths. That bother me.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: But what doesn't bother him? Fame. Trump admits he needs it.

TRUMP: It's happened from -- from the time I was fairly young. It just happened.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Did it unnerve you at first?

TRUMP: No.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Or make you feel unsafe ever.

TRUMP: No. I think what would unnerve me if it didn't happen.

LAH: Trump said he doesn't see much need more reflection but takes a moment to talk about marriage.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: When you think about balancing your ambition and your relationships with people you love, what's changed over the years?

TRUMP: Well it's very hard for somebody to be married to me.

LAH: Ex-wife Ivana and her interviews says what ended after theirs after three children with him, Trump's affair with Marla Maples.

IVANA TRUMP, FORMER WIFE OF DONALD TRUMP: She's a stupid girl. She doesn't have a brains. I have no idea what Donald was doing with her. But she broke us over marriage because immediately when I find out his affair, I file for divorce.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: This is it?

IVANA TRUMP: I was the one, yeah. Because if you cannot trust your spouse, you know, well it is over.

LAH: Trump up ended the presidential election with much more than fiery rhetoric. The interview show he did it with a singular unyielding belief in himself.

TRUMP: The most important thing is being able to have the proper vision and then never quitting. You know, a lot of people say oh you can never give up. Well, you can give up if you have a stupid vision. So I always say vision is the most important thing. You need the proper vision and then you have to have the ability to get it done.

LAH: Kyung Lah, CNN, Los Angeles.

(END VIDEOTAPE)

COOPER: And this recording is from 2014 when Pulitzer Prize-winning reporter Michael D'Antonio interviewed Trump and his family. Michael is the author of "The Truth About Trump" and he gave us the recordings.

I spoke with him a short time ago.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

COOPER: It seems like so much of Donald Trump has been influence influenced b y his father and his father was all about, you know, fighting back, being aggressive. What else do you think he took away from his dad?

MICHAEL D'ANTONIO, TRUMP BIOGRAPHER: Well I think this whole idea of being super tough, you know ...

COOPER: That comes from his father?

D'ANTONIO: Never giving up. When Donald said to me you hit me, I hit you back 10 times harder. That's Fred Trump. And also the thing that never left me was Donald telling me this story about him being sent away to the military academy. And it was a matter of this kid is acting up at school. We're going banish him.

COOPER: Really?

D'ANTONIO: Yeah, and all of a sudden the two sisters and two brothers are cozy at home in this mansion attended by servants and ...

COOPER: Trump was the only one sent to away.

D'ANTONIO: He was. And I think it's -- it may have suited him. You know, he might have been the kind of rambunctious kid that the parents felt they needed the discipline. But Fred's toughness and his coolness. I think he was a pretty cold guy too. I don't think there was a lot of warmth and love flowing.

COOPER: It is interesting because Trump often talks about, you know, how his dad was based out in Queens and how he wanted to come to Manhattan. I mean it's clearly I don't know if it's a -- maybe it's too far to say it is a criticism of his father, but he does seem to point out that he sort of came to an area his father never ventured into.

D'ANTONIO: Absolutely. I think he wanted to one up them.

COOPER: One up him.

D'ANTONIO: You know, so there's a kind of exceeding the dad saying that went on, even though Fred was one of the richest men in America. His fortune was $200 million.

COOPER: Wow.

D'ANTONIO: So this is not a guy of no consequence.

COOPER: And also, I just wanted the things that Hillary Clinton kept sort of poking of Donald Trump during the debate, by saying your father gave you $14 million to start out and Donald Trump says that is just not true.

D'ANTONIO: It's much bigger than that.

COOPER: It was bigger than that?

D'ANTONIO: Yes. The father arranged for all the political connections which were priceless and the financing for his first project which was more than $40 million. So Donald was born on third base and likes to take credit for getting there but his father put him there.

COOPER: He also doesn't seem to look back at the past very much.

D'ANTONIO: No. You know, he said to me I don't like to analyze myself or think about the past because I'm afraid of what I'll see. So, you know, unlike most of us who look to learn from our mistakes and may reflect on what well what went into making me this kind of person? Donald is straight ahead and his very future oriented.

You know, he ended our time together prematurely. We were supposed to meet six times and instead we only met four for formal interviews and it was just at the moment when I felt he was opening up. When he was starting to tell the truth. And I -- at the end of our last interview I said, you know, I kind of like you today. And he went back a little bit and then smiled. And I almost felt like this is the thing that people see in Donald that they like but he doesn't let it show very often.

[20:35:24] COOPER: He does have a charm -- I mean in a, you know, one-on-one saying and I think when got a glimpse of that even at the end of the second debate, you know, which have been a very contentious debate. When this person in the audience asked, you know, can you say something nice to your opponent. He sort of a sense him which seemed very genuine about Hillary Clinton being a fighter and doesn't give up and the he respects that at about her.

D'ANTONIO: I think it was genuine and this is the frustrating thing for those of who us who have spent time with Donald. His both of his ex-wives said the same thing to me that they thought they could kind of spark that thing in him and keep it alive and help it to grow and it never happened.

COOPER: There is also a real -- I don't know if it is a fear of humiliation but humiliation seems to be a recurring theme.

D'ANTONIO: Yeah, this is why he talks about how they're making fools outs of us. Our foreign competitors or they are laughing at us.

COOPER: Which is something he's been saying and putting in, you know, in newspaper ads drawing back.

D'ANTONIO: Personal life.

COOPER: Yeah.

D'ANTONIO: You know, so why does this guy always think about humiliation? Why does he worry that people are laughing at him?

I suspect that somebody laughed at him a lot when he was young and he's been trying to make up for it ever since.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

COOPER: We have more with my interview of Michael D'Antonio in the next hour of "360". Similarly fascinating insights to Donald Trump.

Just ahead, the fallout from price hikes in ObamaCare premiums, we'll talk about that a little bit, Donald Trump and other Republicans are blasting Hillary Clinton, President Obama. Questions will they be able to leverage sticker shock into actual votes?

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

[20:40:46] COOPER: As we've said, millions of Americans who get health insurance through ObamaCare just an October surprise not a good kind. Their premiums are said to climb an average of 22 percent next year. President Obama of course considers the affordable care act to be one of his signature accomplishments. And Republicans have been down and dismantled since it was passed in 2010. And now just two weeks from election date, they have new ammunition.

Here is Michelle Kosinski.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Does this produce the payment you are feeling?

MICHELLE KOSINSKI, CNN CORRESPONDENT: ObamaCare sticker shock 22 percent more on average in premiums this coming year. Compared to only a 7 percent increase in 2016 and throw more fuel onto the Republican fire to repeal it.

D. TRUMP: ObamaCare is a disaster. You know it. We all know it.

GOV. MIKE PENCE, (R-IN) VICE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE: President Obama last week compared ObamaCare to the Samsung Galaxy 7 phones that have spontaneously burst into flames.

Well, what a coincide Mr. President, because that's exactly what we're going to do with ObamaCare. We're going to pull it off the market.

KOSINSKI: The numbers in some cases are staggering. Arizona's average increase will be 116 percent. So Indiana's premiums will actually go down by 3 percent. The Democratic governor of Minnesota where premiums will prize 50 to 67percent declared.

GOV. MARK DAYTON, (D) MINNESOTA: The reality is the affordable care act is no longer affordable.

KOSINSKI: Today, the administration pushing back saying the vast majority of people on ObamaCare won't feel those increases.

SYLVIA BURWELL, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES SECRETARY: 85 percent of those folks actually have the tax credits or the subsidies that help them and those subsidies are designed to move as premiums move. So for those folks they will be insulated from those changes.

KOSINSKI: Insurers are having trouble affording all those who signed up but who have more health problems than expected. Some major insurers have pulled out in some states all together, not enough young, healthy people are joining to offset those cost. That means now fewer choices and higher rates.

The White House agrees there are issues but focuses on the positives. More Americans covered. No lifetime limits. No more denial of coverage for pre existing conditions. And according to the latest government analysis, most people are able to find an affordable plan. The president continues to sell it.

BARACK OBAMA, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES: Now is the time to move forward. The problems that may have arisen from the affordable care act is not because governments too involved in the process. The problem is that we have not reached everybody and pulled them in.

KOSINSKI: Michelle Kosinski, CNN, The White House.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

COOPER: Well, a lot to talk about. Joining me now, CNN senior political analyst and former presidential advisor David Gergen. Also chief political analyst Gloria Borger.

So David, I mean Trump is obviously trying to use the rise in ObamaCare care rates to chip away at Clinton's lead. Do you see that working, because Michelle reported there was some big increases in premiums? DAVID GERGEN, CNN SENIOR POLITICAL ANALYST: Well an in an ordinary campaign Anderson, this would be big, big news and it would hurt the in competent effect Hillary Clinton and her campaign. Because after all that the Republicans Trump have been -- can say for long time we're going to see this kind of spikes and when the Obama people come back and say that well, you know, a lot of people are going to get subsidies, who are going to pays for their subsidies. Taxpayers do.

COOPER: Right.

GERGEN: So if the money comes out of somebody's pocket to pay for all this. But having said that, first of all Trump has run such an incendiary campaign, I think it's really difficult to out of pry people away. And secondly, he himself fumbled when we went out today to talk about this. He didn't say -- he first talk about all the agony his employees were going through because of ObamaCare. He didn't seem to realize that he in fact, his company was actually covering a number of people. The side was the story the subsequent damage control story. So the whole thing is that, I think is going to have less impact than what ordinarily occur.

COOPER: Yeah, I mean Gloria, he certainly step on, you know, his ability which yet again raises question is he the best messenger to, you know, effectively prosecute the case against ObamaCare and against Hillary Clinton on this?

GLORIA BORGER, CNN CHIEF POLITICAL ANALYST: ObamaCare has always been an issue of his but not his signature issue like building the wall for example. And he clearly doesn't have a lot of facility in terms of talking about healthcare is, you know, as David was pointing out. I think a problem he's got also is 7 million people have already voted. And I think that the people who hate Obama and ObamaCare are already Trump voters.

[20:45:18] So the question is how many undecided voters or Independent voters could this potentially move and at this point I think the cake is kind of baked on that issue. People have decided on ObamaCare. And also he's not really the one to prosecute the issue because he can't stay on a single message. He had a revealing interview with Rush Limbaugh today in which he said people want me to stay on ObamaCare. But I have to defend myself on the women issues.

COOPER: Right.

BORGER: Limbaugh asked him about it. And he just admitted it. Other people say stay on jobs. Stay on ObamaCare and repealing and replacing it. So I guess it is two theories. And he said I would rather fight it. People say you shouldn't do that and just go along and by fight it he means, fighting it on the women front. So he hasn't given up on that.

COOPER: And David, when Trump says as he often does, that he would repeal and replace ObamaCare, the other question is what he going to replace it with? And he really offer a lot of specifics and he also says that he's going to -- that pre existing conditions are going to get covered which is just hard to square that? GERGEN: I think that's right Anderson. And what we do now know is that some sort of national healthcare that applies to everybody is going to be our future. We're not going to go back to the system we had before. And the Republicans, you know, have the opportunity here to devise and show us a market base kind of plan, one with a lot of incentives and say hey here is a better way to do it. But, you know, Trump hasn't come up with that plan.

COOPER: Yeah.

GERGEN: And he doesn't have a Republican alternative that he's advancing. So it's -- I think Gloria is absolutely right. He doesn't have a lot of facility in talking about something ...

COOPER: Yeah.

GERGEN: ... which is actually very fundamental to his campaign.

COOPER: Yeah, we got to leave it there. David Gergen, thank you. Gloria Borger as well.

Just ahead, Trump supporters in the pivotal state of Florida talk about issues that are most important to them and which have Donald Trump's policies they like most.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

[20:51:08] COOPER: As we said in Florida today, Donald Trump slammed Hillary Clinton and President Obama were big price hikes in ObamaCare premiums. But he was quick to attacking so-called phony polls, rigged elections and the women who have accused him of sexual assault.

For months many of his advisors and surrogates as Gloria pointed in Rush Limbaugh's as well, then urging him to ditch the side bar attacks and sticks to the issues.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

D. TRUMP: I think that, frankly, I'd like to discuss the issues. I'm not looking to kick anybody out or be nasty to anybody.

BEN CARSON, (R) FORMER PRESIDENTIAL NOMINEE: Like I've said many times, we need to talk about the issues.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: People do want to talk about these issues.

KAYLEIGH MCENANY, TRUMP SUPPORTER: I think voters are voting on issues.

KELLYANNE CONWAY, TRUMP'S CAMPAIGN MANAGER: I think Donald Trump is at his very best, at his very best when he talks about the issues.

MELANIA TRUMP, DONALD TRUMP'S WIFE: And he talks about the issues. And that's what American people want to hear. It's about issues. About jobs.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

COOPER: That advice the often ignored, though, by Donald Trump. But we wanted to know just what exactly are the issues his supporters want to hear him talking about?

Randi Kaye went to find out.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

RANDI KAYE, CNN CORRESPONDENT: What exactly are the issues that bring supporters to Donald Trump? For some of them at his rally in Florida, it's the Second Amendment.

How do you feel about his stance on guns? What does that mean? Thumbs up?

IAN SMITH, TRUMP SUPPORTER: I am thumbs up Second Amendment. I love my guns.

KAYE: This Trump supporter also believes he will protect her right to own a gun.

SUSANA WRIGHT, TRUMP SUPPORTER: I like that he wants to support the average citizens' right to own guns and protect ourselves not only from criminals, but from our government, if they would go dictatorship or go too much control.

KAYE: Voter Ian Smith likes Trump's talk of sealing our borders and imposing term limits for Congress, too. But when pressed about why he likes Trump's plan to repeal ObamaCare, Ian was short on details.

Have you -- do you know what his plan is or no?

SMITH: I do.

KAYE: Do you want to share?

SMITH: It's top secret.

KAYE: Now you sound like Donald Trump.

SMITH: I'll tell you when I get in there.

KAYE: This woman told me she also likes Trump's idea to end ObamaCare, but when our conversation turned to trade, our interview went south.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Evening the playing field will help. Let them pay to bring their goods in here, like we pay to take our goods to them for export. Let them pay to import.

KAYE: So you're all for him renegotiating NAFTA and getting rid of TPP?

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Well.

KAYE: Yes.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: OK, there you go.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: I know you're trying to make us look stupid, right?

KAYE: No, I'm actually -- really? No. I'm actually doing a story about what policies.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: OK.

KAYE: People are attracted to.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Well, you looked at our shirts and said ...

KAYE: I thought we were having a nice discussion, actually.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: I know.

KAYE: This man may have prompted that, but recording our every move, accusing us of asking gotcha questions and angry we weren't wearing CNN identification.

Have you identified who you're with? Have you identified who you're with?

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: I'm an independent media.

KAYE: OK, well, how am I supposed to know that?

He made sure to alert everyone we interviewed before we could that were CNN until it backfired with this woman.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: CNN interviewing you.

CINDY NEWBOLD, TRUMP SUPPORTER: Oh, I love CNN.

KAYE: Great, thank you. What brings you out to see Donald Trump? What policy attracts you?

NEWBOLD: I like the fact that he is pro-life. I like the fact that he is pro-constitution, and I'm all about creating jobs in America, for Americans.

KAYE: She isn't sold, yet, though on Trump's **immigration** policy.

NEWBOLRD: There's still some gray areas. I don't understand. And I want him to flesh that out a little bit more.

KAYE: **Immigration** is a huge draw for this voter.

AMANDA MURPHY, TRUMP SUPPORTER: When we look at his **immigration** policy, what he is saying is extreme vetting. Now, that does not mean religious vetting. That means extreme vetting. I want a policies in place so that we're doing what we need to know to make sure that Americans are safe. KAYE: In the end, we found many here who, despite their unwavering support for the Republican nominee, could not name a single policy Donald Trump stands for.

[20:55:02] But what policies do you like of his?

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: All of him.

KAYE: What do you like the best? Is there a specific policy that you like that he's put forward? Do you not want to talk about that?

(END VIDEO CLIP)

COOPER: And Randi joins us now from Orlando, Florida. It is interesting that just two weeks before the election, some of the supporters, you know, don't name a particular policy. Maybe it's more the character they like, the personality of Donald Trump, the strength that they believe he exudes.

KAYE: Absolutely, Anderson, and many of them actually, when I asked them about policy, sounded just like Donald Trump. They would say to me, all of his policies are great. They're all going to make America great again. Everything is going to be wonderful, but yet they still couldn't name a specific policy that they support.

Now, there were those who could name policy, as you saw. And those people were really passionate about the fact that Donald Trump says he's pro-life. They certainly like the fact that he's still talking about building a wall. They like the fact that he's going to -- he's saying that he's going to appoint like-minded justices to the Supreme Court. They like all of that.

But still there are people who just two weeks out now from Election Day, want to hear more. I asked one woman about Donald Trump's plans for ISIS, saying that he was going to bomb them and going to bomb the oil fields, and she admitted, you're right, he doesn't have a plan for ISIS, but she's convinced that he's going to surround himself with smart people, smart generals, and he will, eventually, have a good plan for ISIS if he is, indeed, in the White House.

Another woman I talked to about Social Security. And she said, Donald Trump keeps saying that he's going to stage Social Security, he's going to make it great again, but she still wants to know how, Anderson.

COOPER: All Randi Kaye, Randi thanks very much.

Just ahead on this two-hour edition of "360," Donald Trump pounding the trail in the must-win state of Florida, slamming President Obama with a surge in ObamaCare premiums. Can he turn the sticker shock into votes?

We'll look at that ahead.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

**NEW\_DOCUMENT\_HERE**

Anderson Cooper, Randi Kaye, Tom Foreman, Jason Carroll, John King, Kayleigh McEnany, Andre Bauer, Amanda Carter, Kevin Madden, Joe Johns, Bill Press

8943 speakers\_end

[20:00:06] ANDERSON COOPER, CNN ANCHOR: Good evening. Thanks for joining us.

How many times in a year can you say, what a week? Tonight, with three weekends to go until the election, the Republican Party has been doing damage control, trying to insulate Senate and congressional candidates from a potential Trump defeat. Meantime, new data from CNN partner Catalyst shows the Democrats and presumably Hillary Clinton gaining their early voting edge in a number of key states. And Joe Biden today said he wish he could take Trump, and I'm quoting here, "behind the gym".

As for Trump who's just finished speaking tonight outside Philadelphia, he's already had some choice words today about winning and losing and whether the system is rigged. What a week?

So, begin the program with CNN's Jason Carroll traveling with the Trump campaign in Newtown, Pennsylvania.

So, Trump trailing in the polls nationally. There's North Carolina. What was Trump saying tonight to try to encourage his voters? And did his words resonate?

JASON CARROLL, CNN NATIONAL CORRESPONDENT: Well, a couple of things. Basically, he's telling his voters that the polls are wrong, that the polls are not true and that they should basically ignore the polls. I mean, you've got to do something. I mean, he's trailing here in the state of North Carolina, trailing in several national polls, and so, you've got to do something to rally your base.

And so, what we've been seeing and hearing from Donald Trump here in the state is basically saying things like, look, these polls are put out there by the media. The media cannot be trusted, talked again about the system being rigged.

But it's also very clear to the Trump campaign that internally they are worried. They are worried about these poll numbers and evidence of that, Anderson, at least some evidence of that, is something that Donald Trump said tonight that we've not heard him say before, and this was, quote, "we need you" -- meaning the people out there -- "we need you to help turn this thing around."

So, that's clearly an indication they are worried about where they stand now in the polls now.

COOPER: What are you hearing from his supporters and the crowds? I mean, is there -- do they believe the polls?

CARROLL: Well, a couple of things. Yes, they do believe that the polls are being put out there by what one person here told me the liberal media. So, it is resonating with his base. But the problem is, Anderson, is it resonating beyond his base?

And that's what the campaign needs do. That's what they've been unable to do. So, is it resonating with people in the room like where we are here in Pennsylvania? Yes. The message definitely resonates with the base. The problem is, it just doesn't seem to be resonating beyond that.

COOPER: All right. Jason Carroll, thanks very much. Whatever Donald Trump says about the polls, Republicans have been begun acting to contain the damage to congressional candidates. A first of its kind Senate ad is up in New Hampshire underscoring the need for Republicans to hold on to Congress no matter who is elected president.

It's a message incumbent GOP Senator Kelly Ayotte no doubt hopes will resonate. She's eight points down in statewide polls. And as John King tell us, she's not the only Republican candidate facing potential blowback if Donald Trump does poorly. He's got the lowdown by the numbers.

(BEGIN VIDEOTAPE)

JOHN KING, CNN CHIEF NATIONAL CORRESPONDENT: Anderson, one of the most fascinating dynamics heading into the last two weeks is how this race, the race for president filling in this map is affecting the control for the battle for the Senate.

Let's bring up the Senate now. Right now, it's 54 Republicans, 46 Democrats. That includes the two independents who caucus with the Democrats and every two years. A third of the Senate is up.

Pretty easy to figure this one out. See, all these red lines? Those are seats held by Republicans. The blue lines seats currently held by Democrats.

So, you can see easily here, Republicans are defending a lot more seats, which is why Democrats think because of Donald Trump's troubles, they might be able to get the Senate back. They're actually quite optimistic about it. Now, the switch from a month ago.

First, let's do this. Take off the board and assign to the parties, the races, the strategies of both parties believe are pretty much baked out. Late in the race, is it possible one or two of these will come back? Yes. But most strategists think these ones are the ones that are baked. So, then, what's left? Among them, Marco Rubio. Remember, he ran the presidential primaries. He decided to run for reelection in Florida. Again, this is a competitive race. President Obama was trying to have a little fun down there, but most people think in the end Marco Rubio will pull this out.

But watch to the end because Trump's troubles in Florida, if he struggles and tanks in Florida, maybe it comes to play. But let's leave it there for now.

Another race here, Roy Blunt in Missouri. Missouri, competitive in a Senate in a presidential year? It shouldn't be. But the Democratic is competitive in this race now. For the sake of argument, we're going to say Missouri sticks with its DNA. But watch this one to the end. We give that back to the Republicans.

Here, Russ Feingold, a Democrat trying to make a comeback. It is Ron Johnson, who is the Republican incumbent. Republicans are rushing money in here late to try to save this seat. But as we speak tonight, most think that one will go along with the presidential race staying blue in Wisconsin.

So, where are we? One two three four five six left. Let me take this off the board. In Ohio, Rob Portman running against the former governor. Rob Portman viewed as safe to hold that seat right now.

So, then, it gets interesting. We got the Republicans at 48, Democrats at 47, look what's left on the map. In New Hampshire, Maggie Hassan, the governor, running against the incumbent Senator Kelly Ayotte. Donald Trump in this state is pulling Kelly Ayotte down.

[20:05:01] At the moment, Maggie Hassan looks like she's poised for victory.

Time to go. That's where it is today. The same in Pennsylvania. Pat Toomey has been competitive. Trump now down by close to double digits. Katie McGinty viewed as favorite in that race right now.

Here's where it's interesting. The Democrats are now with 49 in this scenario. Again, it's hypothetical. If Hillary Clinton wins, they only need fifty and then Tim Kaine would break the tie in the Senate. One, two three, three races to get one, including Harry Reid's seat. This is the only Democratic seat people think is in play right now.

Joe Heck, the Republican, Republicans actually think -- even in Nevada, they can win this state, although of late, Trump has been struggling. But for now, worried about it. Let's give that to him injure for a scenario to show you how this could play out -- 49, 49, Indiana and North Carolina, usually reliably Republican states.

Evan Bayh trying to make a comeback against Republican Todd Young in Indiana. Watch that race. And in North Carolina, we talk about the Green Party candidate, the libertarian and presidential race. A libertarian in North Carolina could affect the race here. Richard Burr, the Republican incumbent, Deborah Ross has an ad on the air linking him to Donald Trump, saying he's still standing with Trump despite that "Access Hollywood" tape.

So, this could come down to something like this, 48/48, 49/49 with one or two Senate races deciding the balance of power. And, Anderson, heading into final weeks, Republicans are worried. As Trump goes down, so do their chances of maintaining the Senate.

(END VIDEOTAPE)

COOPER: John King -- John, thanks for that.

OK, panel now with the difference. All Republicans divided over Trump. Trump supporters Kayleigh McEnany and former South Carolina Lieutenant Governor Andre Bauer. Joining them, Trump critics Amanda Carter and Kevin Madden.

Kevin, this whole notion from Trump that the election is rigged, how concerned should down ballot Republicans be about that, because if Republican voters stay home believing the whole thing is rigged, a lot of these races could easily tilt in Democrats' favor.

KEVIN MADDEN, REPUBLICAN STRATEGIST: Yes, that is why it's not a smart message. I mean, if anything it is counterproductive to energize your voters to get out to vote. What animated Republican -- what Republican is animated to vote if they believe that they are participating in an election that's rigged or where their vote won't count?

So, it is going to have a potential depressive effect on some of these races if -- particularly when look at the close races in places like John was talking about, in places like North Carolina and Nevada. Republicans staying home could be the difference maker in some of those racers.

COOPER: Kayleigh, as a Trump supporter, do you believe it actually will spur turnout? The whole rigged notion?

KAYLEIGH MCENANY, CNN POLITICAL COMMENTATOR: I think -- well, potentially, yes, because I think if people think that the campaign is rigged, that the election is rigged, they are going to turn out.

And just to quickly mention about these down ballot races, I really think there could be a reverse down ballot effect. I've heard anecdotally for many Republicans saying, I'm not voting on my senator because he hasn't supported the nominee. Look at a place like New Hampshire where Donald Trump trounced Kasich by 20 percentage points, those voters who showed up enthusiastically for Trump, I can promise they are very disappointed in their Senate candidate who did not support the nominee.

So, it's a rejection of the voters, it's a rejection of the way they've chosen. I think there could be a reverse down ballot.

COOPER: Amanda, I mean, back in '96 when it seemed that Clinton -- Bill Clinton was all but certain to win, Republican operatives started urging congressional candidates in tough races to start using the argument that voters shouldn't giver Clinton a blank check, essentially conceding the presidential election, underscoring how important it was to keep Congress in Republican control.

Do you think we start seeing a similar thing in these next few weeks?

AMANDA CARPENTER, CNN POLITICAL COMMENTATOR: Yes. I mean, that is a smart message too, because whatever wins, whether it's Hillary Clinton or Donald Trump, most likely Hillary Clinton, will need a strong Republican Congress to keep them in check.

But just to Kayleigh's point that she made earlier. I mean, Donald Trump is pulling so much worse than many of these senators in battleground states. If you look at the battleground states, they are fairly competitive maybe between three and five points. They're faring much more poorly like Illinois and Wisconsin.

But the Trump campaign still seems to think that the GOP primary is the same as the general election. It is not. The strategy for winning a primary will not translate to the general. That's why you see the terrible polling numbers that Donald Trump is both having in those battleground states and nationally.

MADDEN: To that -- to Amanda's point, the universe of voters in the general election is about 160 million. That's nowhere near the same universe of voters that participate in the primary. So, it's an entirely different electorate.

COOPER: It is, Andre, though, a bind for some down ballot Republicans because there is polling that indicates they get punished if they dump Trump. But if they stick with him, they can get punished as well by some other Republicans.

ANDRE BAUER, TRUMP SUPPORTER: I think they are getting punished because people don't see any progress in Washington. I mean, the whole reason Donald Trump won against a very talented field of Republicans was this is a year of throw the bums out.

It's not just a Republican thing. It's not just a Democrat thing. It's a total -- they are so dissatisfied with the system, that's why they picked an outsider in Donald Trump. And that is why they are frustrated, some of them with their own members of Congress. They're at a boiling point where they want to drain the swamp, get the D.C. cartel out and start over.

[20:10:02] And sometimes, you even vote across party lines. I probably wouldn't be one of the folks do that, but some people are at the point where they are so fed up they are ready to start over and willing to give someone else a try no matter who.

COOPER: So, Kayleigh, what do you say to Republicans in tough races trying to figure out what to do about Trump? Whether they kind of, you know, just separate themselves from him or continue to embrace.

MCENANY: You support the nominee, support the choice of the people. The Republican Party seems to forget they do not exist absent Republican voters.

Republican voters -- this is really important I think. Frank Luntz posted a poll and it showed that 51 percent think Donald Trump is the leader of the Republican Party and just 30 percent think Paul Ryan is. Donald Trump is the way of this party's future. The outsider candidate is.

Support the nominee. That doesn't mean you have to agree on everything. If you disagree with something he said, you can say that.

COOPER: You think if he loses, you think he's still going to be around as a leader of the Republican Party?

MCENANY: He might not be but this movement will be around and Mike Pence will probably become the leader.

COOPER: Amanda, do you believe he will be the leader of the Republican Party moving forward?

CARPENTER: No. I think he'll be onto the next scheme. But, you know, I think most voters view the Republican Party not at some militaristic organization where you must fall in line. All these senators, members of Congress, need to run their individual races. They need to talk to voters about what is important to them.

And a lot of Republican voters are not happy with either choice, so the best thing members can do in individual races is prioritize their state's needs and talk about the best way to meet the needs of their voters. Not meet the needs of their presidential candidate who, you know, has self esteem issues and people not supporting him sufficiently.

MCENANY: That is such backward logic. Talk about saluting the leader but the leader was put there by these voters.

CARPENTER: No, I'm not, talking about the exact opposite.

MCENANY: But the leader was put there by the voters. So, by saying don't support the leader, but support the voters, that is backwards logic.

CARPENTER: Thirty percent of the GOP primary race. This is a general election, like I was saying earlier. We have to go into general election mode and appeal to a much broader swath of voters than Donald Trump did in the Republican primary.

COOPER: Kevin, what do you say to the down ballot Republicans trying to figure what do about Donald Trump?

MADDEN: Well, I agree the most important thing is to separate yourself from the troublesome national environment and personalize and localize your race. There are two types of campaigns out there. Those drafting off what they thought was some enthusiasm for an outsider like Donald Trump. And many of those races if they are in swing districts, they are going to lose right now because of the Donald Trump's depressive effect on the down ballot races.

But if you ran a campaign that was personalized and localized like Rob Portman, he essentially ran for sheriff r6 in every county in Ohio and he's probably running anywhere between 10 and 15 points ahead of Donald Trump. That is the ideal template I think for folks who are going to survive the Donald Trump effect in this election.

BAUER: Anderson, if they wrap themselves around the policies that Donald Trump talked about, **immigration**, welfare reform, getting us back in line and not being a continuing to spin out of control, if they wrap, they could easily say, look, I don't want agree with our nominee on everything but he's pointed out some key things that define where this country will go for the next four years. And those issues, they can easily embrace because when you put head-to-head issues on the two candidates, overwhelmingly, the people would support Donald Trump.

COOPER: All right. Kayleigh, Andre, stick around.

Kevin and Amanda, thanks so much. Have a great weekend.

Coming up next, Hillary Clinton on the trail trying to loosen Donald Trump's grip on Ohio, making sounds a lot like a closing argument.

And later, my conversation with Univision's Jorge Ramos, who has some thoughts on Trump' trajectory, as well as what he says is the rise of hate groups in the wake of his campaign.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

[20:17:25] COOPER: Welcome back.

We talked about battleground states and Donald Trump's need to expand his voting base if he's going to win the independents, moderates, especially suburban women. However, it seems like Ohio, he's counting heavily turning out more of the white working class non-college educated voters who have been up to now his mainstay. The problem is, there are more of Hillary Clinton's kind of supporters than his kind, and she's doing a good job of getting them in states like Virginia and Pennsylvania. This might explain why she's doing begun wooing them in Ohio.

Joe Johns with tonight's report.

(BEGIN VIDEOTAPE)

JOE JOHNS, CNN SENIOR WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT (voice-over): Tonight, Hillary Clinton is setting her sights on the battleground of battlegrounds.

HILLARY CLINTON (D), PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE: Hello, Cleveland!

JOHNS: The Democratic nominee rallying supporters in Ohio where polls show the race is deadlocked and early voting is under way.

CLINTON: Whether or not you support me or you support my opponent, together we must support American democracy. Overall, more than 3.3 million Americans have already voted and data suggests Democrats have improved their standing compared to this point in 2012 in states such as North Carolina, Nevada and Arizona. But the number of early votes cast is down significantly in Ohio, dropping 66 percent from four years ago. While Democrats hold a small advantage there in early balloting, it's closer than 2012.

With 18 days until Election Day, Clinton is making her closing argument on the trail.

CLINTON: Anger is not a plan. We need plans that will help us deal with the legitimate concerns and questions that people have here in Ohio.

JOHNS: And on television, releasing new ad featuring Khizr Khan, the father of a Muslim-American soldier killed in action in Iraq in 2004.

KHIZR KHAN, GOLD STAR FATHER: I want to ask Mr. Trump, would my son have a place in your America?

JOHNS: After two consecutive days of trading jabs with Trump face-to- face, including a Thursday night's Al Smith dinner in New York.

CLINTON: It is amazing I'm up here after Donald. I didn't think he'd be okay with a peaceful transition of power.

JOHNS: Clinton today lobbing attacks from afar.

CLINTON: Well, that was the third and last time that I will ever have to debate Donald Trump.

JOHNS: That as her campaign continues to deal with the awkward fallout from the daily release of hacked e-mails by WikiLeaks. The latest batch includes an exchange between long time Clinton aide Cheryl Mills and Huma Abedin last November, discussing the possibility Al Gore might not endorse Clinton despite serving as her husband's vice president.

[20:20:15] Mills sends a copy of an article about Gore's non- endorsement prompting this response from Huma Abedin, "Well, that was 16 years ago. Hard to put on e-mail but there is no love lost in this relationship. Reminder that he also refused to endorse in 2008." Mills replies, "I know that's why I thought this time would be different." To which Abedin responds, "No, it's bad."

Gore eventually did endorse Clinton and the two campaigned together in Florida earlier this month.

CLINTON: What I am most excited about is to be here with one of the world's foremost leaders on climate change, Al Gore.

JOHNS: Joe Johns, CNN, Cleveland, Ohio.

(END VIDEOTAPE)

COOPER: Let's bring in the panel. Clinton supporters Bill Press and Karine Jean-Pierre. Bill is an author and talk radio host. Karine is national spokesperson for MoveOn.org. Also, Carlos Watson, editor in chief of the news and information website, OZY.com, and back with us, Trump supporters, Kayleigh McEnany and Andre Bauer.

Carlos, it is interesting, you know, seeing the kind of behind the scenes, or reading the behind the scenes on the Gore/Clinton relationship especially when you see juxtaposed to them last weekend in Florida all buddy-buddy.

CARLOS WATSON, EDITOR IN CHIEF, OZY.COM: Well, you know, his heart still breaks, winning by 500,000 votes, never getting the chance to occupy the White House and seeing Hillary Clinton running that same year now up.

But you have to say, one of the impressive things about the last dozen days or so is the number of key surrogates Hillary's managed to get on the trail versus where Donald Trump has been. I still think one of the least-talked about things is what happened with Melania and Ivanka in the aftermath of the Billy Bush tape. We remember that Hillary Clinton jumped to her husband's side in '92. Maria Shriver did the same thing in 2003.

I think the fact that Trump hasn't had good surrogates way beyond not having a good field office and field operation I think when we look back on it is going to been the Achilles heel.

COOPER: It is, Karine, I mean, amazing, to Carlos' point when you see, you know, Hillary Clinton has been, whether it's debate prep or raising number, but essentially not running in the public eye, such as Donald Trump in the last couple of weeks. And yet she has these surrogates out there who and she can send them to various states all at the same time across the country.

KARINE JEAN-PIERRE, HILLARY CLINTON SUPPORTER: Yes, she has one of the most popular politicians in this country out there, talking on her behalf who's been incredibly effective. Michelle Obama, and then, you know, President Obama one poll had him at 58 percent popularity, which incredibly rare. Vice president was out today.

So, yes, I think she has the benefit of having strong surrogates, who incredibly popular who can go into these states, like Ohio, Pennsylvania, hey, Arizona, that's where Michelle Obama was yesterday. I mean, she is trying to flip, you know, these red states that, you know, Donald Trump is trying to defend. And it is unusual. You are right this is an unusual time. So, I think she's in a much better place.

COOPER: Bill, Kellyanne Conway, though, has made the point several times on the show that Hillary Clinton for all the surrogate power that she has, she should be doing much better in the polls. That she hasn't been able to get more than she has right now.

BILL PRESS, HILLARY CLINTON SUPPORTER: Well, I would invite Kellyanne Conway to sit down right alongside me of and I'll show her numbers. You if you look the polls, you look at all networks, right? ABC, CNN, whatever, she's up an average of 7 percent -- some as high as 11.

If you look at the battleground states, "Politico" today showed they have 11 states Donald Trump has to win. She's ahead in 6 out of 11. "The Washington Post" identified 15. She's ahead in nine of those. And then look at the Electoral College.

CNN, Larry Sabato, the University of Virginia, "Washington Post", all have her over 300 electoral votes. What is Kellyanne talking about?

I mean, this is going in one direction and I don't think you can turn it around in the time left. And if I may just add, the fact that Hillary Clinton was in Ohio today, this is like the icing on the cake. She doesn't need Ohio, but she's tied in Ohio and now she's making a play for Ohio. So, roll it up.

COOPER: Kayleigh, Donald Trump says he's going pack wall to wall events until Election Day.

MCENANY: Yes, I think that's very smart on his part. I mean, I would argue with Bill Press about this, you are right about the polls you cited, but there is one poll that was said to be the most accurate in 2012. That was statistically the most accurate in 2004 and 2008, that is the investors business daily poll that is ahead by one point.

I think there is a Brexit phenomenon, and I think polling actually confirms that. The same poll you're citing. The Bloomberg poll that just came out a few days ago. Full three (ph) percent said that they did not want to tell the pollster who they were voting for.

I'm fairly certain those folks were voting for Donald Trump and I'm fairly certain there were a lot of Donald Trump supporters who don't want to be in the basket of deplorables who just hang up when the pollster calls.

[20:25:01] I do think -- I'm not saying it's 10-point spread, but I do think there is a three or four-point average of folks who are scared to be inside the basket of deplorables, alongside Andre and I.

(LAUGHTER)

PRESS: Adorable deplorables.

COOPER: You're not in our basket of the deplorables. I want to play something that vice president said on the trail today.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

JOSEPH BIDEN, VICE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES: He said because I'm famous, because I'm a star, because I'm a billionaire. I can do things other people can't. What a disgusting assertion for anyone to make. The press always asks me, don't I wish I were debating him? No I wish we were in high school, I could take him behind the gym. That is what I wish.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

COOPER: Kayleigh, what do you make of Biden there?

MCENANY: You know, I've always taught Biden is one of the most likable Democrats I think he would have ran away with it running against Hillary Clinton. But I don't think this sort of temperament suits him, this angry tone. I think he's more effective when he takes the likeable tone. That level of anger, I mean, I just think folks who are turned off by Trump's temperament, if they are, I think would likely be turned off by that as well.

COOPER: Interesting Biden is talk about not wanting Democrats to give up on white, working class voters. And that is why in Ohio he seems to be trying to appeal to them in these closing days. Do you think he can win over some of those voting for Trump?

BAUER: He has a unique approach. I don't think that is it. Immediately that ties me to a news story a couple of days ago where the Democrats are inciting violence at Trump rallies. I mean, I would immediately tie those together and say, look, they are talking about violence.

He wants to take Trump out back to the woodshed. I mean, again, I think he's a better surrogate doing other things. I don't think he should do that. I think she was spot on. He's -- people like him and when he's likable. When he has that persona he's much better at delivering his message than a hostile and aggravated vice president.

JEAN-PIERRE: Anderson?

COOPER: Yes, Karine?

JEAN-PIERRE: I just want to say I had an opportunity to work with Joe Biden when I was in the White House the first couple of years of Obama's term. And look, the thing we have to understand is Joe Biden has spent his entire career fighting for women, fighting against sexual assault. And I think hearing these accusations, you know, against Donald Trump, it really has troubled him, right?

And what you are seeing is just the emotion, the reaction from that. This is -- like I said, this is someone who has put forth legislation. Seriously he has. He's put his entire life --

(CROSSTALK)

BAUER: -- Ted Kennedy raped a woman in that capitol grill --

(CROSSTALK)

BAUER: -- out back in the Senate building --

JEAN-PIERR: I'm not talking about the folks you just mentioned.

WATSON: The one thing I would jump in and say, though, is Kayleigh talked about the fact that there maybe three or four points of people who aren't speaking up. I actually think it could flip the other way actually. As you see more people step away from him, and I watched Pat Toomey in Pennsylvania.

Pat Toomey, the Senate candidate, in Pennsylvania, steps away from him, I think this could break the other way. I think Hillary Clinton could have the biggest win since Reagan in '84. The first double- digit win we've seen in thirty years. COOPER: Eighteen days left to win over voters. Donald Trump trailing Hillary Clinton by 50 points among Latinos. We'll talk to Univision anchor Jorge Ramos about why that is and how Trump's remarks about that bad hombres may play in the days ahead.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

[20:32:23] ANDERSON COOPER, CNN ANCHOR: Just 18 days to go, the Clinton campaign is making a major push in Arizona, one of the red states though hoping to turn it blue. A new poll released this week showed Clinton leading Trump by five points there in a four-way race, 43 percent and 38 percent. The poll was done before Wednesday's final presidential debate when Trump said this about undocumented **immigrants**.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

DONALD TRUMP, (R) U.S. PRESIDENTIAL NOMINEE: We're going to secure the border and once the border is secured, at a later date we'll make a determination as to the rest. But we have some bad hombres here and we're going to get them out.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

COOPER: The Clinton campaign is hoping to leverage Trump's comments about **immigrants** to drive turnout among Latinos in Arizona whether the tactic will actually work that's an open question. Today Randi Kaye talked to group of Latino voters in the state of Arizona.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

RANDI KAYE, CNN JUSTICE CORRESPONDENT: How many of you are voting for Donald Trump? Two. and how many of you are voting for Hillary Clinton? Three.

In Phoenix, this group of Latino voters we gathered at Arizona State University is split on who they want to be president despite Trump's hard line on **immigration**and comments about the Latino community, some are supporting him because of his business background.

Why do you think Donald Trump would create jobs or help the economy for the Latino population.

SERGIO ARELLANO, AZGOP LATINO ENGAGEMENT: He's a south may businessman. He's an entrepreneur. He creates jobs.

FRANCISCO MENDOZA, CLINTON SUPPORTER: Just because you are going to get a job from him or some Mexicans or Hispanics are going to take jobs? At what price? What is going to be the nature of the United States now after if he -- of course he's not but he may but something happens and if he wins. He's going to be a disaster.

KAYE: And what about the wall Trump wants to build at the border with Mexico? On that, our group was also split. This woman wants **immigration** reform instead. DEEDEE GARCIA, CLINTON SUPPORTER: If you're going to build a wall they are going to build tunnels, so let's just focus on the problem and take care of it once and for all.

KAYE: Trump's talk of a deportation force rounding up millions of illegal **immigrants** and shipping them out of the U.S. has also turned off some voters.

If Donald Trump does win and we do have a deportation force, what would that look like and how would you feel about it?

LYDIA HERNANDEZ, CLINTON SUPPORTER: That's going to be chaotic. It would put us in a crisis mode.

KAYE: Those in our group voting Clinton like that she isn't looking to separate **immigrant** families. Why should they be able to stay here illegally though if they came here illegally? Why ...

GARCIA: I'm for family. I'm for grandmothers being close to their grandchildren and keeping the family together. It's inhumane to force families apart.

KAYE: The latest Arizona State University polls show Hillary Clinton leading Donald Trump by five points which has both campaigns heavily targeting Latinos.

[20:35:00] The divide among them became even more clear as the conversation among our group grew more heated today.

MENDOZA: And then?

ARTURO OLIVAS, TRUMP SUPPORTER: Why does it hurt you so much when you're talking about Mexico? Are you a Mexican from Mexico and are you loyal to Mexico or are you loyal to United States? I am an American citizen, what are you?

MENDOZA: I am talking here about ...

OLIVAS: I'm asking a question. You differ to just an answer. What are you?

MENDOZA: I am a U.S. citizen. I was born in the United States.

KAYE: As a member of the Latino community how can you be voting for Donald Trump? A lot of people can't understand that. What you do say?

ARELLANO: What I say is look, look at what you have these past eight years we're talking about Nogales, Arizona, Douglas, Yuma. It is impoverished. These Hispanics has seen nothing bout Democratic rule for over 20 years. Impoverished, there's no jobs, the economy and the infrastructure is gone. They're tired of it.

KAYE: Those saying no thanks to Trump are tired of his pandering to the Latino community such as when he tweeted this picture of himself on Sinco de Mayo eating a taco salad. The caption read "I Love Hispanics."

MENDOZA: He's not a good representation for the United States. Donald Trump is not what United States is all about.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

COOPER: And Randi joins us now from Phoenix. So clearly the group there was divided. But were there any issues they agreed on?

KAYE: Well, you heard it there. You could tell they were certainly split on the building of the wall. But one thing they do agree on, Anderson, is the fact that the border needs to be secure. They all agree that there are criminals coming across, some bad people, drugs included. The question though here is how to do it, what to do about it because the border is a very, very touchy subject here in this community.

That's because many Latinos here know people who have come across illegally. They know people who are living here illegally and they're very concerned about what Trump plans to do to get rid of those people.

And there was also some concern about what they call Donald Trump's broad brush of the Latino community. They feel as though he's painting all of them as criminals and rapists and they're certainly not happy about that.

But the trump supporters who we did speak to today, they said, you know what, their number one concern isn't even the border, or the wall, or **immigration**. They care most about the economy and jobs, Anderson. And they really believe that Donald Trump is the guy to turn things around, bring the jobs back to get the wealth back into the Latino community here, Anderson.

COOPER: All right. Randi, thanks very much.

14 months ago, long before Donald Trump had won the Republican nomination, he had discussed that with Univision One anchor Jorge Ramos at a press conference in Iowa.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

TRUMP: Excuse me, sit down you weren't called. Sit down. Sit down. Sit down. Go ahead. No you don't. You haven't been called. Go back to Univision. Go ahead. Go ahead. Sit down, please. You weren't called. Yes, go ahead. Hi, Jim, yes.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

COOPER: Well, Ramos was eventually allowed back into the room, gotten to an exchange with Trump over **immigration**. I spoke to Ramos earlier about the election. His new documentary "Hate Rising" which focuses on the hate groups that have embraced the Trump campaign. We started with the fact that Hillary Clinton is ahead by five points in Arizona in recent polls.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

COOPER: The fact that Arizona which has only gone with the Democrat twice in the last 60 years could go to Hillary Clinton. What does that say to you about the failure of Donald Trump to reach out to Hispanic and Latino voters.

JORGE RAMOS, UNIVISION ANCHOR: I think it means that bad hombres doesn't work. It means that if you continuously use stereotypes to describe Latinos and **immigrants**, it isn't going to work. I saw the last poll in NBC and the Wall Street Journal, Donald Trump going down at 17 percent.

COOPER: But Mitt Romney got 27 percent.

RAMOS: Correct, 27 percent and he lost in 2012. McCain got 31 percent in 2008 and he lost. So with 17 percent of Hispanic vote, it is impossible that you can win.

So here, we have two theories. Donald Trump believes that he can win only with the white vote and then the rest of the country and the trend.

In 2044, whites non-Hispanics will become a minority -- another minority. The trend is well underway. It's been shown on politics. So if you keep on saying Latinos are bad hombres, criminal, rapists, you cannot say OK you are a rapist but please vote for me. It doesn't work that way.

COOPER: Do you think -- does this impact the Republican Party or moving forward? Or do you think this is just particular Donald Trump because the Republican Party did identify this as a problem in their autopsy after Mitt Romney lost?

RAMOS: They really haven't learned their lesson. After Mitt Romney lost they clearly understood, we thought they had clearly understood that they needed to do something with Latinos. George Bush did understand.

COOPER: Right.

RAMOS: Karl Rove did understand that. He got 44 percent of the Hispanic vote at one point. And then, I think it took them too long to put a distance between them and Donald Trump.

[20:40:02] And now they will be remembered as the party of Donald Trump. It is going to be terrible for the Republican Party for generations.

COOPER: Well, that's -- you think this could have a generational impact on the party?

RAMOS: I think so. I think so because I think we will be judged as journalists and politicians will be judged by how we reacted to Donald Trump. This is I think a McCarthy momentum. This is one of those historical moments where we have to say I reject racism. I reject discrimination, I reject sexism. And when a party, a major party decides just to stand by the lines and not be really assertive, I think people will remember.

COOPER: What about the Democrats? I mean do you think they have done -- clearly they have done a more effective job of reaching out but do you think they've done enough? When we look at Hillary Clinton even among millennial -- and she's obviously leading among Latino voters but among millennials in the Latino community there is sort of lack of enthusiasm.

RAMOS: I agree with you. She lacks enthusiasm. And but the thing is that this selection I think is going to be up lever side on Trump. Yes on Trump or no on Trump.

COOPER: And you think Latino voters are going to come out because of that.

RAMOS: Simply because of that. Now, on the other hand many times Democrats are taking Latinos for granted. Look, what happened with President Barack Obama. He promised that he was going to do **immigration** reform during the first year. He didn't do it. And not only that, he has deported more **immigrants**, 2.5 million, more than any other president in the history of the United States.

So here you have a president who got a massive support of Latinos and then he got backed up but that's about it. And Hillary Clinton by the way, she promised not to deport children and not to deport ...

COOPER: At your debate ...

RAMOS: Exactly.

COOPER: ... you pinned her down.

RAMOS: So we'll remember that she promised she's not going to deport any **immigrant** who does not have a criminal record.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

COOPER: I talked to Jorge about a lot more, including Donald Trump's bad hombres remark at Wednesday's debate. The rest of the interview is just ahead.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

[20:45:51] COOPER: Throughout the campaign Donald Trump has said repeatedly that Latinos love him even in the face of polling that says otherwise. We had a chance to mend fences his supporter voting block during Wednesday's final debate and then there was this.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

TRUMP: One of my first acts to be to get all of the drug lords, all of the bad ones. We have some bad, bad people in this country that have to go out. We're going to get them out. We're going to secure the border and once the border is secured at a later date we'll have to make a determination as to the rest. But we have some bad hombres here and we're going to get them out. (END VIDEO CLIP)

COOPER: Jorge Ramos talked about that when I met with him earlier today. Here is the rest of our conversation.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

COOPER: Do -- when you heard Donald Trump say bad hombre at -- first I actually thought he said bad ombre meaning hunger.

RAMOS: Hunger.

COOPER: Right. So I was like, I don't think he said ombre right. But anyway ...

RAMOS: Spanish is not ...

COOPER: No, but ...

RAMOS: ... it is not a bad word but as it's a stereotype. Again, the Latino community is full of Hombres Buenos, not bad hombres. All the studies that I've seen conclude that **immigrants** are less likely to be criminals or to be behind bars in comparison to native born.

COOPER: It was so interesting that we had a panel discussing it afterwards and the two Trump supporters on it were sort of saying look, Patty Solis Doyle was on who was saying she was offended by the use of that -- by Donald Trump using the only Spanish he's ever spoken that's what he was saying.

And the two Trump supporters were saying you are just being too politically correct, you know, it's not offensive at all. I do really think if somebody is offended you sort of stop and listen to them and sort of try to think and see things from their perspective rather than tell them what they should and shouldn't be offended by.

RAMOS: Yeah. It is not a bad word but he's simply using stereotypes. So it is very complicated for him to get the Latino vote. He does not have the Latino vote. He doesn't.

COOPER: You've been working on a documentary "Hate Rising" ...

RAMOS: Yeah.

COOPER: ... which is just coming out really looking at sort of the rise of neo-nazi groups, the rise of white supremacist groups in the wake of this election. I mean what have you found?

RAMOS: I found that, that hate is rising. The number of hate groups in the United States reached last year almost 900 of DPTs from the unity forces.

COOPER: And it already -- once Barack Obama took office it had already started to grow.

RAMOS: Actually but the year which Donald Trump announced his candidacy the chapters of the Ku Klux Klan grew from 72 to 190. Last year, 20 people were killed by white supremacists, 63 mosques were attacked. So we are seeing an increase in numbers of hate groups here.

Now, not only that, it's social media, where you see also these attacks. And I had the opportunity to talk to victims. One Somali **immigrant**, she was speaking Schwa hili with her family because she grew up in Kenya, and then a couple by their side in a restaurant, one of them took a glass of beer and smash into her face simply because she wasn't speaking English.

One Mexican **immigrant** got attacked -- brutally attacked by two brothers in Boston simply because he was a Mexican **immigrant**. That's happening right now.

So -- and it seems that Donald Trump allowed them to say things that before were only being spoken at home.

I interviewed an imperial wizard of the Ku Klux Klan who told me that simply because he's white and I'm Latino that he was superior to me.

And then I went to Ohio, for instance, to talk to a group of neo-nazis and white supremacists, and I didn't say a word on this for three hours because it was not safe for me to say anything had they discovered that I was an **immigrant**, I mean they were armed, they were drinking. I don't know what would have happened. So the director of the film told me, "Please, don't talk." And I didn't.

COOPER: Did you just say you were me?

RAMOS: I said I was your older brother. All the time they say that.

COOPER: Yeah, I get that as well.

RAMOS: It's going to happen again, you know.

COOPER: What do you hope people watching this -- what do you hope they take away from it?

RAMOS: Well, that it is dangerous, that, unfortunately, regardless of who wins this election that hate is here.

[20:50:04] And I'm really concerned that all these expressions of hate are going to continue because, first people think about it. then they express it. and then they act upon it. I don't think it's going to end. I think it's going to take many, many years to repair the damage done during this election.

COOPER: All right, "Hate Rising"?

RAMOS: "Hate Rising".

COOPER: Jorge Ramos, thanks so much.

RAMOS: Thank you.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

COOPER: Well, coming up Donald Trump has said time and time again that the election is rigged and he won't say that he'll accept the results unless he wins. Does he have legal liabilities to stand on? We'll explore that, next.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

COOPER: Donald Trump raised a lot of eyebrows in the last debate when he refused to say he'd accept the election results that he was going to quote, "look at it at the time and keep you in suspense". Since then, he said he'd accept the results if he wins. And he's constantly saying on the campaign trail that the whole thing is rigged.

This is from today in Pennsylvania.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

TRUMP: Remember folks, it's a rigged system, just remember. It's a rigged system. It's a rigged system. Don't ever forget it. That's why you've got to get out and vote. You've got to watch, because this system is totally rigged.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

COOPER: Well, if he loses, there's no way for him to legally challenge the election results nationally. It would come down to asking for recounts in individual states, a process that's very expensive and historically, unsuccessful. Tom Foreman joins us with more. Tom?

TOM FOREMAN, CNN CORRESPONDENT: Anderson, each state has its own rules for recounts, and they contain many, many complicated details. But in general, this is how it works.

[20:55:00] There are 20 states plus the District of Columbia, which call for automatic recounts, if you have a very close vote. For example, in Michigan, if it's less than 2,000 votes separating the winner and loser, automatic recount beyond that, 43 states that would allow the candidates to petition for a recount. There are five states out there that allow the parties to ask for a recount. And beyond that, you could have 17 states that let voters do it.

But this could be a very expensive proposition. For example, the State of Washington had a gubernatorial race with a recount in 2004. It cost more than $1 million in the Seattle area alone, it was about $0.60 per ballot. There was a recount in Minnesota, in a Senatorial race in 2008 that was $460,000. And we all remember Florida back in 2000, the Bush/Gore race down there. There was a state recount going on it was stopped by the courts, but "Usa Today" and "The Miami Herald" went ahead and did their own recount of just 60,000 disputed ballots. It took three months and cost $500,000, Anderson.

COOPER: So how often do these happen and who pays for all of that, taxpayers? FOREMAN: Well, they're not really common. There's a group called fairvote.org that look at voting practices and they take a look at all of the votes that happened at the statewide level from 2000 to 2012, and they found the number of recounts out of hundreds and hundreds of races, just 19.

Now, generally, if it's an automatic recount, yeah, the state may pay for it. But if it's requested by somebody, the requester pays for that recount, unless, in some cases, it's proven that the, originally vote was fatally flawed.

So they're taking a real risk if you want to launch into this. Here's why it's a risk and fairvote analyzed the results of this. They found that the recount of the hundreds of races, the difference between the original vote and the recount vote was this, a tiny, tiny sliver of 1 percent and the number of times out of all of those races and the very few times you get a recount that they actually managed to flip something around, a total of three times was the result reversed in the end there.

So it is a real long shot to say, "I'm going to call for some kind of recount and hope for a really different result." Anderson?

COOPER: All right. Tom Foreman. Tom, thanks.

Well, up next, it is the end of one of the final few weeks of campaigning. a long week, perhaps even longer for Donald Trump, with Hillary Clinton leading in both national polls and key battleground states. We'll have the latest on both candidates and the turmoil in the Republican Party in the next hour of "360".

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

**NEW\_DOCUMENT\_HERE**

Anderson Cooper, David Gergen, John King, Gloria Borger, Christine Quinn, Jeffrey Lord, Philip Bump, Karine Jean-Pierre

8888 speakers\_end

[21:00:00] ALFRED SMITH IV, MASTER OF CEREMONIES: I was talking to Cardinal Dolan -- no, no, that was not a planned -- that was not a -- bear with me. I wish I'd thought of that. It just happened to fall in that way.

Earlier about the WikiLeaks e-mails that said certain members of the Clinton campaign wanted to incite a revolution in the Catholic Church. I was pretty concerned. But we had a very constructive conversation with the Clinton campaign and Cardinal Dolan said, if the cardinals and the clergy haven't destroyed the church in the last 2,000 years, the Democrats operatives don't stand a chance.

Of course, the Donald got a very public tiff with the Pope last year. I know you discussed that with the Cardinal last week and it should be easy to mend that relationship, because Donald and Pope Francis have so much in common. Friends, they lead lives of humility.

So for this evening, all is forgiven. It is now my privilege to introduce the first of this evening's speakers. We determined tonight's order backstage. I'm happy to report no matter how the coin toss ended, our next speaker was going to say it was rigged. I'm speaking, of course, about the Republican nominee, Donald J. Trump.

There were actually some rumors going around that he wasn't going to show up tonight. You could say he wanted to keep us in suspense. We considered having a Donald Trump cutout on the dais. But if we wanted someone still, lifeless, we could ask Charlie Rose to speak again.

It is historic that Donald is here tonight. That's right, for the first time the Catholic Church is not the largest tax-exempt land owner here tonight.

We are honored to have Donald and Melania here tonight. The Al Smith dinner is a New York institution. Donald, a kid from Queens with a big heart and a big mouth is without question a New York institution.

Donald, the microphone is yours and it's working.

DONALD TRUMP, (R) PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE: Thank you, Al. Wow, that was good. This is a hell of a dinner.

Well, I want to thank Your Eminence. This is really great to be with you again. Beloved Governor Cuomo, our great senators. Hi, Chuck. He used to love me when I was a Democrat, you know.

Mayor de Blasio, wherever you are. Where is Mayor de Blasio? I love him. See in the old days I would have known him very well but I haven't been doing so much of their real estate anymore.

And I want to thank Al and Nan Smith, just a fantastic job you do with the dinner. And congratulations on a record, over $6 million, right? He's got a record.

And a special hello to all of you in this room who have known and loved me for many, many years. It's true.

The politicians, they've had me to their homes, they've introduced me to their children, I'd become their best friends in many instances. They've asked for my endorsement and they always wanted my money, and even called me really a dear, dear friend. But then, suddenly, decided when I ran for president as a Republican, that I've always been a no-good, rotten, disgusting scoundrel. And they totally forgot about me. But that's OK.

[21:05:24] You know, they say when you do this kind of an event you always start out with a self-deprecating joke. Some people think this would be tough for me, but the truth is it's true. True.

The truth is I'm actually a modest person, very modest. It's true. In fact, many people tell me that modesty is perhaps my best quality, even better than my temperament.

You know Cardinal Dolan and I have some things in common. For instance, we both run impressive properties on Fifth Avenue. Of course his is much more impressive than mine. That's because I built mine with my own beautifully formed hands. While his was built with the hands of God, and nobody can compete with God. Is that correct? Nobody? Right? That's right. No contest.

It's great to be here with a thousand wonderful people, or, as I call it, a small intimate dinner with some friends. Or, as Hillary calls it, her largest crowd of the season. Oh, this stuff. This is corny stuff.

I do recognize that I come into this event with a little bit of an advantage. I know that so many of you in the archdiocese already have a place in your heart for a guy who started out as a carpenter working for his father. I was a carpenter working for my father. True. Not for a long period of time but I was, for about three weeks.

What's great about the Al Smith dinner is that even in the rough and tumble world of a really, really hard-fought campaign, in fact, I don't know if you know Hillary, but last night they said that was the most vicious debate in the history of politics, presidential debate. The most vicious. And I don't know. Are we supposed to be proud of that or are we supposed to be unhappy?

But they did say that. And I'm trying to think back to Lincoln, I don't think that you can really compete with that. But the candidates have some light-hearted moments together, which is true. I have no doubt that Hillary is going to laugh quite a bit tonight sometimes even at an appropriate moment.

And even tonight, with all of the heated back and forth between my opponent and me at the debate last night, we have proven that we can actually be civil to each other. In fact, just before taking the dais, Hillary accidentally bumped into me and she very civilly said, "Pardon me". And I very politely replied, ''Let me talk to you about that after I get into office." Just kidding. Just kidding.

And Hillary was very gracious. She said, if somehow she gets elected, she wants me to be, without question, either her ambassador to Iraq or to Afghanistan. It's my choice.

[21:10:04] But one of the things I noticed tonight and I've known Hillary for a long time is this is the first time ever, ever that Hillary is sitting down and speaking to major corporate leaders and not getting paid for it. It's true. It's true.

You know, last night, I called Hillary "a nasty woman." But this stuff is all relative. After listening to Hillary rattle on and on and on, I don't think so badly of Rosie O'Donnell anymore. In fact I'm actually starting to like Rosie a lot.

These events give not only the candidates a chance to be with each other in a very social setting, it also allows the candidates the opportunity to meet the other candidate's team, good team.

I know Hillary met my campaign manager. And I got the chance to meet the people who are working so hard to get her elected. There they are. The heads of NBC, CNN, CBS, ABC, there's "The New York Times" right over there and "The Washington Post". They're working overtime. True. True.

Oh, this one's going to get me in trouble. Not with Hillary. You know, the President told me to stop whining. But I really have to say, the media is even more biased this year than ever before. Ever. You want the proof? Michelle Obama gives a speech and everyone loves it. It's fantastic. They think she's absolutely great. My wife, Melania, gives the exact same speech, and people get on her case. And I don't get it. I don't know why. And it wasn't her fault. Stand up, Melania, come on. She took a lot of abuse.

Oh, I'm in trouble when I go home tonight. She didn't know about that one. Am I OK? Is it OK?

Cardinal, please speak to her. I'd like to address an important religious matter. The issue of going to confession. Or as Hillary calls it, the Fourth of July weekend with FBI Director Comey.

Now, I'm told Hillary went to confession before tonight's event. But the priest was having a hard time when he asked her about her sins, and she said she couldn't remember 39 times.

Hillary is so corrupt. She got kicked off the Watergate Commission. How corrupt do you have to be to get kicked off the Watergate Commission? Pretty corrupt. Hillary is and has been in politics since the '70s. What's her pitch? The economy is busted, the government is corrupt. Washington is failing. Vote for me, I've been working on these problems for 30 years. I can fix it, she says.

I wasn't really sure if Hillary was going to be here tonight, because, I guess you didn't send her invitation by e-mail or maybe you did and she just found out about it through the wonder of WikiLeaks.

[21:15:03] We've learned so much from WikiLeaks. For example, Hillary believes that's it's vital to deceive the people by having one public policy, and a totally different policy in private. That's OK. I don't know who they're angry at, Hillary, you or I?

For example, here she is tonight in public, pretending the not to hate Catholics. Now, if some of you haven't noticed, Hillary isn't laughing as much as the rest of us. That's because she knows the jokes and all of the jokes were given to her in advance of the dinner by Donna Brazile, which is -- everyone knows, of course, Hillary's belief that it takes a village, which only makes sense, after all, in places like Haiti, where she's taken a number of them.

Thank you.

I don't know and I don't want this evening without saying something nice about my opponent. Hillary's been in Washington a long time. She knows a lot about how government works and according to her sworn testimony, Hillary has forgotten more things than most of us will ever, ever know. That I can tell you.

We're having some fun here tonight and that's good. On a personal note, what an amazing honor it is to be with all of you. And I want to congratulate Hillary on getting the nomination and we're there fighting and over the next 19 days, somebody's going to be chosen. We'll see what happens. But I have great memories of coming to this dinner with my father over the years, when I was a young man, great experience for me. This was always a special experience for him and me to be together.

One thing we can all agree on is the need to support the great work that comes out of the dinner. Millions of dollars have been raised to support disadvantaged children. And I applaud the many people who have worked to make this wonderful event a critical lifeline for children in need. And that we, together, broke the all-time record tonight is really something special. More than $6 million net, net, net. The cardinal told me that's net, net, Donald, remember.

We can also agree on the need to stand up to anti-Catholic bias, to defend religious liberty, and to create a culture that celebrates life. America is in many ways divided. America is in many ways divided like it's never been before and the great religious leaders here tonight give us all an example that we can follow.

We're living in a time and age that we never thought possible before. The vicious barbarism we'd read about in history books, but never thought we'd see it in our so-called modern-day world. Who would have thought we would be witnessing what we're witnessing today? We've got to be very strong, very, very smart, and we've got to come together, not only as a nation, but as a world community.

Thank you very much. God bless you, and God bless America. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you very much.

SMITH IV: As Ronald Reagan would say, there you go again. Thank you very much, Donald. We're honored by your presence.

This dinner is a fund-raiser for the needy children of the archdiocese. I'm pleased to announce that tonight we have raised $6 million. Let me put that in perspective for you. That will pay for nearly five minutes of our next speaker's speech.

[21:20:04] Hillary is a Democratic nominee for president and it wasn't exactly a smooth ride that she had hoped for. She endured a tough primary challenge from that young centrist upstart, Bernie Sanders. She endured questions about her health.

Madame Secretary, I can't believe all these people said it wasn't presidential to catch pneumonia. Just look at William Henry Harrison. And she's said things that she later had to take back. For example, Hillary really didn't mean it when she called half of Donald' supporters a basket of deplorables. To be fair, Donald didn't really mean it when he said he would release his tax returns either.

Secretary Clinton's career in public service is admirable. She has devoted her entire life for working in public service from Aransas to Washington to New York. She put her advocate for children and her attendance here tonight is one example of that.

Ladies and gentlemen, please welcome Secretary Hillary Rodham Clinton.

HILLARY CLINTON, (D) PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE: Thank you, Al. Thank you, my friend. Thank you.

SMITH IV: Go get them.

CLINTON: Thank you. Thank you. Your Eminence, Your Excellencies, members of the clergy, Al and Nan Smith, Donald and Melania, and all the distinguished guests.

You know, earlier tonight, Al reminded me that when the first Al Smith ran for president, he chose as his running mate the progressive senator from Arkansas, Joseph T. Robinson, who was one of my husband's political heroes.

This work that you do through the dinner, Al, you've done it now for 30 years, is such a labor of love. You've been a hero for both the children of the archdiocese and for the city of New York. And I think we all owe Al Smith a great, great round of applause.

This is such a special event that I took a break from my rigorous nap schedule to be here. And as you've already heard, it's a treat for all of you too, because usually I charge a lot for speeches like this.

But for me, it was kind of ironic thinking about a fiery populist, Al Smith.

If he were here today and saw how much money we've raised for needy children, he'd be very proud. And if he saw this magnificent room, full of plutocrats celebrating his legacy, he'd be very confused.

It's a special honor to be here with your eminence. Now, I know, your eminence, you were criticized for inviting both Donald and me here tonight. And you responded by saying, "If I only sat down with those who were saints, I'd be taking all my meals alone."

Now, just to be clear, I think the cardinal is saying I'm not eligible for sainthood. But getting through these three debates with Donald has to count as a miracle.

So I guess I'm up against the highest, hardest, stained glass ceiling.

But your eminence, you do deserve great credit for bringing together two people who've been at each other's throats, mortal enemies, bitter foes.

I've got to ask, how did you get the governor and mayor here together tonight?

[21:25:05] Now, I've got to say there are a lot of friendly faces here in this room, people I've been privileged to know and to work with. I just want to put you all in a basket of adorables.

And you'd look so good in your tuxes or as I refer to them, formal pantsuits.

And, you know, because this is a friendly dinner for such a great cause, Donald, if at any time you don't like what I'm saying, feel free to stand up and shout, "Wrong!" while I'm talking.

You know, come to think of it, it's amazing I'm up here after Donald. I didn't think he'd be OK with a peaceful transition of power.

And Donald, after listening to your speech, I will also enjoy listening to Mike Pence deny that you ever gave it.

You know, I've had the privilege of being at the Al Smith dinners in years past, and I always enjoy it.

But remember, if you're not happy with the way it comes out, it must be rigged.

And it's always a special treat for me to be back in New York, a city that I love, and which I think truly embodies the best of America.

You know, don't you think?

People look at the Statue of Liberty and they see a proud symbol of our history as a nation of **immigrants**, a beacon of hope for people around the world.

Donald looks at the Statue of Liberty and sees a four. Maybe a five if she loses the torch and tablet and changes her hair.

You know, come to think of it, you know what would be a good number for a woman? 45. But I digress.

Now I'm going to try my best tonight, but I understand I am not known for my sense of humor. That's why it did take a village to write these jokes.

People say, and I hear them, I know, they say I'm boring compared to Donald. But I'm not boring at all. In fact, I'm the life of every party I attend and I've been to three. And when the parties get out of hand, as occasionally they do, it's important to have a responsible chaperon who can get everyone home safely and that is why I picked Tim Kaine to be my vice president.

Now, you notice there is no teleprompter here tonight which is probably smart because maybe you saw Donald dismantled his prompter the other day. And I get that. They're hard to keep up with and I'm sure it's even harder when you're translating from the original Russian.

But every year, this dinner brings together a collection of sensible committed mainstream Republicans, or as we now like to call them, Hillary supporters.

Now, some of my critics, and I hear that too, yeah, they think I only say what people want to hear. Well, tonight that is true. And here's exactly what you want to hear. This election will be over very, very soon. And look at this dais, we got Charlie Rose, and Maria Bartiromo, and Chris Matthews, and Gail King, and Nora O'Donnell and Katie Couric. This counts as a press conference, right?

It is great also to see Mayor Bloomberg here. It's a shame he's not speaking tonight. I'm curious to hear what a billionaire has to say.

And look out at the dais. We've got the honorable Chuck Schumer, the honorable Andrew Cuomo, the honorable Mike Bloomberg, the honorable Bill de Blasio, the honorable David Dinkins and so many other wonderful elected officials. And we have Rudy Giuliani.

[21:30:13] Now, many don't know this, but Rudy actually got his start as a prosecutor going after wealthy New Yorkers who avoided paying taxes. But as the saying goes, if you can't beat them, go on Fox News and call them a genius.

So as I've said, we've now had our third and thankfully final debate. Sharing a stage with Donald Trump is like, well, nothing really comes to mind. There is nothing like sharing a stage with Donald Trump.

Donald wanted me drug tested before last night's debate. And look, I got to tell you, I am so flattered that Donald thought I used some sort of performance enhancer. Now, actually, I did. It's called preparation.

And looking back, I've had to listen to Donald for three full debates. And he says I don't have any stamina. That is 4 1/2 hours. I have now stood next to Donald Trump longer than any of his campaign managers.

Now, look, I have deep respect for people like Kellyanne Conway. She's working day and night for Donald, and because she's a contractor, he's probably not even going to pay her.

But I think the good news is that the debates finally allowed Republicans to unite around their candidate. The bad news is, it's Mike Pence. And it's been a long, long campaign. That should be one of our highest priorities, shortening the campaigns.

And whoever wins this election, the outcome will be historic. We'll either have the first female president or the first president who started a Twitter war with Cher. And if Donald does win, it will be awkward at the annual President's Day photo when all the former presidents gather at the White House. And not just with Bill. How is Barack going to get past the Muslim ban?

Now, Republicans in particular seem frustrated with their nominee. Paul Ryan told the Republican members of the House, you don't have to support the top of the ticket. Don't worry about anyone besides yourself. Just do what's in your own best interests. So I guess Donald really has unified his party around his core philosophy. And I don't understand their unhappiness. They say Donald doesn't have any policies. He has no policies, I keep hearing that.

I'd actually like to defend him on this. Donald has issues, serious issues. Really, really serious issues. And I worry about Donald's go-it-alone attitude. For example, at his convention, when he said, I alone can fix it. You know, in the '90s, I said the same thing about America's health care system, and it didn't work out so well for me either.

But speaking of health, Donald has been very concerned about mine, very concerned. He actually sent a car to bring me here tonight, actually it was a hearse.

But I kind of want to just put the information out there, so everybody can draw their own conclusions, and you can judge our relative health. We've each released our medical records. My blood pressure is 100 over 70. His is, unbelievably great. My cholesterol is 189. His is presidential. My heart rate is 72 beats per minute. His is the most beats ever or the least beats ever, whichever sounds best.

But Donald really is as healthy as a horse. You know, the one Vladimir Putin rides around on. But I can say, without fear of contradiction tonight, that I will be the healthiest and youngest woman ever to serve as president.

[21:35:02] But this has really been a strange campaign. You saw it last night. You saw it again tonight. Donald has attacked me for a life in public service. And I didn't get that at first. I kind of get it now. As he told Howard Stern, he doesn't like it when women have been around for more than 35 years. But, Donald, we have so much more in common that actually you may realize. For example, I've tried to inspire young people by showing them that with resilience and hard work anything is possible. And you're doing the same. A third grade teacher told me that one of her students refused to turn in his homework because it was under audit.

And here's another similarity. The Republican National Committee isn't spending a dime to help either one of us. So tonight, let's embrace the spirit of the evening, let's come together, remember what unites us, and just rip on Ted Cruz.

I hope you enjoyed my remarks tonight. I said no to some jokes that I thought were over the line, but I suppose you can judge for yourself on WikiLeaks in the next few days. Donald will tell us after the benediction whether he accepts that this dinner is over. He has to wait and see.

But there's nothing funny about the stakes in this election. In the end, what makes this dinner important are not the jokes we tell, but the legacy that we carry forward. It's as often easy to forget how far this country has come, and there are a lot of people in this room tonight who themselves or their parents or grandparents came here as **immigrants**, made a life for yourselves, took advantage of the American dream and the greatest system that has ever been created in the history of the world to unleash the individual talents, energy, and ambition of everyone willing to work hard.

And when I think about what Al Smith went through, it's important to just reflect how groundbreaking it was for him, a Catholic, to be my party's nominee for president.

Don't forget, school board sent home letters with children saying that if Al Smith is elected president, you will not be allowed to have or read a bible. Voters were told that he would annul Protestant marriages. And I saw a story recently that said people even claimed the Holland Tunnel was a secret passageway to connect Rome and America, to help the Pope rule our country.

Those appeals, appeals to fear and division, can cause us to treat each other as "the other."

Rhetoric like that makes it harder for us to see each other, to respect each other, to listen to each other, and certainly a lot harder to love our neighbor as ourself.

I believe how we treat others is the highest expression of faith and of service. Now, I'm not Catholic, I'm a Methodist, but one of the things that we share is the belief that in order to achieve salvation, we need both faith and good works. And you certainly don't need to be Catholic to be inspired by the humility and heart of the Holy Father, Pope Francis, or to embrace his message. His message about rejecting a mind-set of hostility, his calls to reduce inequality, his warnings about climate change, his appeal that we build bridges, not walls.

Now, as you may know, my running mate, Tim, is Catholic, and went to Jesuit schools. And one of the things he and I have talked about is this idea from the Jesuits of the magis, the more, t better.

Well, we need to get better at finding ways to disagree on matters of policy while agreeing on questions of decency and civility. How we talk to each other, treat each other, respect each other. So I've taken this concept of magis to heart in this campaign, as best as one can, in the daily heat, the back and forth of a presidential campaign. To ask how we can do more for each other and better for each other. Because I believe that for each of us, our greatest monument on this earth won't be what we build, but the lives we touch. And that is ultimately what this dinner is all about. And it's why it's been such a great honor to join you all again.

[21:40:17] Thank you.

ANDERSON COOPER, CNN ANCHOR: Well, there you heard it. Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump sharing the dais at the Al Smith Memorial Dinner here in New York.

Back with us now, CNN political analysts, Gloria Borger, David Gergen, and "Inside Politics" anchor, John King.

David Gergen, let's start with you. You've watched a lot of these over the years, have you ever heard a candidate being booed at one of these?

DAVID GERGEN, CNN SENIOR ANALYST: No, I've been trying to figure that out. Have you ever heard booing at an Al Smith dinner, as we heard tonight, with Donald Trump? And the answer is, I don't know for sure, but I don't think so.

You know, there's such a risk here of sounding partisan, but I must tell you, there was a real difference between the two. Donald Trump was very much himself, but he didn't seem to know the difference between being light-hearted and heavy-handed. And, you know, this is supposed to be a light-hearted kind of occasion. And he had several jokes that were sort of pretty tough jokes about her. You know, basically calling her corrupt, the e-mails, shows she pretends to have like the Catholic Church and that sort of thing. He was -- I thought, particularly good when he talked about Melania. That was very -- that was funny and humorous in the right spirit.

But I think there was a reason the boos were there. And that was that he went over the line on several occasions. She was a much more traditional. I know people don't necessarily like tradition anymore. She was much more of the traditional kind of speaker. And at the Gridiron Club in Washington, their dinner, they say, you should singe, but never burn. And her jokes had much more of the singeing quality that I think some of them were lame.

COOPER: It was interesting, Gloria, because, I mean, both people have been there before. Donald Trump said he used to go with his father. Clearly, Hillary Clinton has been there over the years as well.

GLORIA BORGER, CNN CHIEF POLITICAL ANALYST: Yeah, and I think Donald Trump missed the self-deprecating part. He's been there maybe his joke writers haven't been there. But I think it was sort of uncomfortable, to me, just watching it. I don't know how you guys feel. But I felt Trump couldn't get away from the nastiness about her. Didn't joke about himself very much, except maybe at the ginning when he jokes at ... COOPER: Saying he was humble.

BORGER: That's right. That's right. People didn't think I could be good at this.

And Hillary was a lot more light-hearted, but you could tell, sometimes, in looking at her, and she hid it more than she didn't, but you could tell sometimes looking at her, how kind of tough it was for her. And you know, her Statue of Liberty joke, when she said, you know, he looks at the Statue of Liberty and he sees a four, maybe a five, that's funny, but it's also serious and ...

COOPER: Yes, in fact, let's play that ...

BORGER: Yeah.

COOPER: ... the Statue of Liberty thing, because I think we have it qued up.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

CLINTON: People look at the Statue of Liberty and they see a proud symbol of our history as a nation of **immigrants**, a beacon of hope for people around the world. Donald looks at the Statue of Liberty and sees a four. Maybe a five, if she loses the torch and tablet and changes her hair.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

COOPER: Also, I mean, probably the -- one of the best laughs that Donald Trump got was the joke about Michelle Obama speaking and Melania Trump speaking. Let's play that.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

TRUMP: Michelle Obama gives a speech and everyone loves it. It's fantastic. They think she's absolutely great. My wife, Melania, gives the exact same speech and people get on her case. And I don't get it. I don't know why. And it wasn't her fault.

Stand up, Melania. Come on. She took a lot of abuse.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

COOPER: John King, what do you make of what you heard tonight?

JOHN KING, CNN ANCHOR: Well, I think to David's point and to Gloria's point, the license you get to beat up to zing the other one comes from the self-deprecation. The more you zing yourself, the more license you get to go after the other.

Donald Trump did very little self-deprecation. He used his wife as an example -- or she took one for the team, if you will, with that joke there. And that was very funny. That one was very funny.

But, look, these two -- I agree with everything that has been said before me. That Hillary Clinton was more in the spirit of the event, beat up herself a little bit first, in a funny way, and it gave her license. But let's be honest, if we went back and compared this to the last few cycles, these two don't like each other and it was obvious. They were doing much more of the campaign policy debate was coming up even in these jokes tonight.

[21:45:08] You know, McCain and Barack Obama didn't know each other all that well, but they got along a little bit in the Senate. They knew each other. Mitt Romney and President Obama, they didn't know each other at all, but they had respects for each other. They were warriors in public service. Let's just be blatantly obvious, this is harder for these two because they don't like each other.

And one other point, they also understand in the age we live in, we watch this live on television, that didn't used to happen. And just like a debate, this will get recycled in social media. So, they're not just trying to be funny tonight, they're trying to do some business.

BORGER: Yeah, I don't think they -- not only do they not like each other, but in many ways, I don't think they respect each other, as you were saying. And I think that's a real problem. And I think back to Barack Obama and Mitt Romney in 2012, they ended with talking about the other person's family, you know, Obama -- I mean, Romney said that Obama has a wonderful wife and a wonderful family and they're great role models. And they ended up complimenting each other at the end of their speeches. And you didn't -- you didn't really hear that tonight. You heard Hillary Clinton talk about the system. And at the beginning of Donald Trump's speech, he didn't even acknowledge that Hillary Clinton was there.

GERGEN: You know, the other part of this that I think distinguishes the two is that at the end, she had this statement that was about unity. And about respect ...

COOPER: And linking it back to Al Smith.

GERGEN: And linking it back to Al Smith. That's much more the traditional -- you know, you do the humor, but at the end you get serious. And you deliver a more emotional pitch. And she had that. And I think that helped -- I think it elevated what she had to say. And he did not go there.

KING: Also, Anderson, kind of quickly, her faith experience. Donald Trump did not talk about his personal faith experience in any way at all. And she said, you know, I'm not a Methodist -- I mean I'm not a Catholic, I'm a Methodist, but we share a lot of things in common. She does have a deeply rooted personal faith experience, that in this audience tonight -- I don't know how it plays out the country -- but in this audience tonight, it's important to be personal and connect yourself to the event you're at.

COOPER: Right.

GERGEN: This has been -- historically, this has been a dinner where actually the cardinals have been reluctant sometimes to invite the Democrat because of their abortion views. On more than one occasion, the Democratic nominee hasn't been invited, but here she seemed a little more at home than he did.

COOPER: Right. Talking to Cardinal Dolan ...

GERGEN: Yeah, and (inaudible) crosstalk ...

COOPER: Right.

GERGEN: Did they shake hands with each other ...

COOPER: They just -- Trump and Clinton just shook hands with each other. We're told before the event, they did not. As Donald Trump went up to go to the dais, he sort of patted Hillary Clinton on the shoulder, as he left, there was no contacts at all, but I believe they just shook hands. Yeah, they just shook hands.

One of the jokes was about them bumping into each other backstage. Let's take a look at that.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

TRUMP: We have proven that we can actually be civil to each other. In fact, just before taking the dais, Hillary accidentally bumped into me and she very civilly said, "Pardon me." And I very politely replied, "Let me talk to you about that after I get into office."

(END VIDEO CLIP)

COOPER: And as we talked about it earlier, Donald Trump was actually -- there was actually booing in the crowd at certain points. Let's just play some of that.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

TRUMP: Hillary is so corrupt. She got kicked off the Watergate Commission.

Hillary believes that it's vital to deceive the people by having one public policy and a totally different policy in private. That's OK. I don't know who they're angry at, Hillary, you or I?

Here she is tonight, in public, pretending not to hate Catholics.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

COOPER: Christine Quinn, obviously, you're a Clinton supporter, but as someone who's been at that dinner, what did you hear tonight? How was it different than in the past?

CHRISTINE QUINN, FORMER NYC CITY COUNCIL SPEAKER: You know, I've been to that dinner like six, seven, eight times when I was speaker of the City Council. I have never heard boos like that. Never. And that's with the presidential nominee speaking, that's with the president speaking, that's with, you know, military and other leaders speaking. I mean, sometimes people aren't funny, you know, and then it's like, come on, let's speed it along, but you've never -- I've never heard that before. It's just -- not something that happens.

[21:49:59] And I've also never heard a presidential nominee full throated attack their opponent. I mean, they make these jokes, you saw that with Hillary, you saw that with him. But I have never seen a presidential nominee do that.

And I think if you look -- saw the look on Cardinal Dolan's face when it happened, it was clearly shocking to him and everybody else there because that's simply not what's done and people may say, well, Donald Trump's untraditional, whatever. But it's that man's standards, right, to Cardinal Dolan. And he's kind of sets the rules and if you don't want to follow them that's your prerogative, but then don't come and act in a manner of aggressiveness that simply is not in the tone or tradition of that dinner.

COOPER: We do have a shot of them actually shaking hands after it was over. I think we're going to play that.

And that was it.

All right. Jeffrey Lord, what did you make of tonight?

JEFFREY LORD, TRUMP SUPPORTER: Well, I thought they both did very well with the humor and all of this and then they had their serious points.

I mean, I take Christine's point here that maybe he was a little too sharp, but in all candor, I mean, I honestly don't think most of the people in America are going to wake up tomorrow morning and say ...

COOPER: Well, that's for sure.

LORD: ... what did you think about the Al Smith dinner last night. So, I mean I really think that this is just, if you will, fodder for us, for the media, for sort of New York City population but I don't really think this means anything. But ...

COOPER: It is an interesting window of how, you know, somebody -- I mean, it's always interesting to see somebody who's, you know, one of them is going to be president, they're going to be doing a lot of events like this, how they are able to kind of comport themselves in a variety of settings.

LORD: Right. Right. It is interesting, and it's always reflected through somebody's personality. David and I, I'm sure we're both fans of Ronald Reagan's appearances at this kind of thing, so it is what it is. I just -- you know ...

PHILIP BUMP, POLITICAL REPORTER, WASHINGTON POST: I mean, I would just -- you're right. There's not a lot of people who are going to go to bed tonight and, you know, think about what happened here, expect that Donald Trump's main challenge is temperament. And this isn't just the thing that Clinton has put forward. We've -- you know, "Washington Post"/ABC polling, he has always been seen as not qualified by more than half of the country, the main reason why, according to the Quinnipiac University Poll, is because people are concern about his temperament. And they think that this is an easy lay up, this is, you go there, you get someone to write some jokes, you tell the jokes, you come across this easy going. This was an easy thing for him to do, and quite frankly, he blew it. And, you know, he needs to reinforce over the course of the next 19 days that he has the temperament.

LORD: I don't think he blew it. I don't ...

BUMP: Well, I mean, I was in the room, but I heard boos.

QUINN: Jeffrey, with all due respect, he did blow it. One, no one gets booed at that event. Two, you were not supposed to at that event -- it is clearly known attack aggressively your opponent ...

LORD: But, Christine ...

QUINN: ... that is not the dinner that Al Smith and the Cardinal hold. And again to temperament, if you don't want to abide by those rules don't come ...

LORD: Christine.

QUINN: ... but don't sign up for X and do one.

LORD: Look at the visual. Look at the visual. He's being booed by a bunch of people wearing white-tie and tails.

QUINN: It's not about whether you can use it, it's about ...

LORD: I'm telling you, if you're going to go down that road that's not helpful.

QUINN: It's not about that. It's about how one behaves. And if you're invited to an event ...

(CROSSTALK)

LORD: It is about that.

QUINN: No, if you're invited to an event and these are the rules, in the same way, it was odd that Ted Cruz came to the convention and didn't endorse the nominee, it's just bizarre.

COOPER: It's interesting because there are moments of gracious -- you know, you think back to the second debate, at the end of the second debate when the town hall person asked, you know, can you each say something nice about the other person, Donald Trump came up with actually something that was gracious and I think heartfelt that she doesn't give up, she doesn't quit. I mean, he ran a commercial essentially attacking her, you know, saying the opposite thing couple days later. But I thought it was a very gracious ...

LORD: And he patted her on the shoulder on the way up to the podium tonight.

COOPER: But -- yeah. But just in terms of the comment it wasn't exactly sort of in the -- I mean, he has graciousness in him when he wants to.

LORD: Sure.

COOPER: Tonight, perhaps was not the best display of that.

LORD: There is no question. There is tension there. I mean, as we were listening last night to the debate, I certainly think I heard it was the Clinton campaign that requested that no handshakes be given with the families, coming from the Clinton campaign. So, I mean, you know, why? I mean that was sort of untraditional, too. So, I mean, it's just clear there's tension here and ...

COOPER: Here's another moment from tonight, Donald Trump, earlier. Let's listen.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

TRUMP: ... to be here with 1,000 wonderful people, or, as I call it, a small, intimate dinner with some friends. Or, as Hillary calls it, her largest crowd of the season.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

COOPER: Light-hearted moment. I think on the shaking hands, my understanding of that was that the Clinton people didn't want to do it because of the stunt Donald Trump pulled in the second debate of inviting those people trying to get them in the family box, that's my understanding, but I think there was concern who knows who's going to show up in that box at the time and ...

[21:55:06] LORD: Well, you should be able to shake hands with anybody, it's what they're saying and then suddenly not.

(CROSSTALK)

GERGEN: I just want to make a point here. But it goes beyond this particular dinner, and that is humor is a very important aspect of leadership. The capacity to bring people along through humor sometimes to break -- and we talked about, you know, Kennedy was famous at this, Reagan was famous at this, but the most famous of all was Abraham Lincoln, who went through terrible, terrible times, and he managed to hold people together through his uses of humor. And I just didn't -- I felt somehow Donald Trump has not relaxed enough. He's just not letting himself go, he -- I think he can be funnier than he is. But he ...

(CROSSTALK)

GERGEN: What he comes across tonight was he brought the spirit of last night's debate into the night.

QUINN: Right. GERGEN: And it's like -- it didn't work in this environment.

QUINN: A really important thing for a candidate is to be having fun.

GERGEN: Yeah.

QUINN: And I think at this point in the campaign, Donald Trump is not having any fun and not just Donald, any candidate, myself in the past. If you're not having fun it shows.

BORGER: Yeah, it really does show.

GERGEN: And, you know, Al Smith himself was known as the happy warrior.

BORGER: Yes, that's right.

GERGEN: Very, very important to his leadership.

COOPER: Another moment of Hillary Clinton talked about Rudy Giuliani, he was also there. Let's watch.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

CLINTON: We have Rudy Giuliani. Now, many don't know this, but Rudy actually got his start as a prosecutor going after wealthy New Yorkers who avoided paying taxes. But as the saying goes, if you can't beat them, go on Fox News and call them a genius.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

COOPER: Rudy Giuliani did not seem to be enjoying that. I mean, it's the kind of thing if you're going to go to this thing and be made fun of, you have to sort of laugh ...

KARINE JEAN-PIERRE, MOVEON.ORG NATIONAL SPOKESPERSON: And sitting on the dais, right, where everyone's going to see you.

Look, Anderson, I just wanted to say, look, 19 days left I'm a campaign person and this -- what happened tonight is not going to move undecided voters. It's not going to, you know, engage the -- really excite the base at all.

But, you know, I have to say, watching this, especially Donald Trump's component of it, it was cringe-worthy. There were some uncomfortable moments and it's odd because he started off talking about temperament. He made fun of himself about the -- his lack of temperament and then he pivoted and started to attack her and showed his lack of temperament. So -- but at the end of the day, we're going to be talking about it for about 24 hours and then we'll move on.

LORD: She -- this is the thing that I think drives a lot of people nuts. She is very polished in a political sense. And so at the end, when she's saying we can't be divisive, duh, duh duh, I mean, what's she's saying is basically Donald, I'm attacking you because your divisive. So, she's doing exactly what you say, but she's doing it in the old-fashioned political sense ...

COOPER: Or in a subtle sense, as opposed to, you know, completely unsubtle.

((CROSSTALK)

JEAN-PIERRE: ... light-hearted way and some kindness, right?

BUMP: Anderson, it shows the difference of 40 years of being in the public spotlight in office where you adjust and it shows someone who has led a corporate boardroom, that's really what it shows and she has been able to adapt and knows what the public wants to see better than he has because he's been more of a different type of leader. They are different ...

COOPER: But he's been at endless social events, and endless party. I mean, it's not as if he's been living in a, you know ...

(CROSSTALK)

GERGEN: But his whole television life has been sort of how do you ingratiate yourself with a big audience?

BUMP: And I think, Jeffrey, really nailed it that she was much more cautious in how she took the shots and I thought she went on a lot longer than he did, or maybe it was just made it seemed like the shots kept coming from her, you know, his were a lot more we'll get it over with and he just drag on that he just kept hounding.

QUINN: You know, I don't know about the timing that may or may not be true, you know, she had some pretty funny jokes, had some not so funny jokes, had some -- you know, as what said before, moments where she cringed.

COOPER: I mean humor especially not either there's ...

(CROSSTALK)

COOPER: President Obama, you know, I mean I don't go to the White House dinner but I've seen it on television, and, you know, he's given some funny monologues at that event.

QUINN: Comedy seller is not holding a spot for either these people like that.

COOPER: And not going to be at the laugh shack.

QUINN: But I can say at the end, I do think -- I thought it was lovely, and I thought it respected -- it reflected understanding what you're a part of and that's a dinner for Catholic charities and that's a -- and Catholic Church and I don't agree on everything, but that's a critical organization. My mother was a social worker there. They take care of children and others in New York and across the country who are disregarded, and to harken back to Al Smith and connect it to her faith, that's authentic.

[22:00:01] COOPER: We've got to leave it there. That does it for us. Thanks very much for watching.

"CNN TONIGHT" with Don Lemon -- here we go, hey, "CNN TONIGHT" with Don Lemon starts now. Bye.

**NEW\_DOCUMENT\_HERE**

Wolf Blitzer, Jake Tapper, Dana Bash, Anderson Cooper, Jeff Zeleny, Gloria Borger, Van Jones, Kayleigh McEnany, Jeffrey Lord, Michael Smerconish, Nia-Malika Henderson, David Axelrod, Jim Acosta, Brianna Keilar, John King, Patti Solis Doyle

10899 speakers\_end

GOV. MIKE PENCE (R), VICE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE: -- to see the tremendous clear choice between Donald Trump who wants to bring -- rebuild our military, cut taxes, repeal Obamacare, end the war on coal, expand access to American energy, make conservative appointments to the Supreme Court, and Hillary Clinton who literally wants to continue the same failed policies who have weakened America's places in the world, stifle our economy and continue to take our court farther and farther of the left.

[20:00:25] WOLF BLITZER, CNN ANCHOR: Governor, your campaign CEO Steve Bannon told CNN's Brooke Baldwin today that Trump, and I'm quoting him now, "is master of the head fake" and is planning, in his words, "to bring guests to the debate today who expose Bill and Hillary Clinton's sordid past" -- Bannon's words.

Are you comfortable with that plan?

PENCE: Well, look, I'd let Mr. Bannon speak for himself. I think -- we're honored to have all the guests that we have coming tonight. I'm particularly moved that Pat Smith will be with us, the mother of one of the fallen in Benghazi.

I mean, Hillary Clinton runs for president eight years ago and talked about getting the call in the middle of the night, being able to have someone in a leadership position to take that. Well, the call from Benghazi didn't come in the middle at night. It was late afternoon and for 13 hours, literally, the State Department failed to send help. Four Americans fell. She ended up telling Pat Smith and other family members that it was because of a filmmaker in Florida. And when she was confronted on that, when the evidence and e-mails showed she knew it was a terrorist attack, she told the Senate, what difference at this point does it make?

I mean, I truly believe the fact she said that. The fact she did that. Her leadership failed in that moment of crisis in Benghazi should be front and center with the American people and we're honored to have her with us tonight.

DANA BASH, CNN CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT: Governor, your running mate, Mr. Trump, is saying over and over again that he believes the system is rigged. I know that you and Mr. Trump are talking a lot about the media. But I want to put that aside right now and talk specifically about the electoral system and voting. Do you believe that the system is rigged and that there is widespread fraud?

PENCE: Well, I wouldn't separate them, Dana. Donald Trump has made it very clear. I think a polls show today, 55 percent of the America public thinks the media has been biased against Donald Trump.

BASH: But that is different from voter fraud.

PENCE: It is. That's a very fair point.

But the overwhelming negative bias chasing after unsubstantiated allegations while ignoring a mountain range of documented evidence about Hillary Clinton's years of secretary of state and the Clinton Foundation I think is a frustration of millions of Americans.

But on the subject of voter fraud, look, the point Donald Trump has made, the point I made traveling around the country is voter fraud is real. And it happens and has happened throughout the country in specific places, various --

(CROSSTALK)

BASH: -- has shown it's not meant the difference between winning or losing. It is real, perhaps, but not widespread.

PENCE: But you think of the price that has been paid for the right to vote? You know, why is it a numerical issue? Republicans, Democrats, independents ought to stand for the integrity of the vote. This is a very bedrock of our democracy.

And Donald Trump and I are simply calling on our supporters to come to rallies like in Durango, Colorado, today for me and saying to them, be involved in the electoral process. Be there on Election Day. Respectfully provide the kind of accountability that will ensure the integrity of the vote.

BASH: The other thing that is bedrock --

PENCE: But voter fraud, Dana, is real. We're dealing with it in the state of Indiana right now. We have literally thousands of instances of fraudulent voter registration. We're working to run all of that to ground right now. We just need to be vigilant, Republicans, Democrats --

BASH: The other thing bedrock of democracy is a smooth transition. And so given that, do you believe that you and Mr. Trump will accept the results of this election no matter what?

PENCE: I've said before, we'll certainly accept the outcome of this election.

BASH: Do you want Mr. Trump to make that clear.

PENCE: But in the twenty days --

TAPPER: He has said --

PENCE: Well, he said it in the first debate.

TAPPER: And then he took it back.

PENCE: Well, he said it in the first debate, folks.

BASH: Do you want him to make it clear, since then he's been talking about rigged elections.

PENCE: Donald Trump is going to win this election. I know that now you mention polls and where the polls are. "Investors Business Daily" just came out, Jake, and we're ahead by a percentage point national. I think this is real --

TAPPER: So, we should listen to that poll but not the other thirty.

PENCE: Well, no, I think the poll that matters is the one we finish on November 8th. But I have to tell you, there is something happening in the country. The American people are tired of a weak and apologetic foreign policy. The American people are tired of an economy that only produces 1 percent growth. The American people are tired of being told by liberal elites from Washington D.C. to New York City about how we ought to think and how we ought to view our constitutional liberties and rights. And I think Donald Trump has tapped into that.

And my confident hope tonight is the American people are going to see Donald Trump lay out that choice before the American people and then it is going to be head down, kick to the finish.

[20:05:06] You know, Dana, we were out at that Ronald Reagan Library not too long ago. Ronald Reagan at this point in the election in 1980 was down eight points in the national polls, came back to deliver a great victory and America had a great, great comeback under Ronald Reagan. I think that's -- I think we're headed for the same thing on election day and the same thing as we bring America back, as we make America great again.

BLITZER: Governor Pence, thanks for joining us.

PENCE: Thank you, Wolf.

TAPPER: Good luck. Have a good debate.

PENCE: Thank you.

BLITZER: Anderson, over to you.

ANDERSON COOPER, CNN ANCHOR: Wolf, thanks very much.

You are watching AC360, a special edition on this debate night in America. We're about an hour away from the final presidential debate of 2016 here at the University of Nevada Las Vegas. Right now, surrogates for Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump are out in force in the debate spin room making their case for their candidates.

CNN's Jeff Zeleny is there with prominent Republican supporter of Hillary Clinton -- Jeff.

JEFF ZELENY, CNN SENIOR WASHINGTON CORRESONDENT: Anderson, thank you very much.

I'm here with Meg Whitman, chairman of the Hewlett-Packard Enterprise and 2010 Republican candidate for governor of California.

Meg, you were one of the first Republicans out of the box to support Hillary Clinton. How did that feel as a Republican and have more joined you since then?

MEG WHITMAN, HEWLETT PACKARD ENTERPRISE CHAIRMAN: So, many more have joined me. There is a umbrella organization called "Together for America." And I was one of the first, you are right. And it took some courage.

As a lifelong Republican voting for president was very easy thing do. But this time, I decided I had to put country before party, and I got a lot of support and a lot of people who said, what are you doing? But over the last four or five months more and more people are coming across.

ZELENY: You have compared Donald Trump to Hitler, and Mussolini. That said, how can 40 percent of the electorate still support him, do you think?

WHITMAN: Well, I call him a dishonest demagogue who really played to our worst fears around racism and xenophobia and what scares people. And I think that's not the right way to win an election. We need to bring this together.

And then what I really liked about Hillary Clinton was actually her economic policy, which might surprise you as a Republican. But if the president could work on only one thing, for me it would be the economy. Obviously, the president has to work on many things but we have to put average people back to work in America. And I'd very much like her economic plan around infrastructure, her innovations agenda and the skills retraining.

ZELENY: You spent time on the road campaigning with Secretary Clinton and for Secretary Clinton. What's surprised you about getting to know her?

WHITMAN: Yes. So, I didn't really know her very well at all. And I very much liked her. She's thoughtful. She's got a lot of experience that she brings to bear. She's very calm under pressure and I think she's got the temperament to lead this country in what is going to be a very difficult -- if she wins, trying to bring this country together is going to be very difficult. And I think she's got the character and the temperament to do that.

ZELENY: Meg, thank you very much for joining us.

WHITMAN: Thank you very much.

ZELENY: Anderson, back to you. COOPER: Jeff, thanks very much.

We're back with our panel.

Just in terms of strategy for each candidate moving forward to tonight -- I mean, what -- for Hillary Clinton, does she just try to kind of run out the clock essentially and not make mistakes?

GLORIA BORGER, CNN CHIEF POLITICAL ANALYST: Well, yes. But she also has to talk to those people who are worried about her and don't like her and appear as somebody they can accept as president, talk about their lives, to make it a little bit more personal about how she will effect their lives. And I think she tries to take the high road.

I think for Donald Trump, he's got to appear as a plausible commander- in-chief, somebody who has the temperament to be president. I keep going back to this FOX poll that came out yesterday. Thirty-five percent of likely voters believe he has the temperament, 37 percent believe he has the judgment, and 32 percent say they would trust him with nuclear weapons.

This is a big problem for him. So, he has to not take Hillary Clinton's bait. He has to try and talk about these serious issues and present himself as someone they can see in the Oval Office. It is going to be very difficult.

COOPER: Van?

VAN JONES, CNN POLITICAL COMMENTATOR: I think that that's true. But I just want to point out something we just saw which I thought was remarkable.

You know, the thing that president has to do is to unite his country. This guy cannot unite his party.

BORGER: Right.

JONES: He can't unite his campaign. Kellyanne Conway threw him under the bus today. And he can't unite his ticket. Pence sounds like a completely different party, planet, universe than Donald Trump.

And so, part of what you have here is a massive failure of leadership. He gets compared to Ronald Reagan. Ronald Reagan did something extraordinary. He led an insurgency inside his party and actually captured that party and used it to take over the country. He's still not got captured (ph) his own ticket.

KAYLEIGH MCENANY, CNN POLITICAL COMMENTATOR: There is a reason for that. Look, Donald Trump is outsider. He's challenging the status quo not only the Democrats but the Republicans as well. He's making an anti-politician argument, an anti-Washington argument.

He's trying to make a broad case for corruption that we've seen on the mass scale from the DOJ, where Bill Clinton meets with the attorney general on a plane and days later, Hillary Clinton, no prosecution recommended by the FBI. [20:10:10] From the IRS holding average citizen, Tea Party groups --

(CROSSTALK)

MCENANY: -- and they lied. They have to spent wide spread corruption. We've seen that in government and a big distrust of institution. (INAUDIBLE) can't believe the economy is rigged against them. This the anti-politician --

(CROSSTALK)

COOPER: One at a time. Van?

JONES: Didn't mean to interrupt. But honest question, seriously, and maybe, Jeffrey, you want to get in here. If all the stuff you are saying sounds great on the face. He can't get his own party to be on -- he can't get his own running mate on the same page with him for more than three seconds. That is a failure of leadership.

COOPER: Jeffrey?

JEFFREY LORD, CNN POLITICAL COMMENATOR: Look, there are two people here at these debates. One for Donald Trump and one for Hillary Clinton that are perfectly representative of what the problem is. Hillary Clinton chose Meg Whitman who is an elitist extraordinaire who's talking about temperament and going out there and accusing Donald Trump of being Hitler and Mussolini. What kind of temperament is that? What kind of judgment is that?

And he chose Pat Smith, who's son is dead today because of the Hillary Clinton's judgment. And right there is the argument.

MICHAEL SMERCONISH, CNN POLITICAL COMMENTATOR: Can I say something about this climate of inviting individuals to come in and watch these debates? Because I think it's become such a clown show. This is not the first lady's box at the State of the Union Address. And I think it demeans from the process.

I frankly think the country would be better served if there were no audience inside for any of the debates. The ratings might not be so strong. I don't like to watch ball games and turn it on and see no crowd there. But I think it would be a step in the right direction if we stopped this process.

I don't know how he helps himself by bringing Barack Obama's half brother. I don't know how any of these individuals are going to cause someone to say, well, now, I'm for him.

BORGER: TV show, it's psy-ops, right? It's kind of psyche out the other side. Actualy, there are only going to be two people on that stage.

LORD: Which begun with Mark Cuban, right?

BORGER: Well, there's that. I'm not going to disagree with you on that. I think whole notion of, I agree with Michael totally is sort of ridiculous. And it is a little bit of the reality TV getting into --

MCENANY: Because for a Republican candidate, you struggle to get coverage of opposition stories against the Democratic candidate. Look at the recent Media Research Center poll that came out that showed ABC, NBC, CBS spent 7 hours and 30 minutes on Donald Trump's kissing allegations, spent one hour and ten minutes on WikiLeaks. The only way you can get coverage of James O'Keefe, the only way you can get coverage of Pat Smith and Benghazi is to make a show of it because we actually get to talk about Benghazi now. We actually get to talk about the voter fraud --

(CROSSTALK)

MCENANY: -- as caught on video.

NIA-MALIKA HENDERSON, CNN SENIOR POLITICAL REPORTER: But it's also true that Donald Trump himself likely spent more time on that issue of women than he did on WikiLeaks.

COOPER: We should also point out, during his own convention, Donald Trump called into FOX News while the widow was actually speaking. So, if he wanted her message heard, he would not have called into FOX News to blow out her own message.

DAVID AXELROD, CNN SENIOR POLITICAL COMMENTATOR: Not to mention there's never been a greater beneficiary of media coverage in the history of American politics than Donald Trump.

But, Kayleigh, here's the thing, I listened to what you said earlier and I appreciate your very disciplined and your presentation. Here's the issue and I'm just looking at this as a clinical matter. Donald Trump has been on a rampage for the last few weeks trying to rally the base. You guys said, well, he's not the typical candidate. He's an outsider. He's rallying his base and he's losing ground every day to the point where he is behind by such a margin now that it would be historic if he were able to catch up.

So, it's fine if you feel that do. But it isn't really producing the results that would lead to him being elected. May produce the results of him being able to lead a TV network or lead a movement. But it's not going to pay off in the presidency.

COOPER: All right. We're less than an hour away from the start of the debate. We'll soon see if there is a Clinton/Trump handshake or not.

More of the special edition of AC360, ahead.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

[20:18:05] COOPER: We're live in Las Vegas, less than an hour to go before the final presidential debate. This night and this state will influence the outcome on November 8th. There's no doubt about that.

We are learning that Donald Trump and his team took a different approach to tonight's debate. Let's bring in CNN's Jim Acosta.

So, what was the preparation, Jim?

JIM ACOSTA, CNN SENIOR WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENT: Yes, Anderson, we have some new details on how Donald Trump prepared for tonight's final face off with Hillary Clinton. In previous debate prep sessions, Trump opted for a looser format where he jousted back and forth with advisors.

But check this out, for tonight, Trump went with a more traditional mock debate approach. We were told by a source close to the process that RNC chair Reince Priebus asked questions in prep sessions as he sort of mock moderator. And New Jersey Governor Chris Christie, get this, stood in for Clinton to provide the pushback.

Also joining Trump in the room were campaign chairman and Breitbart boss, Steve Bannon, and his campaign manager Kellyanne Conway.

Look for Donald Trump tonight to continue to his attacks on Hillary Clinton and the rest of the Washington establishment, with his called to, quote, "drain the swamp" in Washington, D.C. We saw Trump previewing a line of attack earlier this week. It was generating a lot of enthusiasm out on the campaign trail, Anderson, from all appearances today. Donald Trump is coming tonight ready to rumble -- Anderson.

COOPER: All right, Jim Acosta. Jim, thanks.

Now, let's go to CNN's Brianna Keilar with new details of Hillary Clinton's debate prep -- Brianna.

BRIANNA KEILAR, CNN SENIOR POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT: Anderson, Hillary Clinton has been largely out of sight here for days now. She spent five days preparing, including today here in Las Vegas, with her top aides. It is time I'm told they believe is well spent, because they attribute her recent rise in the polls in part to her debate performances.

And so, tonight, we'll see Hillary Clinton back behind a lectern that is how she has been practicing, playing Donald Trump long time and controversially sharp tongue adviser, Philippe Reines, a top Clinton aide said that Clinton is well-prepared to address Donald Trump's claim that the election is rigged. That is a claim, of course, that is not based in fact.

[20:20:00] And her debate advisors who have been with her day in and day out include Karen Dunn and Ron Klain, in addition to her top aide Jake Sullivan and her campaign chairman John Podesta.

On of the big unknowns here tonight is going to be Podesta's hacked e- mails. Some newly released ones from WikiLeaks where he refers to Bernie Sanders as doofus and were confidants, a long time confidants of Hillary Clinton sort of talk about her, I guess you could say, weaknesses in very unflattering turns. Hillary Clinton is going to try to pivot this back to Russia being behind the hack, that's what the U.S. believes and also questioning Donald Trump's business ties to Russia. But she may also have to defend some of the content.

COOPER: Brianna, thanks very much.

We just saw Donald Trump, Melania Trump arriving, as well as some of Donald Trump's children. Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton face somewhat different expectations tonight than they did in the first time they debated.

John King has been comparing the first and last debates in other presidential races -- John.

JOHN KING, CNN CHIEF NATIONAL CORRESPONDENT: Anderson, when you look at the change of the state of the race from the first debate to now the quite striking. Let's go back.

Remember that first debate, it was at Hofstra University on Long Island. Donald Trump came into the debate with chance to seize control of the race. He was down two points in the national polls. He has closed in or taken the lead in several key battleground states.

On that day, our conversation was, can Donald Trump seize control of the presidential race? That was then. A two-point race momentum all on Donald Trump's side.

Let's look now. As Donald Trump walks into the hall tonight, Hillary Clinton will be there be an eight-point lead nationally. An eight- point lead. That's unheard of in recent years in the polarized politics of the United States.

He needs a home run. She needs to protect what she has. A very different dynamic, not only on the national stage, but when you look at the map.

When you break this up, this is our current CNN electoral map projection: 307 for Democrat Hillary Clinton, 179 for the Republican Donald Trump. More than enough for Hillary Clinton to get across to 270.

And, Anderson, as we've changed this map today, here's what's most surprising. Out in the west, Utah, Arizona, Mitt Romney won Utah with 72 percent. Mitt Romney won Arizona by ten points just four years ago. These are ruby red reliable Republican states. Toss ups because of Trump's troubles. Hillary Clinton actually ahead in the most recent poll in Arizona.

Those are the most surprising, but this is the most significant -- Donald Trump can't get to 270, cannot get there, without the 29 electoral votes from the state of Florida. He calls it his second home. He's promised he would win it. We moved it to lean Democratic today because of the recent polls.

This is the biggest change in the map. Surprising out here. Significant right here. We're also now leaning Nevada. Democratic as well.

Anderson, when Donald Trump walks on the stage tonight, he needs to fundamentally change the arc of this race, try to get it back to where it was at the first debate, because if it stays like this, near impossible.

COOPER: All right, John King. John, thanks very much.

We're just minutes way from the third and final presidential debate. We'll be right back after this quick break.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

[20:25:21] COOPER: We're about 35 minutes from the start of this, the final debate.

Let's talk about a little about expectations in what viewers should watch for.

Patty, we haven't heard from you. What do you think viewers should be looking for particularly in the beginning, the opening of the debate?

PATTI SOLIS DOYLE, CNN POLITICAL COMMENTATOR: Well, I know everyone is going to look and see if they're going to shake hands but I don't really care about that.

I think Hillary needs do a few things. I think she needs to come prepared to answer some really difficult questions about her speeches to Wall Street, about the e-mails, about the FBI quid pro quo, and she's got to do it without looking defensive, because if she's not going to get it from Donald Trump because he's not disciplined enough to go at her on that, she's definitely going to get it from Chris Wallace.

I think she needs to go high when he goes low, exactly what she did at the last debate. Show a lot of dignity like at the last debate. And I think she needs to -- what's gotten lost here because Donald Trump has taken all the oxygen out of this election is her positive case for her presidency.

You know, she's been in public life 30 years. She's a former U.S. senator, former U.S. secretary of state. She is a former first lady --

(CROSSTALK)

COOPER: I have no doubt we'll hear that she's been in public life for 30 years. I think we're going to hear that from Donald Trump. That's a selling point for Trump supporters.

But this is a podium debate. Not a town hall like the last debate was. More like the first debate was. Chris Wallace is the only person asking the questions.

Does that favor one over the other?

AXELROD: Look, I think Chris Wallace is likely to be hard on both of them. When you look at the topics that were chosen, for example, debt and entitlement programs. He's going come with hard questions about whether their numbers add up. He's going to come up -- neither of them have said they were going to do anything in terms of entitlement programs.

And Hillary has -- this is where -- the one place where I think the WikiLeaks issue hurts her in the sense that she made representations in private about her support for Simpson-Bowles and the deficit reduction program. He's going to, I'm sure, drill on that.

So, I think as I look at the list of questions, he's going to try and balance the questions off. And if there is going to be back and forth, it's likely to be between the candidates.

SMERCONISH: I'm looking forward to a question asked tonight about how -- and maybe it is the environment in which we're seated this evening. How somebody are they going put the pieces back together? There's such a divide, such acrimony in the country.

And maybe it will come in a question about the Supreme Court. As an attorney, I'm so glad that that's one of the pods this evening. I'd be particularly interested in learning whether Hillary Clinton would endorse the idea of being supportive of Merrick Garland, because if she wins this election, there is going to be a lame duck session where perhaps there's going to be great debate about what should happen to his nomination.

I think it would be a healthy step if she resisted pressure from the left who would want her to make a more progressive selection for the Supreme Court of the United States and say something like I'd be just find in the interim with Garland were confirmed for Supreme Court.

COOPER: They've been talking about Hillary Clinton, though. What about for Donald Trump?

LORD: Well, one thing we might even have unanimous agreement on this panel is that this election and Donald Trump had been totally unpredictable throughout all of this. And I would just caution here, whether it is this debate or the remaining time we have in this election, if it's been this unpredictable and he's been this unpredictable and gotten this much support, don't misjudge it. Don't count him out. Don't they this is necessarily a typical debate. It could be a very untypical debate --

(CROSSTALK)

COOPER: I just want to check in with Sara Murray.

Sara, what are you learning?

SARA MURRAY, CNN POLITICS REPORTER: Well, Anderson, the Republican leaders that I have spoken with have been nearly unanimous in their advice for Donald Trump tonight and that is to make tonight, to make the race about Hillary Clinton, about her foreign policy failures, about WikiLeaks, and they look at the roster of guests Donald Trump has lined up tonight from President Obama's half brother to yet another Clinton accuser. And one Republican actually told me, Trump is losing the debate before it starts. They believe that this is a misstep to focus on these issues and this is the risk with Donald Trump. They do not know if he actually stay on message for a full ninety minutes and he can just go out there and stick to it Hillary Clinton which is what love to see tonight -- Anderson.

COOPER: All right. Sara Murray, thanks very much.

Kayleigh, what are you looking to see tonight?

MCENANY: You know, Jeff and I have both said we want to see the case against corruption in Washington laid out, but I think Donald Trump needs do something bigger than that. Every focus group we've heard, we've heard voters say I've not heard from either of these candidates how my life is going to be better after these debates.

[20:30:03] The first 15 minutes of the first debate, Donald Trump won that case when he talked about TPP, when he talked about trade. It was powerful and he won that. And the one indicator where voters do trust Trump more is the economy. Even in some of these recent national polls. And it's the issue most important to voters. He needs to lay out his positive agenda. It's a winning one because voters want to know ultimately how is my vote going to change my life.

BORGER: And he has to stop talking about himself.

JONES: Yes, that'd be nice.

BORGER: And stop taking her bait and stop talking about everything he's been talking about for the last two or three weeks where he's had this incredible decline. And he has to start talking about issues.

JONES: I think --

BORGER: And that's a question -- and I think Chris Wallace is going to drill down on these issues. I mean, this was a clear guide. And so they are going to go toe-to-toe on this stuff and we'll see -- we'll see how each of them comes out.

JONES: I think there are two things that she has to do. I think there's tendency that people want to be above it all. Be so inspiring, talk about her policy stuff. I don't believe that at all. I think she needs to be on the offense on the two areas where I think he is very, very weak. First of all, at some point somebody should challenge Donald Trump to register himself as a foreign agent for the Russian government.

You have got to at some point ask him some tough questions about why he is so comfortable with the Russians hacking only the Democrats and not the Republicans, and talk about the dangers of this country of having someone in the White House who is an ally of our enemy. That is an important point to raise and it has not been raised enough.

The second thing I think that has to be raised is this idea of nullifying essentially the result of an American election. Donald Trump has a long history of trying to nullify the last election, the birther stuff was nothing but an attempt to disqualify and undermine a sitting president and he's doing it again.

And those are two issues. This appalling lack of patriotism on the part of Donald Trump when it comes to Russia and respecting our institutions, and to prosecute that hard tonight. Hard.

COOPER: Wolf Blitzer, standing by. Wolf, let's go to you.

BLITZER: All right, Anderson, thanks very much. This is the final debate. Less than three weeks to go. Only about 20 days until the election. Donald Trump comes in. He's losing ground in so many of the national polls as well as the key battleground states.

Jake, can tonight really change anything for Trump?

TAPPER: It can. It can. Absolutely. Hillary Clinton certainly has the advantage right now and anybody would want to be her rather than him at this point in the campaign. But we should point out first of all the Clinton campaign is not overconfident. They say that in battleground states they have seen swings of support from her to him and back again. And so really in, what, 20 days anything could happen. No one should think that this thing is over. The Clinton campaign certainly doesn't think that.

Now in terms of what would need to happen tonight for that dynamic to change that we've seen of Republican states shifting away from Donald Trump, she would need to have a really, really bad night, feeding into the concerns that so many Americans have with her trust worthiness and her honesty.

I'm sure Chris Wallace, the moderator, will ask questions about the WikiLeaks and suggests she says things in private among the well-to-do bankers and such that she does not say in public. She takes a different point. And he would need a very strong night, a statesmanlike night. A night where he reassures the significant doubts that the American people have about his temperament which are very, very tough, that's going to be very tough for him to overcome.

I don't know if he's capable of that. We see him bringing guests that come from a far right-wing home page in some cases. Accusers of Bill Clinton. And estranged half brother of President Obama. Does that suggest he's going to be reaching out to the middle? No. But I guess we'll see what he does when he gets on stage, Wolf.

BLITZER: She's kept a pretty low profile, Hillary Clinton, since the last debate. Has that been smart?

BASH: That's an understatement. A very low profile. She has been preparing. She has been fundraising and she has been nowhere to be found when it comes to being out there so the voters can see her. Is it smart? I mean, her -- certainly her campaign aides think it's very smart because she's wanted to stay back not just to prepare but to let Donald Trump, they hope, kind of, you know, dig his own hole, continue to do so. But tonight that's going to end. The question is whether she talks about the women who have come out to accuse Donald Trump. But more importantly, to your point, Jake, she hasn't been asked about all these WikiLeaks, the new WikiLeaks that have come out, and there are lots of tough questions for her to answer.

But as for Donald Trump, my understanding is that he has been doing a lot more traditional debate prep. Real, sort of trial by fire with the people he's been working with. Reince Priebus, the RNC chair, Chris Christie, the New Jersey governor, and that he has been preparing as much more -- much more of a traditional candidate. The question, though, for people inside Trump world that they don't know the answer to about their own candidate is whether he is going to follow those rules, follow the prep, do what he prepared to do, or whether he's going to go off and follow his gut, which he believes got him to where he is right now.

[20:35:11] And obviously he did in the primary. But we'll see what happens on this debate stage tonight where he thinks that will actually get him beyond the primary voters to those undecided or even those who are not already part of his base.

BLITZER: Jake, this debate, 90 minutes, no commercial interruptions. Six themes that are going to be asked. Each one for 15 minutes. Debt and entitlements. **Immigration**, economy. Supreme Court, foreign hot spots, the final one, fitness to be president. It sounds like this could be a pretty substantive debate on key national security and domestic economic issues.

TAPPER: Yes. Now obviously the **immigration** question is one that feeds into his base, and one of the reasons he got the nomination was because of his hard-lined stance. However, that is not a general election message. In fact a recent FOX News poll suggested about 65 percent to 70 percent of voters actually have the Hillary Clinton, Barack Obama, George W. Bush position in favor of comprehensive **immigration** reform and not a hard-lined position.

So it's going to be interesting to watch him try to walk that line, keeping his base there in favor of this hard-lined positions while also reaching out. And this is something we've been talking about for weeks now. We have not seen since the first debate Donald Trump try to expand beyond his base. We have seen him tried to rally his base. We have seen him say things that his base finds titillating and amusing, suggesting that Hillary Clinton was on drugs. Obviously there is no evidence that she was on any sort of performance enhancing drugs during the last debate.

But saying things like that, the crowd cheers, everyone laughs. It turns the moderate voters, the swing voters he needs, Republican women, independent women, turns them off significantly. Does he have what it takes to reach out to those voters, to expand from the 39 percent, 40 percent of the voters who like him right now? I don't know. We'll see.

BLITZER: We'll see how substantive this debate tonight behind us is going to be. Anderson, back to you.

COOPER: Yes, we're just minutes away from the start of the debate. No doubt members from the Commission on Presidential Debates, they'll all come out to address the crowd first. Janet Brown, who runs the commission, as well as some of the -- Mike McCurry, as well some of the others. We'll also likely hear then from the moderator Chris Wallace and then of course the debate will actually start. The candidates will come out.

Traditionally does a third debate really matter? Does it have the power to change the narrative?

AXELROD: I mean, generally the audience for these debates decline and the impact of the third debate is generally not particularly great. The first debate is always the most consequential debate. The town hall debate always has interesting wrinkles because of the choreography of them. By the time the third debate -- I mean, look at where we are. Look at these polls. So much is locked in now, Anderson, that it's very hard to see a completely new dynamic at this point in the campaign.

By the way, Jeffrey, you say Donald Trump surprises us. But as Michael said earlier he really hasn't surprised us.

SMERCONISH: It's been the same Donald Trump.

AXELROD: These debates have been very predictable.

(CROSSTALK)

COOPER: You disagree with that?

LORD: I think there was one new determinant factor in this debate hall tonight. Chachi has been spotted.

COOPER: Do you think that's going to turn the -- that's the tipping point?

LORD: I think we can go home now.

BORGER: Do you think Chachi is the hail Mary pass that Donald Trump is going to --

LORD: It could be. It could be.

BORGER: He's going to use. He needs to do something to change the trajectory of this race. Make a move that would start a structural change that would be so --

COOPER: The question is, does he believe he needs do something? Does he believe he needs to change the structure of this race?

BORGER: I believe he needs to bring out his voters and that there are hidden ones that we're not polling.

COOPER: Right.

HENDERSON: Yes. I think he looks at those crowds and he thinks that's enough to get him into the White House. He sees that as enthusiasm. He gets 10,000 people or so. But listen, Bernie Sanders got a lot of crowds, too, and he didn't end up winning that Democratic nomination. I think for him just on point stylistically he needs to give a better television performance. He seemed oftentimes a little rattled, a little distracted. He argued with the moderators last time. Kept interrupting.

So he's got to be better on that. He's got to be really conscious that the camera is always on him. I think he's lost that battle and ended up being fodder for "Saturday Night Live."

SMERCONISH: Can I just make this quick point?

AXELROD: Go ahead.

SMERCONISH: OK. We've been together, this crew has been together since the Iowa caucus. About a dozen election nights we were together. Two conventions, four debates. There was a theme that emerged from all those election nights about anger among the electorate. When in fact it was really about 40 percent of Republican voters who were telling exit pollsters their feelings about the federal government were one of anger. And he harnessed that. That is not representative of the entire country. And he's --

MCENANY: But it is.

SMERCONISH: No, it's not. It might be -- it might be typical of what you're hearing tonight but it's not typical of the nation.

(CROSSTALK)

SMERCONISH: And Kayleigh, you have to say, Kayleigh, he's never expanded beyond the angriest among us.

[20:40:05] And thank God they don't represent the nation at large.

COOPER: Kayleigh?

MCENANY: Well, I have two words. Bernie Sanders. There is so much anger on the Democratic side. They want an outsider and I firmly believe there is a chance Bernie Sanders would have been the nominee had the DNC not stacked the deck against him. There is so much anger on both sides. In fact 55 percent said they want a leader that's very different than the current on. People feel left behind. Their real family income hasn't gone up in 30 years.

SMERCONISH: I don't agree with that. I think that the angriest --

COOPER: OK --

MCENANY: There's so much frustration.

SMERCONISH: The angriest voices among us have muted those who are in the center.

COOPER: OK. David, you were going to say something.

AXELROD: I was just going to say, his campaign manager is a pollster. OK. If he believes that he's on a trajectory to win this election, then she's not telling him the truth because she can read polls. She can read data. She can look at the trend lines and the fact is that we're talking about now not whether Donald Trump gets 270 electoral votes but whether Hillary Clinton can push into a state like Arizona which Democrats have coveted for a long time but have never been able to win. This is extraordinary development.

BORGER: Donald Trump's running Donald Trump's campaign.

COOPER: Van?

JONES: Somebody mentioned that the left-wing of the Democratic Party. I know some people in that wing of the party. And --

LORD: No way.

JONES: I know it's going to shock you. And, you know, there is anger but there is more heartbreak. I think people are feeling disgusted right now by this entire charade. And what feels like a race to the bottom for two great political parties. And I think that more than anything this mirror being held up to people of the Donald Trump style and anger I think it's actually making people take a bit of a pause.

The Bernie Sanders crowd wants a politics of addition and multiplication. Not a politics of division and subtraction. And what you're seeing with Donald Trump, whatever good intentions he may have, the way he has conducted himself and frankly the way that when challenges came to him he didn't rise to the occasion. Instead he took us lower and lower every time.

I don't think you're going to find the left-wing of this party inspired by Donald Trump. I think you have to find the left-wing of our party disgusted and disappointed with the whole system and willing to give a chance now to Hillary Clinton because she's not followed him all the way down the gutter.

COOPER: Jeffrey?

LORD: I had a chance earlier today to talk with Nigel Farage, the head of the Brexit movement. And he said to me that he was frankly stunned at the similarities between what's going on here and what went on in Great Britain. And one of the things he said to me -- two things I found interesting that the Remain slogan over there was stronger together. Where have we heard that from? Which also happens to be Hillary Clinton's slogan. And his other point was that they had been behind in the polls. I think he said to me they were behind by 10 and they won by four.

In other words there are a lot of people out there that the establishment of Great Britain, both parties, simply didn't --

(CROSSTALK)

JONES: I talked to Nigel, too. And do you know what Nigel told me, which I thought was very fascinating? He gave me the exact same line you just gave. And then I said, but did you have someone like Donald Trump who had done the kinds of things that he had done when you talk about the treatment of women, the tape, and he -- he goes, "nothing like that."

(LAUGHTER)

AXELROD: Of course not because he was the figure head leader of that moment. But the fact is they weren't electing a leader. They were voting on an issue. It's quite different. People are electing a president now.

COOPER: Let's listen to Janet Brown.

JANET BROWN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, COMMISSION ON PRESIDENTIAL DEBATES: We'd like to welcome to the final debate of 2016 at the University of Nevada Las Vegas. In spite of the commission's long name, our offices could easily fit on to this stage. And I hope during the next few minutes you will take a chance to look at the program that you've been given. It will flop open to the middle part that was the production crew that works together to put these on.

In a little more than three weeks this set and this crew have been to four different sites. And prepared them for broadcasts that are seen around the world by tens of millions of people. The production crew comes together only once every four years to work on these events and a number of the leading members of the crew actually have full-time day jobs on other endeavors and yet find the time to do this.

Among others, Kroll and Mooring, the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs, Explo and Phillips Lighting and Phillips Healthcare provide some of the leading members of our team who somehow juggle their day jobs, along with giving us months of their time to bring this to the American public.

There are a lot of people who have been working for almost two years here in Las Vegas to bring about this event on this campus.

[20:45:01] To start the thanks that are warmly owed. I'd like to introduce the co-chairman of the commission, Frank Fahrenkopf and Mike McCurry.

(APPLAUSE)

FRANK FAHRENKOPF, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, COMMISSION ON PRESIDENTIAL DEBATES: Thank you, Janet. And good evening, ladies and gentlemen. As a Nevadan I can't tell you how proud I am for us to be at UNLV to host this final debate of 2016. And we want to thank the university. We want to thank the convention authority for working so very, very hard to get the job done. And as you came into this arena tonight, I know you were able to see the great amount of work that goes into this. And not only do we want to thank those individuals but clearly the faculty and students of the university. The commission went into existence in 1987. And since then we've conducted 21 presidential debates in the general election. We have nothing do with the primaries, please, I hope you understand that. And we have done eight vice presidential debates. So tonight is the 30th debate that the commission will have produced in those period of time.

(APPLAUSE)

FAHRENKOPF: And we couldn't do it without the tremendous support of our board. And we have four members of our board here tonight. I want to introduce them to you. I'm going to ask them, stand and wait until they are all standing to give them the due thanks that they deserve.

First is Charlie Gibson, you all know him as the former anchor on the "ABC Nightly News" and "Good Morning America." Antonio Hernandez who is the head of the California Community Foundation. Dorothy "Dot" Ridings, who's the former chairman of the League of Women Voters, I'm sorry, Dot, for mumbling that. And former congresswoman from California now heads the Woodrow Wilson scholarship organization and that's Jane Harman.

Won't you join me and giving them --

(APPLAUSE)

FAHRENKOPF: Now let me describe briefly what's going to happen this evening. For those of you who watched the debate a few weeks ago at Hofstra, you know what the format is going to be. It's different than it was for many, many years. The 90 minutes is divided into six 15- minute segments. The -- tonight Chris Wallace, who is our moderator, will propose a question in each of those six segments. The six that he has indicated he wants to explore are, number one, the national debt, entitlements, the economy, the Supreme Court, foreign hot spots and fitness to serve as president.

We do not know what order he's going to ask those questions in. We do not know what the questions are. Only Chris knows what will be asked. The candidates clearly do not know. Now what will happen is as he proposes a question in one of those sections, each candidate will have two minutes, uninterrupted, to state their views on that particular issue. And then for the remainder of that segment of time they can have, hopefully, some interchange between the candidates and really a drilling down to see what the positions are of the candidates on those issues.

Now the first debate that was at Hofstra had we believe honestly about hundred million people observe it. When you count people who observed on their computers, streamed on their Websites and of course on their iPads, iPhones, whatever it might be that they use. We had about 85 million from the second. We don't know what is going to happen tonight. But the one thing is clear is that this program is for them. Not for you in this audience.

There are hundreds of millions of people who are going to watch and who are going to take what they hear tonight, take it into consideration in how they are going to cast their ballots. So we ask you please, do not interfere with that by participating, uninvited, in the debate process tonight. So we ask you not to clap, not to make signs, not to get involved. We would appreciate that.

One other thing before I introduce my co-partner, at about 9:00, it is going to be very quiet in here. 9:00 Eastern Time, 6:00 here. Thank you. You Democrats always know the right time.

(LAUGHTER)

FAHRENKOPF: But that will be broken, the silence, because of what's behind you. Those of you know that those are the anchor booths. And right at 9:00 you are going to hear them all go on the air, announcing their program, introducing who's going to be commentating and so forth. It will be two or three minutes later that the debate will start and Chris will begin. So again we ask you to cooperate.

Now, as I said in 1987 we formed the commission.

[20:50:03] I was chairman of the Republican National Committee at that time and Paul Kirk was the chairman of the Democratic National Committee, and Paul served us on this commission for 24 years until the death of Ted Kennedy when he was asked by the governor of Massachusetts to fulfill Teddy's term until a special election could be held. And he had to step down. But we were most fortunate to have this guy standing next to me, step up and be my co-chairman and partner in this endeavor, Mr. Mike McCurry.

(APPLAUSE)

MIKE MCCURRY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, COMMISSION ON PRESIDENTIAL DEBATES: Thank you. Frank, it really has been a great partnership and it's a great pleasure to be with all of you tonight. I want to tell you a little bit about the Commission on Presidential Debates. It is a nonpartisan to know it is non-partisan organization, nonprofit. We don't receive any support from the government, from the political parties, or from any public entities. The support for the debates come from people who just care about the fact that we want to have candidates together to engage in productive discussion about the future of the country. So they're corporations, foundations and individuals who help us do that kind of work with their support.

I'd like to mention our 2016 national sponsors. They are the Anheuser-Busch Companies, the Howard G. Buffett Foundation, the Kovler Fund, the law firm of Crowell & Moring, AARP, and the National Governors Association.

Will you join me in thanking those generous sponsors for what they've done?

(APPLAUSE)

MCCURRY: Now in addition to that the commission participates in a lot of educational work. The primary mission of the commission is to help educate the American people about the choices that we me as citizens when we vote so we have a number of programs that we work, a number of partnerships. In the last two years, we've especially concentrated on social media because of changes in the media itself. The importance of the Internet, social media platforms like Facebook, Twitter, Google, other dot com entities.

They are now rich sources of content for the American people and so we built out strong partnerships with them and that is something that we are especially pleased to show case. I want to mention especially Facebook for the extraordinary support and contributions they made in this initiative. I hope that is something that you recognize as one of the ways in which we bring the work of these debate to a much broader audience.

And another thing that we do, and I think this is important to note, is we run an international program. It allows us on the commission, those who are in our staff, share ideas, techniques, best practices with others in other countries who also run debates. We learn from them, they learn from us and overall we globally improve democracy.

At this debate, the commission is hosting over 50 representatives from 24 countries in the debates international network and they've received a firsthand look of what goes on behind the scenes of one of these debates. They are here and I would like to ask our friends international colleagues from the Debates International to please stand up and let's give them a round of applause.

(APPLAUSE)

MCCURRY: Finally, there are millions watching and there's one who deserves a special note of thanks. 85-year-old holocaust survivor Fred Kahn who is out there in TV land. He is the one who originally with televised debate.

Fred, look what you've done.

With that we literally would not be able to be here if it weren't for the work of two people I would like to introduce. The president of the UNLV Len Jessup and the head of the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority, Rossi Ralenkotter. Would you please welcome them?

LEN JESSUP, PRESIDENT OF THE UNLV: Well, Frank and Mike, thank you. Hi, I'm Len Jessup, and I'm the president of the University of Nevada Las Vegas.

ROSSI RALENKOTTER, LAS VEGAS CONVENTION AND VISITORS AUTHORITY: And Rossi Ralenkotter. I'm the president and CEO of the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority.

JESSUP: Welcome to the Thomas and Mack Center. Home of the Running Rebels. If you squint through the lights and you look up into the raptors you can see some of our banners. Many championship banners. One national championship banner.

And here at UNLV, we are a university that is different. We're daring and we're diverse. You know, we're not a very old university. We're about 60 years old, in fact. And we're on the pathway to become a top tier university in research and in education and in community impact. You probably heard about our world class hospitality program. It would be natural that we would have one in that industry.

[20:55:03] Our Harrah Hotel College is highly ranked. But we've got great programs in a number of other areas, nationally recognized throughout the arts and the sciences and in the health sciences, law school, the Boyd School of Law and in many other areas. And we're proud to announce a brand new medical school. And in fact, great timing. Just yesterday we learned that our brand new UNLV School of Medicine was accredited by the LCME and it will begin admitting students in the fall.

Thank you.

(APPLAUSE)

JESSUP: And just the day before that, on Monday, the governor was on campus, Governor Sandoval, signing into law the new stadium that the university will be able to use and much expanded, renovated convention center for Rossi as well. So it's quite a week for UNLV.

And then tonight the presidential debate. And I'll tell you, the most special for us about the debate is what this does for our students. We've got a few hundred students working here in the debate hall and over in the Cox Pavilion and the media center and in spin alley. And a total of 1,000 students working the debate all week long all across campus.

We've got faculty that created new courses for the debate for this fall. We got a national lecture series that we're running and many other things around the debate that are going. And probably thing we're most proud of is the partnership with the Clark County School District. Our nationally ranked debate team is working with the debate teams throughout all the schools and they've been watching the debates live and analyzing them.

And then in addition we've got all the students throughout the district writing essays in an essay contest about the debate. So it's just -- it's been a thrill to be able to participate. It is a great time for UNLV.

(APPLAUSE)

RALENKOTTER: Thank you, Len. On behalf of our hotel resort partners, I want to thank all of you for being here tonight at this debate. And for those who traveled to Las Vegas, welcome. It sure is a very exciting time.

We're also proud to partner with UNLV to be able to host this debate. It is very important for the university and for our community. I grew up in Las Vegas and I've never seen this much excitement and this much buzz in our community. Both on the resort corridors as well as in our community itself. So thank you for all of that.

Las Vegas is the only city that evolved to host people. We've been doing that for many, many years and we continue to refine what we do and go to the next level. Last year we attracted more than 42 million visitors who generated $50 billion of economic impact for Las Vegas and created 336,000 jobs. So that's very important for the health of our city, the state and also the country.

And the special events, we are the special events capital of the world. And we have had all types of events here. NASCAR races, championship races, championship fights. We've had the NBA All-Star Game here. But nothing matches what this debate is all about. This special event and the importance of this because we're here today and here tonight to select the leader of the free world, the next president of the United States.

So we're very happy to be part of that. People say you can't get business done in Las Vegas. I disagree with them. This shows that serious business gets done in Las Vegas so I invite you to come back again as a visitor. Have a great time. Have a great debate night and thank you very much.

(APPLAUSE)

BROWN: The commission is very grateful to have Chris Wallace, anchor of "FOX NEWS Sunday," as the moderator of this evening's debate.

CHRIS WALLACE, DEBATE MODERATOR: Good evening. Let me be the last person to welcome you to tonight's debate and also the last person to lecture you on why it is so important to be quiet.

Let me -- as a show of hands, how many of you have been to a general election debate between the two presidential nominees? Raise your hands. Wow. OK. So you know the drill. And those of you who don't, I'm going to repeat the drill. It's really important. I know in some of the primary debates and I participated in some of them. People would hoot and holler and that wasn't necessarily bad. But this is different.

One of these two people three weeks from yesterday is going to be the next president of the United States. It's very important for them to be able to make their case. It's very important for the millions of people who are going to be watching out there to be able to listen to them make their case.

I'm sure in the course of the evening you're going to hear your candidate say something absolutely wonderful and you're going to want to cheer. Don't. I'm sure in the course of the next hour and a half, you're going to hear the other person, the other candidate, say something that you don't like. You want to make some noise. Don't. Just remember you're not a participant here. You're a guest.

So I'm going to sit here and get ready at 3:00 sharp. We're going to see -- you're going to hear in the back, all the platforms, all the networks beginning to do their coverage. 30 seconds before, I'll give you notice that we're going to start. We'll introduce the candidates, applause them, at the end of the debate you can applaud all you want but in the meantime silence. Please.

**NEW\_DOCUMENT\_HERE**

Anderson Cooper, Andre Bauer, Jonathan Tasini, Amanda Carpenter, Alex Burns, John King, Gloria Borger, Kevin Madden, Patti Solis Doyle, Jason Carroll, Jim Acosta

10280 speakers\_end

[20:00:07] ANDERSON COOPER, CNN ANCHOR: Good evening. Thanks very much for joining us.

Two more women say Donald Trump made inappropriate sexual advances towards them. Their descriptions and what they say he did them echoing almost word for word what Trump was caught on tape boasting he could get away with because he's a star. That tape, of course, from 2005 came out exactly a week ago.

The actress you see at the end of it, Arianne Zucker, joins us tonight. And this hour, Kristin Anderson, one of the two women who came forward today joins me for her first television interview.

Also, Donald Trump's increasingly loud and take no prisoner's rebuttal is speaking tonight in Charlotte, North Carolina. We'll look at the way he's making his case and his decision for a second straight day to disparage the looks of his accusers with the implication that they're not attractive enough for him to notice.

More on all of it now from CNN's Jim Acosta.

(BEGIN VIDEOTAPE)

JIM ACOSTA, CNN SENIOR WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENT: No apologies and no admissions of guilt from Donald Trump who's still angrily denying he's ever sexually assaulted women.

DONALD TRUMP (R), PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE: I look at the television. I think it's a disgusting thing, and it's being pushed. They have no witnesses. There's nobody around. They just come out.

Some are doing it for probably a little fame. Phony accusers come out less than a month before one of the most important elections in the history of our country.

ACOSTA: But every day, it seems Trump faces more accusations. The latest, Summer Zervos who appeared at a news conference with Attorney Gloria Allred who say she was abused by the real estate tycoon after she was featured on Trump's hit TV show, "The Apprentice."

SUMMER ZERVOS, TRUMP ACCUSER, EX-"APPRENTICE" CONTESTANT: He came to me and started kissing me open mouthed as he was pulling me towards him. He put me in an embrace and I tried to push him away. I pushed his chest to put space between us and I said, "Come on man, get real." He repeated my words back to me, "get real", as he began thrusting his genitals.

ACOSTA: Another accuser, Kristin Anderson, tells "The Washington Post", Trump reached pushed up her skirt and groped her back in the '90s.

KRISTIN ANDERSON, TRUMP ACCUSER: He did touch my vagina through my underwear.

ACOSTA: Both women say they came forward after seeing Trump bragged about grabbing women's genitals at a hot mic moment caught on camera.

TRUMP: You can do anything. Grab them by the pussy.

ACOSTA: And after other women surface to share their stories of alleged abuse as Jessica Leeds did on "AC360".

COOPER: Did he actually kiss you?

JESSICA LEEDS, TRUMP: Yes, yes.

COOPER: On the face? On the lips?

LEEDS: Wherever he could find a landing spot, yes.

ANDERSON: After that I was like, OK, you know, what? Let me just back these girls up, you know? That's not OK.

ACOSTA: Trump says Anderson's account is false.

TRUMP: One came out recently, where I was sitting alone in some club. I really won't sit alone that much. Honestly folks. I don't think I sit alone -- I go in with groups of people -- I was sitting alone like this. And then I went wah. It's like unbelievable.

ACOSTA: And he casts doubts on Leeds' story by suggesting she wasn't attractive enough for him to assault her.

TRUMP: Oh I was with Donald Trump in 1980. I was sitting with him on an airplane. And he went after me on the plane. Yes, I'm going to go after you. Believe me, she would not be my first choice, that I can tell you.

ACOSTA: Trump's running mate Mike Pence says he has faith in the man at the top of the ticket.

GOV. MIKE PENCE (R), VICE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE: Donald Trump has asserted that all of these recent unsubstantiated allegations are categorically false and I do believe him.

ACOSTA: And Pence politely pushed back on First Lady Michelle Obama, who denounced Trump's behavior.

MICHELLE OBAMA, FIRST LADY: I can't believe I'm saying that a candidate for president of the United States has bragged about sexual assaulting women.

PENCE: I have a lot of respect for the first lady and the job that she's done for the American people over the last seven and a half years, but I don't understand the basis of her claim.

(END VIDEOTAPE)

COOPER: Jim Acosta joins us now.

Donald Trump, his vice presidential pick and members of his campaign promise evidence that they say refutes this allegations against him. Did they produce anything?

ACOSTA: Not much, Anderson. Just a statement officially from the campaign about the allegations made by Summer Zervos. We can put that up on screen.

It says, quote, "I vaguely remember Ms. Zervos as one of the many contestants on "The Apprentice" over the years. To be clear, I never met hear at a hotel or greeted her inappropriately a decade go. That is not who I am as a person and it is not how I conducted my life. In fact, Ms. Zervos continued to contact me for help, emailing my office on April 14th of this year, asking that I visit her restaurant in California."

And just a few moments ago, Anderson, Donald Trump said all of these allegations coming from these accusers are 100 percent false. He went on to make these claims that he's the victim of a grand conspiracy involving the Clinton campaign and the media.

Anderson, the only forces working against Donald Trump tonight were technical forces. His teleprompter broke. And so he's in and out speaking the first time we c can recall in a couple of months.

[20:05:01] Anderson, earlier this weekend he said he was unshackled. Without these teleprompters, he certainly is -- Anderson.

COOPER: All right. Jim Acosta -- Jim, thanks very much.

Again, it is seven days since the tape came out and at least eight women have come forward.

Kristin Anderson is a photographer. In the early '90s, she was a model. Her encounter with Donald Trump she says happened at a Manhattan nightclub. She says it lasted less than half a minute. The memories, she says, have lasted now half a lifetime. They came rushing back last Friday. "The Washington Post's" Karen Tumulty broke story.

Ms. Anderson joins us now for her first live television interview.

Kristin, thanks so much for being with us.

KRISTIN ANDERSON, TRUMP ACCUSER: Thanks.

COOPER: If you could first of all take me back to that night. What happened?

ANDERSON: I was sitting on the couch with my girlfriends.

COOPER: This is at a club.

ANDERSON: It was at a club. And I was talking to them. And next thing I know there is a hand up my skirt.

And I basically just pushed the hand away, turned and looked, got up off the couch. And we all moved.

It was very packed. There were people everywhere, as it was then. And I recognized the eyebrows right away.

And I turned to my girlfriends and I was like, "Who's this dude?" And they're like, "Oh, that's Donald Trump." And I (ph) go, "Yes, that's Donald Trump, the eyebrows." And I was like, you know, "He just stuck his hand up my skirt. Ew."

And we just sort of went off the rest of our night. We moved and that was that.

COOPER: Did he say anything to you before or after that or during it?

ANDERSON: No.

COOPER: Have you seen that you were sitting next to Donald Trump?

ANDERSON: I did not see that I was sitting next to him. I wasn't aware of that. I was talking to somebody here. And if you have ever been to a nightclub, that's a hot one, you know, you could be sitting next to people that you don't know. It's very easy.

COOPER: Do you remember what club it was?

ANDERSON: I'm pretty sure it was China Club, because I remember the red velvet couches.

COOPER: And do you know -- one of the things Donald Trump said today is that he rarely went out alone. He wouldn't have been sitting alone. Was he sitting alone? Was he sitting with other people? Do you know?

ANDERSON: Well, the place was very packed and very crowded. That he was alone, I doubt it. I didn't see who he was with but there were people everywhere. I mean, he could have been sitting there alone in the midst of a crowd. I don't know. That -- you know, he was sitting next to me.

COOPER: Did you say anything to Donald Trump when he did this?

ANDERSON: I didn't. I just got up and sort of made very quick eye contact and just moved.

COOPER: When you made eye contact did he acknowledge you at all? Or -- ANDERSON: No, just sort of a quick glance. It was sort of like -- nothing really. It was very nothing.

COOPER: Did your friends see what happened? Or did you talk to them about what happened?

ANDERSON: Well, right then I did. And they were all like, "Well, that's Donald Trump." And I said, "He just put his hand up my skirt." Unfortunately, I'm not in contact with those people anymore. But quite a few of my other friends who I saw recently afterwards, of course, I told all them.

COOPER: At the time --

ANDERSON: And, you know, we had a conversation about it.

COOPER: At the time, what did you think about it? I mean, it is -- it is a startling -- I mean that is a startling thing to have happen.

ANDERSON: Yes. I -- I don't know, to be honest. It was one of those things that happened really quickly. And I pushed him off and moved away. And I sort of didn't really ponder on it that long. And I didn't tell anybody.

I've seen a few people, like, oh, you should have said something. Yes, say what? To who? Like --

COOPER: Do you feel if you had said something to the club management or security or something like that? Did you think about that at all?

ANDERSON: I thought about it now. Could I have said something? Maybe. But, you know, who am I going to tell? So, I go to the club manager and I'd say, Donald Trump put his hand up my skirt. They will be like, yes. And they'll go to him and say, did you do this? And he'll say no. And where do we go from there?

It's kind of like where we are now. So, it's -- you know? He's saying no. And there are a ton of women saying, yes, and more will come out because if this was that nonchalant, there is no way he didn't it to many other people.

COOPER: At the time, did you consider it sexual assault?

ANDERSON: No. I didn't think of it that way, no.

[20:10:02] But assault in my mind meant something else. You know, hitting is assault. And I was very unaware with -- unaware of, you know, mental abuse, manipulation, bullying. I mean that is just straight up bullying.

And maybe not exactly what happened to me but certainly what happened to some of these other girl whose didn't get up and leave very quickly.

COOPER: I'm wondering one week ago when the "Access Hollywood" tape came out with Donald Trump and with Billy Bush on the bus and the comments, was it -- I'm wondering what you thought or felt when you heard that, when you saw that?

ANDERSON: Well, a girlfriend of mine told me about it, actually. I don't really keep up with the news. And I don't really keep with politics. So, she was like, "Kristin, you have to watch this video. You can't believe it. You know, because this happened to you."

And so, I watched the video. And I was like wow, that's horrifying. It's horrifying. And I really felt for the girl walking into it. Like when he comes off the bus and she walks right up and she walks right into it, had no why idea what he was just saying. And it's --

COOPER: I actually want to play that just for your viewers so they know specifically what you are referencing. Let's watch that.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

DONALD TRUMP: Hello. How are you? Hi.

ARIANNE ZUCKER: Hi, Mr. Trump. How are you? Pleasure to meet you.

TRUMP: Nice seeing you. Terrific, terrific. You know Billy Bush?

BILLY BUSH: Hello, nice to see you. How you doing, Arianne?

ZUCKER: I'm doing very well, thank you.

Are you ready to be a soap star?

TRUMP: We're ready. Let's go. Make me a soap star.

BUSH: How about a little hug for the Donald? He just got off the bus.

ZUCKER: Would you like a little hug, darling?

TRUMP: Absolutely. Melania said this was OK.

(END VIDEOTAPE)

COOPER: So, it was that moment in particular.

ANDERSON: That moment in particular really was very nauseating to me, nauseating.

COOPER: Can I ask? What was it about that particular moment? Because, obviously, there were comments before but something about her walking into the situation not knowing what had happened? Is that --

ANDERSON: Well, I guess when the talk of what was going on in the bus was upsetting, obviously. And then I understood, like, oh this is -- you know, here is a man who thinks he can do whatever he wants and deny it and get away with it.

But when she walks into it, it's like innocence walking into like the devil's den. It's scary. I felt scared for her.

And probably nothing happened to her. But maybe it could have. It could have. And it happened to other women.

So, it was scary to me. I felt like that little fear like ooh.

COOPER: We're going to talk to Ariane Zucker later on tonight.

Donald Trump as you probably know has attacked many of the women who have come forward. He's implied some of the accusers want 15 minutes of fame. Some, he's attacked their looks. He's called them liars.

His campaign has called your story a phony allegation. Says you are looking for free publicity.

Why did you decide to come forward and tell what you say happened to you?

ANDERSON: Well, mostly because there are many, many women who most -- these things happened to. And not just with Donald Trump but many men, who feel that they can just take advantage of women and the women don't say anything. And I was just talking to a man not two minutes ago who said it's only 20 percent of adult women who actually report rape. That's adult women. Not, you know, young women who still, you know, haven't come into their power yet.

And just being able to, you know, come out and say it and have other women come out and say it. It is OK to say it. Say it. Somebody has to say it. Otherwise, we're just being quiet and letting it happen.

And also, like I said before, it's sort of a gateway. So, yes, he stuck his hand up my skirt. Was it hurt? No. Is it traumatized my whole life? No.

But I let it slide. And what's the next thing that you let slide? And the next thing and the next things and when is it OK and where do you draw that line? When is that assault?

Because, if you can just grab a girl, you know, grab her boobs or just throw her down and kiss her and that's not assault and that's OK? I don't -- I don't get that. I don't get that. So it would be nice to have some sort of system in place to allow these women to come forward and not be, sort of demonized or called all sorts of names.

[20:15:11] I've been called all sorts of names today. So, yes.

COOPER: Yes.

Kristin, I want to just take a quick break. I want to if we can continue the conversation after the break. I'll just be away for a just a few minutes.

We'll be right back for more with Kristin Anderson.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

COOPER: Well, the breaking news tonight: Donald Trump capping a very rough week. His new accusers step forward and even his damage control appears capable of doing damage on its own to his campaign, especially his alleged victims.

We're talking tonight with one of the new accusers, Kristin Anderson.

Kristin, thanks for being with us.

Donald Trump himself denied your allegations today on the campaign trail. I think it's important for you and certainly our viewers to see exactly what he said. So, I just want to play that.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

TRUMP: One came out recently, where I was sitting alone in some club. I really don't sit alone that much honestly folks, I don't think I sit alone. I go in with groups of people -- I was sitting alone by myself like this. And then I went, wah -- to somebody.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

COOPER: I'm just wondering what you think hearing that, hearing the audience's reaction?

ANDERSON: You know, I think -- I think people with this sort of personality will do what he's doing. You know, he's not going say, "Oh, yes, sorry. That's not going to happen." He's making fun of it and making light of it and denying it.

COOPER: You feel he's making light of it, making fun of it?

ANDERSON: Yes. With that -- his -- you know, his joke -- he's joking about it.

[20:20:03] He's joking about it. And that's a message that's going out to everybody. That's scary. That's scary.

COOPER: Some Trump supporters have said that the timing of a lot of these allegations is suspicious to them, this close to the election. So, I guess -- you know, you said earlier you're not a political person. You don't really follow politics very much.

ANDERSON: Right.

COOPER: Are you, you know, a Hillary Clinton supporter? Have you contributed to the Clinton campaign? The Clinton Foundation?

ANDERSON: No. No.

COOPER: Are you politically motivated?

ANDERSON: No. Actually I'm a little politically terrified. I only started looking into the political situation recently just to sort of see what's going on.

And I'm pretty terrified with both candidates, to be honest. I don't want to vote for either of them. I think it is sad that that is our choice. And that scares -- scary. Scares me.

COOPER: So, you are saying you have no political motivations here in terms of telling your story?

ANDERSON: No. No. And I was very reluctant to come here and do this. This is not -- this doesn't benefit me in any way. You know I'm getting hate mail now. So, this is -- does nothing for me. And --

COOPER: I understand it was actually "The Washington Post" who I guess heard about you through somebody else and contacted you. Is that correct? That it was --

ANDERSON: That is correct.

COOPER: That it wasn't you reaching out to them.

ANDERSON: Yes, that is correct. They came to me and I pondered for a few days before I was like, OK, you know, this is important, this is important, this is important.

And, you know, as somebody who has been abused, it is important. It is important. Even the smallest assault is important.

And that's really the message I want to tell women, you know. If you -- if it's inappropriate, it's inappropriate. And it needs to be out there.

And you don't have to take it. And you need to stand up for yourself and be strong.

COOPER: Can I ask you what the thought process was? You said you took a couple of days to think about it. And, you know, they came to you.

What was some of the kind of the thought process in your mind? Because, you know, going public like this is obviously -- as the big step.

ANDERSON: Yes. Well, I guess the facts that he was lying and that I knew that and then I saw the other women. That was a factor. And I said, well, you know, the right thing to do would be to tell my story as well. They are being very brave and coming out and telling it.

Then, there is the shameful side that says, oh, well, you were wearing a mini skirt. So, maybe it is -- you know, maybe you shouldn't be talking about that. But everybody was wearing a mini skirt. So, is that a problem? Is that relevant?

And then, you know, this is a long time ago. This happened a long time ago. And it really -- it's not part of my life. It's not something I talk about. It's not something I care about, really.

But, you know, people around me are like, "Yes, Kristin, but it is important." It is important. And just the fact that I, to myself, was brushing it off, that was the part that said, you know what, you really shouldn't brush that off. The fact that you want to brush it off means that you really should say it. COOPER: Do you find different reactions that men have to women have, because I think if men found themselves groped on the street or whistled at on the street or whatever that so many women -- I don't -- I'm not talking about Donald Trump, I'm just talking in general, even today, go through on a daily basis.

ANDERSON: Right.

COOPER: If I'm walking with a woman friend of mine, I'm always amazed at the way people look at her. Or, you know, compared to a male. And do you think if -- do you think men sort of see this differently in some way? I don't want to generalize that all men, obviously.

ANDERSON: Yes, well, I've been whistled at plenty and followed down the street, and eyed up and down. And it's -- it's scary. You know?

And then there are people who will say well, if you don't want that attention, then you shouldn't dress like that. And then, well, I could wear a burqa. I guess that is my choice.

But, you know, I like to feel good about myself. And that doesn't mean that I need everybody ogling more or whistling at me or saying "hot mama", or whatever they are going say to me.

[20:25:07] It's not -- it doesn't make you feel good.

COOPER: If you could say something directly to Donald Trump, what would you say?

ANDERSON: I would say, you know, there is probably a lot more women and you know it and I know it and they all know it. So, just come clean and just say -- you know, apologize. Just come clean. They're not going come -- they're not going to stop coming out of woodworks. That's for sure.

COOPER: Kristin, appreciate you talking tonight. Thank you very much, Kristin Anderson.

ANDERSON: Thanks.

COOPER: I want to bring in the panel, Clinton supporter, Jonathan Tasini, "New York Times" political reporter, Alex Burns, also Trump supporters, former U.S. Congressman Jack Kingston, conservative Trump critic Amanda Carpenter, and Trump supporter Andre Bauer, former South Carolina lieutenant governor.

Amanda, what do you make of what you heard?

AMANDA CARPENTER, CNN POLITICAL COMMENTATOR: Well, I think for all the people accusing these women of seeking publicity, I think they should watch that interview. She didn't look like she was having fun tonight. This doesn't look like the way she wanted to spend her Friday night.

These women could have sold their stories for money. It needs again to point out, they did not come out until they heard his words. And then they realized, yes, I have an obligation to speak out.

But this is so much bigger than Donald Trump. Although Donald Trump's words and actions really disturb me, I'm even more disturbed by the way Republicans have come out to defend him.

I've watched so many people that I respect, like Rudy Giuliani, Newt Gingrich, Ben Carson and others dismiss this, say it just happens, deal with it. We have big problems in our party and after this election, somebody is going to write an autopsy report. And I think there needs to be political obituaries for the men who are jumping to defend Donald Trump and smear these women.

COOPER: Congressmen, you are a Trump supporter.

JACK KINGSTON, TRUMP SUPPORTER: Well, let me say this. I have been an as employer involved with cases of sexual misconduct. I take them very seriously.

I would also say my experience and interaction with the campaign, everybody there takes it very, very seriously. This is sober stuff, Anderson. Nobody is arguing with that.

I know in the cases that I've been involved with, sometimes women come forth immediately and sometimes they don't, which makes it very tricky and challenging for us as a society to deal with it. So, we're not saying to somebody -- and I do know that criticism is out there. Well, why did you wait so long? But there are reasons that women need to wait that long and women have told me that and I respect those reasons.

You know, I also, one of the cases that I was vicariously involved with because I had a constituent involved with was the Duke Lacrosse case. And it was a horrible case in which all of these fine young men were basically guilty more one year in the court of public opinion. And every single one of them, by every measure, every critic at the end of this horrible period said they were innocent.

And so, the reason why I bring that up is litigate these serious cases, if we as a society want to treat this seriously, to litigate it, you know, it under the current circumstances, is very, very difficult.

COOPER: Let me ask you. You were saying you were involved in sort of corporate cases of this, which obviously corporations today are taking it far more seriously than they did 20, 30 years ago. If a CEO of a company said the things that Donald Trump said on that bus that we know he said or an employee in a company said those things and they were heard by other people in the company, would that person still keep their job?

KINGSTON: I think that would be very, very disturbing. And I they that that would be an issue that the employer would want to know, what in the world were you talking about?

COOPER: Would you think an HR department would allow that person to keep their job? KINGSTON: I think the HR department would delve into it. The incident -- incidentally, the HR director for Trump businesses is a woman, or was a woman named Rosen, Deidra Rosen (ph). And she speaks very highly of Donald Trump.

And, you know, one of the things that I think, you know, measuring things and its context. Here is someone who has 43 percent of his employees are women. Yet, the majority of his management team are female. And --

COOPER: Right. I guess the question, Andre, may I ask you, is if a corporation -- I mean, I've heard a lot of people say a corporation would not stand for an employee, you know, talking about standing around talking about grabbing a women by the genitals and bragging about it. That employee would probably not keep their job.

If a corporation has those standards, shouldn't be, I mean, the highest office in the land?

ANDRE BAUER, TRUMP SUPPORTER: Clearly, there are things here that we don't all approve of.

[20:30:00] Again, we don't know all of the circumstances surrounding this. You know, I would reference two things that I saw today. Number one was Ms. Oregon. Jennifer Murphy, who said yes, Donald Trump, gave me a peck on the lips. But she never felt violated. She was -- she says she's still voting for him.

And so we don't know. I don't want to try Donald Trump because that's not my job to do that. I'm supporting for a multitude of other reasons. Does this make us question? Well, sure it does. All of us question the multitude of facts were giving 24 -- 25 days before an election.

ANDERSON COOPER, CNN ANCHOR: Right. But it's -- what's not in contention is what Donald Trump actually said and just those comments alone, I think ...

BAUER: Well, I have heard lots of guys in leadership positions say things that I didn't think were appropriate comments. That didn't mean I didn't think they were in a good situation still be a great leader.

COOPER: OK. Jonathan?

JONATHAN TASINI, CLINTON SUPPORTER: You've heard -- and I just want to clarify. You heard people talk about sexual assault, a crime?

BAUER: I've heard people talk exactly like he talked. In other words talking about committing ...

(CROSSTALK)

TASINI: An act of sexual assault, is that right?

AMANDA CARPENTER, CNN POLITICAL COMMENTATOR: I've never heard that language and I've heard Donald Trump ...

TASINI: I've never guys talk that way, I'm sorry. Not in any circumstance. I think we're mistaking something. We're making -- we're talking about these generalities but there's a long history of Donald Trump's behavior towards women. And the fact that 11 women, so far, and this is just the beginning, have come out and talked about being assaulted by Donald Trump is he's a criminal. He has create -- he has executed a crime against women. And we can't sort of brush that over. It's not, as you point out, this issue about what's happening in corporations. We are 25 days away from an election. And we're deciding about whether to elect a man who has committed a crime. But -- multiple crimes.

BAUER: The gentlemen on the airplane said in fact that's not at all how the story happened on the airplane. He said I was there the entire time. She actually him ...

TASINI: Andre?

BAUER: ... that she wanted -- he says that she told him she wanted to marry Donald Trump. So stories change over ...

CARPENTER: I mean this is hardly the kind of evidence that can clear these kind of accusations and it probably can't be cleared up in a run up before the election. But the reaction coming from men in the Republic Party is going to do such lasting damage. People don't seem to understand the concept of consent. You bring up the girl who said, oh, I wasn't bothered if Donald Trump kissed me. Well for a man to kiss you without, you know, asking or having a previous relationship, that is very disturbing behavior.

TASINI: And let me add ...

COOPER: Well, we'll get Alex. I mean, where is the tipping point in all this? I mean, you know, a number of women have already come forward. It's very possible more may come forward. You know, the timeline of this is very different. We've all heard the comments. Where is the tipping point? Because at this point the campaign says that they are going to present some evidence. You know, they don't really seem to have that much at this point.

ALEX BURNS, NATIONAL POLITICAL REPORTER, NEW YORK TIMES: Well, I think politically if you want to look for the tipping point, then look behind you. We're at a stage in this campaign now where Trump has allowed the story to go on for days with these very specific accusations but now a full week since the first tape came out, he has not said or done anything that seems to have convinced the great bulk of voters to disregard all of this information.

And as we know, you know, from the answer he gave you in the debate, his categorical statements about his past behavior are at odds with now just a body of claims that grows every single day. And, you know, I suppose I respect the Trump supporters for making their valiant effort to defend him here, but you have precious few Republicans who want to do that at this point and you have more and more folks in the party who are no longer talking -- trying to win the presidential election. They're just talking about trying to ...

TASINI: Alex, in your own story today, your story along with Maggie Haberman and John Martin quoted Republican donors, big ones, saying, for example, at some point you have to look in the mirror and recognize that you cannot possibly justify support for Trump to your children, especially your daughters. This was David Humphrey.

COOPER: We got to take a quick break. We'll have more of this conversation right after the break.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

[20:37:12] COOPER: We're talking about Donald Trump's ongoing damage control attempts today including this, just moments ago.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

DONALD TRUMP, (R) PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE: These allegations are 100 percent false. As everybody, I think you know. I think you get it. I think you get it. They are made up. They never happened. When have you met tens of thousands of people, as I have, and I've met thousands and thousands and thousands of people. Know them, know them well. It's not hard to find a small handful of people willing to make false smears for personal fame, who knows, maybe for financial reason, political purposes or for the simple reason they want to stop our movement, they want to stop our campaign. Very simple.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

COOPER: Back with the panel. Amanda, I'm wondering what you make of -- are you surprised that Donald Trump in his own defense is going after the appearance of some of these people?

CARPENTER: Nothing surprises me anymore. But I mean certainly that may be his instinct. But is there anybody in that campaign who has any common sense for how to discuss this issue? I don't know what Steve Bannon or Kellyanne Conway or the rest of them are doing right now but this certainly is not a good reaction.

But I do think there is one thing that Republicans need to be thinking about. Post Donald Trump, how does the GOP ever stop this from happening again? There has to be reforms with the RNC and I think first and foremost, there has to be vetting of candidates who get to that GOP primary debate stage that includes submitting your tax returns, but also a scrub of previous interviews like the Howard Stern tapes which we all kno are out there.

COOPER: Well, it's interesting Bloomberg reported, and I asked Corey Lewandowski about this last night and he really wouldn't answer it. But Bloomberg is reporting that Corey Lewandowski, who was, at that point, the campaign manager, wanted the Trump campaign to do opposition research on the candidate which a lot of campaigns understandably do to see if there are other any landmines that another team doing opposition research will find, and according to Bloomberg that was nixed by Donald Trump. JACK KINGSTON, SENIOR ADVISER, TRUMP CAMPAIGN: Well, I think that the Trump campaign really has focused more on change on the future on national security, on economic changes, deregulation, more jobs and so forth and **immigration** security. And I think that has been the focus of the campaign ...

COOPER: Wait, wait, wait. Wait a minute. Let me stop you. You're saying they didn't want to do opposition research on Donald Trump because they were too busy coming up with policy positions? Because I got to say for a campaign, they have -- I haven't seen many policy papers compared to most average campaigns. I mean, you've got to admit it ...

[20:40:00] KINGSTON: Well, actually I think he's put forward an **immigration** plan, a tax plan, an energy plan. He's given a plan on national security. I think he really has, but the, you know, the situation is ...

COOPER: Do you wish they had done opposition research on their own candidate like many campaigns do?

KINGSTON: It's always a good idea. Everybody would say that. But I think also the animosity towards Donald Trump by the establishment has been so great that candidates usually don't get the kind of scrutiny he does.

But I do want to say at this point, the Donald Trump that I've gotten to know, and I go way back with Mike Pence and Kellyanne Conway. They are very, very fine people. The Donald Trump I know is not the Donald Trump that he was 10 or 11 years ago.

COOPER: How do you know that?

KINGSTON: Because I've seen him interact with ...

(CROSSTALK)

KINGSTON: Far more time with Kellyanne and far more time with Mike Pence over the years.

COOPER: Right. Total like hours, how much time ...

KINGSTON: I can't count it but I can tell you this that ...

COOPER: They might spend days with the guy?

KINGSTON: I'd say days with the team. And I've seen the interaction of him with his family, with his employees and so forth. And I think he's a different man than he was 11 years ago and I think most of us are.

COOPER: But in 2004 and 2005, I think he was -- he said it's OK to call his daughter a nice piece of, you know, what.

KINGSTON: And you know what?

COOPER: Do you think ...

KINGSTON: I'm a father of two daughters and I would not do that. I know Mike Pence would not do that. But I also know in that Hollywood culture when he was doing a lot of these flippant to me, and I assume with you, offensive kind of comments and interviews, I think that was part of the shtick if you will.

COOPER: See, because I've done Howard Stern only twice when he's (inaudible) than I have, but you don't have to answer a question. Howard Stern is one of the greatest interviewers there is. And he'll ask provocative questions but you have the power of saying, you know what, I'm not going down that road. So I mean, I'm just wondering when this change in Donald Trump occurred.

TASINI: And just this little point just so we get clear about terminology. You keep, and I say some Republicans keep using the word offensive language. Saying I'm going to grab your pussy is sexual assault. That is not just offensive language. And so I think we have to get the terminology ...

(CROSSTALK)

TASINI: When somebody contemplates that, you know and I said before, I said before, I believe he committed these acts. 11 women have come forward. I believe that's just the beginning.

KINGSTON: Jonathan?

TASINI: I believe he did commit those crimes. But saying -- I don't know why you don't see this. It's not just offensive language. He is talking about a sexual crime.

KINGSTON: Jonathan, Jonathan, do you really believe that that conversation on the bus was a plot, a deliberate this is what we're going to do? Because I'll say this, as a guy who has played sports all my life, never going to say I was a sports star but I've been in locker rooms since that was five years old and I've heard that kind of going banter ...

COOPER: But also -- right.

KINGSTON: And I've got say, it is not -- it's not really ...

COOPER: But how old were you when you're in a locker room? Donald Trump is, what, 56 years old at that point. At a certain point, I don't think he'd seen the inside of a locker room ...

(CROSSTALK)

CARPENTER: He wasn't in a locker room he was in a place of work.

TASINI: But respectfully, that's not correct. First of all, there have been a whole series of athletes -- let me finish. There have been a whole series of athletes who in the last week have come forward and said publicly that is not the way we talk in the locker room. Jack, hold on. Because we are fathers. We have daughters. We have sisters. They do not talk that way.

And Jack, I want to say again, this is not just sort of flippant conversation. We are talking about somebody who was talking about sexual assault.

COOPER: By the way, he was 59.

TASINI: That is a very different thing. I don't know why ...

KINGSTON: Let me say. Well, Jonathan, I would have to say to you and I have to say to you very, very respectfully, there was no deliberate "let's go out and assault somebody." It was locker room banter. And I can say this to somebody who ...

CARPENTER: This is a not locker room.

KINGSTON: ... has been in a locker room and has been in the company of men, I'm sorry to say, but sometimes there are X-rated disgusting off the wall conversations ...

(CROSSTALK)

COOPER: One at a time. One at a time. OK, Amanda go ahead.

CARPENTER: It was not locker room talk. He was in a place of work. This is a professional setting for Mr. Trump. He was speaking to a member of the media on a mic, mic'd up, talking about woman they work with. Stop with this locker room talk. He was doing it as a professional man in a professional setting.

KINGSTON: Amanda, I would have to disagree also respectfully with you.

CARPENTER: I don't think you're respecting anybody if you think this is a talk that women should be subjected to.

KINGSTON: You know, this is the problem when we're trying to discuss a very serious issue. I think you have a point. I think you have a point. But I cannot believe you can't see that there is a thing called banter that goes on ...

TASINI: Jack ...

KINGSTON: ... that people may be talking about. But Jonathan, you're ...

(CROSSTALK)

COOPER: Let him finish. Go ahead.

KINGSTON: They're acting like they were saying now when we go outside of this bus, we're going to do A, B and C. That wasn't ...

[20:45:03] CARPENTER: He's saying I did this. This is how you do it. Here's this hot woman.

KINGSTON: ... the talk between two guys who to me, it was disgusting.

CARPENTER: Yeah, but they were women that could hear that were probably ...

(CROSSTALK)

COOPER: Hold on. We haven't heard much from Alex.

BURNS: And I'm sorry to get in the middle of you guys.

TASINI: Come in Alex.

BURNS: I think what we're hearing from the Congressman is interesting because it shows kind of the progression of thought that a lot of Republicans have had about Donald Trump that, you know, a lot of people heard him say things publicly throughout the primary and before the primary. And they went into the general election thinking well he seems to have such a nice family so maybe he's a different man than I thought he was, I'll give him another chance.

Then the tape comes out, and then there's the sort of bargaining process of, well, he's not the man in private but I wanted him to be but maybe he's just saying those things. Maybe he's not doing those things. Now you're confronted with this sort of parade of women who say that no he did do those things.

And, you know, I respect that the Congressman continues to support Donald Trump but the problem that I think a lot of Republicans I talked to are having is they have now reached so many different walls of trying to sort of defend Donald Trump from what seems to be reality ...

KINGSTON: And let me say ...

BURNS: ... stick with it.

KINGSTON: As have the Democrats. My friend Jonathan over here, you know, 33,000 e-mails. No classified -- well, there were classified, one server. Oh, there were 13 servers. (Inaudible) against Wall Street but I get hundreds of millions of dollars in speeches and I'm not going let those speeches out. I mean, Democrats have had to stretch and stretch and stretch to in this campaign and I think that's important.

COOPER: We -- quick response and we got to do.

TASINI: I'm just going to -- I'm happy to talk sometime about the e- mails but let's ...

KINGSTON: We can talk right now.

(CROSSTALK)

TASINI: No, no, because Anderson wants to go to a break, so I'm going to be very quickly.

Jack, again, this is not just banter, it's sexual assault and we need to understand that ...

KINGSTON: ... the evidence isn't just oh we lost those-mails. You destroyed evidence -- it was a federal offense.

TASINI: Very serious crime against women by talking about something ...

COOPER: We got to end the conversation, I'm sorry, there. I want to thank our panel.

As you've been hearing, no consensus exists on what Donald Trump said. Let's look now of the hard fallout, a string of polls showing his support collapsing, especially among women. Hillary Clinton has expanded her lead nationwide and in key swing states even some reliably red states are now threatening to turn purple according to polls. The up-shot Trump's path to 270 is shrinking. John King joins us to break it down by the numbers.

JOHN KING, CNN'S CHIEF NATIONAL CORRESPONDENT: Anderson, the map is looking more and more bleak for Donald Trump and all these controversies, that groping tape. Now, these allegations of women coming forward saying he's touched them inappropriately. They're adding to his problem.

Let's take a look first at the newest national numbers. This is the Fox News poll which shows Hillary Clinton with a seven-point national lead, 45 percent for Clinton, 38 percent for Trump. It's worth noting. This was only a two-point Clinton lead one week ago. So, in the middle of all these controversy, a swing toward Clinton, a seven- point national lead now. What's driving it? The gender gap, women defecting from Donald Trump. 19-point edge for Hillary Clinton now in this Fox News national poll among female likely voters, a 19-point edge for Secretary Clinton. That is a huge deal and it's even a bigger deal when you break it down. Take a closer look at why it's happening.

Look this right now, again just in the last week, Donald Trump has lost 12 points among women aged 45 and older. Ten points among suburban women. This is where a close presidential have decided in the suburbs. Seven points among white women with college degrees and six points among women who describe themselves as Republicans. Donald Trump is bleeding support among women at a critical time in this race.

How do those national numbers translate when you go to the state levels? Well, call it a case of the battleground blues. Remember early on, Trump was going to win by winning across the Rust Belt. Well, Ohio is his best state. Plus one in the latest poll, although, this other polling that shows this one tied or maybe Clinton plus one, but that's his best state, Ohio, it's not enough.

Losing in Wisconsin, losing in Michigan, losing big in Pennsylvania, winning in Indiana, where his running mate, Mike Pence, is from, but only by four points. That's a very conservative state. Tells you how the Republican ticket is struggling. Clinton is leading in North Carolina. Clinton is leading in New Hampshire. So you switch maps and watch how this all plays out. If the election were today, we already have Secretary Clinton at 272. We have Trump at 196, although some of those are actually getting (inaudible). We include Utah in that, we include Georgia in that. We'll leave them there for now, but some Republicans are even worried about those states.

But look at the map. Clinton leads in Nevada. Clinton leads in Florida. Clinton leads in North Carolina. Trump maybe leads only in Ohio of the battleground states. If it played out like that today, 322 to 214. That's a blow out. That's a lot like the 2012 results.

How can Trump win? Well, about the only path left, turn Florida around. Turn North Carolina around, hold Ohio. Even if Trump can do that, Anderson, no easy task, still needs 17 more. The only place to get them in one swoop, Pennsylvania, where he now trails by nine, where he's now struggling in the Philadelphia suburbs even more now than he was a month or so ago.

A lot of Republicans think that's impossible. Even a lot of Republicans close to the Trump campaign think this election is over. Those who say it's not over, say that's his only path to 270 and turning those four states, holding that one, turning those three, an incredibly hard task, even more complicated when you're still in the middle of all of this controversy. Anderson?

[20:50:12] COOPER: Yeah. John King. John, thanks very much.

A lot to discuss with the panel, CNN political commentator and Clinton supporter, Patti Solis Doyle, CNN chief political analyst, Gloria Borger, and CNN political commentator and Republican strategist, Kevin Madden.

So, Gloria, as John pointed out, a 19-point difference in the gender gap in favor of Hillary Clinton, this, you know, the increasing number of allegations likely just lead to that.

GLORIA BORGER, CNN CHIEF POLITICAL ANALYST: Sure. And think back to 2012, Mitt Romney lost the election and he had a gender gap of eight points. So now, here you have Donald Trump with a gender gap of 19 points. And as John points out, it's all kinds of women. It's Republican women, it's suburban women, it's college-educated white women.

I don't know that there is much he can do at this point to sort of make up that gender gap, particularly in the way he's handling this kind of avalanche of allegations against him, because what he seems to be doing in dealing with this problem is making it worse, by saying, oh, by the way, look at these women, insinuating that they weren't pretty enough somehow for him to sexually assault. That is not the way to win back women voters. I will tell you that.

COOPER: Kevin, just in the last week, Trump has lost 10 points with suburban women just -- I mean that's in the last week. Can he come back from something like this especially this late in the game? KEVIN MADDEN, REPUBLICAN STRATEGIST: Look, I think right now the fundamentals of this election are set, and there's really not much that he can do to change it. I mean, everybody keeps pointing about what's going to happen at the next debate. It's very rare that you see a debate, particularly after most folks have watched the first two, and again, made up their minds, pretty much, about who they want to support.

Right now, I think we're probably looking at just the partisans that are going to be tuning in to root for one candidate or the other. But, you know, even when you look at the map, John King brings up a really good point. If you're going to rely -- if you're going to rely on trying to hold the old Mitt Romney map and defend places like Ohio -- or you want to win places like Ohio, win places like Florida, and then look at a state like Pennsylvania, if you're going to win Pennsylvania, you know where you have to win? You have to win the suburbs around Philadelphia.

And the suburban women right now that live in those areas, they are totally turned off by Trump. And it's very unlikely you're going to see those numbers change.

So right now, I think the fundamentals of this election are set, and all we're really looking at right now and arguing about are the atmospherics and the theatrics.

COOPER: Patti, when you look at the electoral map that John laid out, I mean if the election were tomorrow, on the map it looks like a blowout. Does Hillary Clinton just have to play defense from now until Election Day and hope more doesn't come out in WikiLeaks?

PATTI SOLIS DOYLE, CLINTON SUPPORTER: Well, look, there's an old saying in politics, when your opponent is self-imploding, you know, you just stay out of the way. And I think Hillary right now is fund- raising out on the West Coast, and then she's going to take some days to prepare for the debate. And I think that's important. And it's certainly worked for her in the past to prepare. And she's got some killer, you know, surrogates out there campaigning for her. She's the got Michelle Obama, who, I think, was amazing yesterday and today she had President Obama.

I think her focus should be on the debate, because right now Donald Trump has this attitude, I may be going down, but I'm taking you down with me. And I think that's a totally different scenario for the debate next Wednesday and she needs to be prepared for how to deal with that.

COOPER: Gloria, the Clinton campaign for their part, I mean, cautiously optimistic. They've been holding lots of rallies and public events, as Patti just mentioned, while she prepares for the debate. There is still the question of WikiLeaks e-mails that, you know, that are slowly rolling out. I mean, that -- is that not a real concern for her? I would think ...

BORGER: I think it's a real concern, because you don't know what is going to come out from day to day. I mean every time we talk about the WikiLeaks e-mails, Donald Trump comes out with something else that we have to -- that we have to discuss.

So, in the Clinton campaign, there is concern about it, when you ask them about it, they talk about the Russian hack. But if Trump were running a better campaign, they might be more concerned about it. But he isn't. And so, you know, these are precious days. This has been an entire week from last Friday night to this Friday night, that has been consumed with these allegations against Donald Trump and questions of Donald Trump and sexual assault. So they're backing off, as Patti is saying, and they don't know how long this is going to continue. But sure, they're concerned about WikiLeaks, but their competitor seems to be more concerned about himself and his own brand than actually winning the presidency at this point.

COOPER: Kevin, as a Republican, the point that Amanda made, how concerned are you about -- I mean, assuming Donald Trump does not become president, how concerned are you about the future of the Republican Party and what happens -- I mean, if we think about that autopsy, saying the GOP needed to reach out to women more, I mean, that seems like, you know, a long, long time ago.

[20:55:03] MADDEN: Yeah, it does. And I'm worried nobody even read it after 2012, if you look at the way we're acting right now. And it is a concern. I share Amanda's concerns.

I think we shouldn't have something like sexual assault be a partisan issue. That should be one where we in bipartisan fashion work to prevent it. And condemn it, quite frankly.

The other part of it is that this is a party right now, I think in the last 30 days that has defined itself by, again, what it's against, rather than what it's for. And if you look at the Trump campaign, it's only focused right now on animating its most ardent supporters. It's not doing what it needs to go out and get undecided voters, independent voters, and grow the party with a more inclusive message. And that is why we're in this position right now. And it's distressing for many Republicans.

COOPER: So, Patti, if you're advising the Clinton campaign, which you used to work for, how do you close out the campaign?

DOYLE: I think she's doing exactly what she should be doing. She should be closing with her closing arguments, talking about what she's going to do for this country. And honestly, I said it just a second ago, when your opponent is self-imploding, just get out of his way. So I think she's going to close strong.

COOPER: Patti ...

BORGER: She won't be able to do that during the debate, though.

COOPER: Right.

BORGER: At some point, she is going to have to confront him over this, because I guarantee you, Chris Wallace is going to ask some questions about it.

COOPER: Patti Solis Doyle, Gloria Borger and Kevin Madden, thanks very much.

Much more ahead on this two-hour edition of "360". Damaging day for Donald Trump with two more accusers coming forward, more about them and the insults Trump fired at some of them on the trial today. Plus, my interview with Arianne Zucker, the actress who was the subject of some of Trump's and Billy Bush's lewd comments on that 2005 tape.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

COOPER: Hey, good evening. Thanks for joining us tonight as two more accusers come forward, bringing the total to at least eight. What Donald Trump thinks of one of them?

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

TRUMP: When you looked at that horrible woman last night, you said, I don't think so.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

COOPER: Trump today talking about Jessica Leeds, our guest on the program last night, she says Trump groped her on a flight in the late 1970s. Trump, as you heard, suggesting she was too unattractive for him to bother with. Today, the focus shifted a bit from her, though, that's because two newer accusers surfaced. CNN's Jason Carroll has the details of yet another damaging day for the Trump campaign.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

TRUMP: When you get hit, you hit back.

JASON CARROLL, CNN NATIONAL CORRESPONDENT: Donald Trump is lashing out, even as more women come forward, accusing him of making unwanted sexual advances.

[21:00:04] TRUMP: They have no witnesses, there's nobody around. They just come out, some are doing it for probably a little fame. They get some free fame. It's a total set-up.

**NEW\_DOCUMENT\_HERE**

Anderson Cooper, Jim Acosta, Paul Begala, Kayleigh McEnany, Jeffrey Lord, Andre Bauer, Brian Stelter, Tom Foreman, Jeffrey Toobin, Joe Johns

9053 speakers\_end

[20:00:13]ANDERSON COOPER, CNN ANCHOR: Good evening. Thanks for joining us.

We begin tonight with breaking news. Two women going on the record telling "The New York Times" that Donald Trump either kissed them inappropriately, or in the case of Jessica Leeds, that he groped them.

She spoke on camera with "The Times". Here is a portion of her account.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

JESSICA LEEDS, SAYS TRUMP GROPED HER: It was over 35 years ago. I was hired by a newsprint company.

I was a sales rep. I was traveling in the Middle West. I was coming back into New York City. And it was on that flight that the stewardess asked me to, would I like to move up to first class.

I didn't need to be asked twice. And I sat down next to a young man, blond, tall. And he introduced himself as Donald Trump.

I was not really aware of the real estate world of Trump. We just chatted back and forth. Nothing particular.

It wasn't until they cleared the meal that somehow or another, the armrest in the seat disappeared. And it was a real shock when, all of a sudden, his hands were all over me.

He started encroaching on my space. And I hesitate to use this expression. But I'm going to. And that is he was like an octopus. It was like he had six arms. He was all over the place.

And if he had stuck with the upper part of the body, I might not have gotten -- I might not have gotten that upset. But it is when he started putting his hand up my skirt. And that was it. That was it. I was out of there.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

COOPER: Well, the other woman, Rachel Crooks, says that Trump inappropriately kissed her on the mouth. She says it did not feel like an accident. She says it felt like a violation.

This allegedly happened in 2005, the same year that Trump was caught on the hot mic in the "Access Hollywood" taping.

Now, according to "The Times", the two women said they were moved to come forward when I asked Trump about it at Sunday's debate.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

COOPER: We received a lot of questions online, Mr. Trump, about the tape that was released on Friday. As you could imagine, you called what you said locker room banter. You described kissing women without consent, grabbing their genitals. That is sexual assault. You bragged that you have sexual assaulted women.

Do you understand that?

DONALD TRUMP (R), PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE: No, I didn't say that at all. I don't think you understood what was said.

This was locker room talk. I'm not proud of it. I apologize to my family. I apologize to the American people. Certainly, I'm not proud of it.

But this is locker room talk.

COOPER: So, Mr. Trump --

TRUMP: And we should get on to much more important things and much bigger things.

COOPER: Just for the record, though, are you saying that what you said on that bus eleven years ago that you did not actually kiss women without consent or grope women without consent.

TRUMP: I have great respect for women. Nobody has more respect for women than I do.

COOPER: So, for the record, you're saying you never did that?

TRUMP: I've said things that -- frankly you hear these things are said. And I was embarrassed by it. But I have tremendous respect for women.

COOPER: Have you ever done those things --

TRUMP: And women have respect for me.

And I will tell you, no, I have not.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

COOPER: Again, it was that answer that moved the two women they say to come forward. As you might imagine, this latter chapter in "The New York Times" is drawing sharp reaction tonight from the Trump campaign. CNN's Jim Acosta has that. He joins us now from the campaign trail in Florida.

So, how is the campaign responding?

JIM ACOSTA, CNN SENIOR WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENT: Well, Anderson, at this point, they are basically dismissing the story as being false. But I can tell you from stories top staffers were concerned about the story before it was even posted online. But we can put the statement up on screen from Jason Miller, a spokesman for Donald Trump.

He says, "This article is fiction and for the 'New York Times' to launch a completely false coordinated character assassination against Mr. Trump on a topic like this is dangerous. To reach back decades in attempt to smear Mr. Trump trivializes sexual assault and it sets a new low for where the media is willing to go in its efforts to determine this election."

So, you can see in that statement, Anderson, they are sort of setting a standard here for any stories that are unflattering about Donald Trump between now and the election. Anything this late in the game, they say, is basically not to be believed.

And while it does throw Donald off message, he was trying to talk about Hillary Clinton's e-mail scandal today and his on again, off again relationship with House Speaker Paul Ryan. I think something much more serious is happening, Anderson. This story, along with others starting to surface in the media this evening with respect to Donald Trump's behavior around women, is just going cement those doubts inside the minds of women voters who just don't think they can trust Donald Trump -- Anderson.

COOPER: All right. Jim, we'll have more from you throughout the hour.

I want to get the panel's quick reaction to this.

Clinton supporter, MoveOn.org national spokesperson Karine Jean- Pierre, Clinton super PAC adviser Paul Begala, "Washington Post" political reporter Phillip Bump, also Trump supporters Kayleigh McEnany, Jeffrey Lord, and Andre Bauer. Jeffrey is a former Reagan White House political director.

[20:05:01] Andre is the former lieutenant governor of South Carolina.

Philip, how damaging do you think this could be?

PHILIP BUMP, POLITICAL REPORTER, WASHINGTON POST: I think it could be significantly damaging. I mean, we saw after the tape came out last Friday with these comments from 2005. We saw polling that suggested it was very damaging to Donald Trump with women. Women are core constituency. He's doing poorly with them.

Polls suggest he's doing even worse after. One in Wisconsin today suggested he lost 24 points of support between Thursday and Sunday because potentially of this tape. There was some rebound after the debate in part because he denied the charges. And this is going to undercut that. You know, with this NBC/"Wall Street Journal" poll showing women had started to move back a little on it is hard to see how women who were already worried about Donald Trump, about his candidacy, if they're worried about that tape, this doesn't help.

COOPER: Kayleigh, as a Trump supporter, does it worry you?

KAYLEIGH MCENANY, CNN POLITICAL COMMENTATOR: It doesn't, because he's denied the accusations. Me as a Trump supporter, I take him as his word. I think that this is better litigated in a court of law than on a media set. It's an accusation. There's no proof of this.

I think both sides, of course, always deserve to be heard. Both an accuser and someone who's accused.

And for me, I'm voting on issues. I'm voting who's going to better my life economically, who's going to keep my family safe from terrorism. I'm not voting on someone's past. They may or may not have said things, they may or may not have done accusations without proof. That's not what I'm voting on November.

COOPER: Jeffrey, the campaign obviously has made much of Bill Clinton's accusers.

JEFFREY LORD, CNN POLITICAL COMMENTATOR: Right.

COOPER: Is it then fair that these women are making accusations against Donald Trump?

LORD: Politically, in all honesty, I think this is going to be a wash.

COOPER: A wash in what sense?

LORD: A wash in the sense that you got he said, he said, she said here. With one side making the same set of accusations that the other side is making about them.

COOPER: But you have been bringing up Juanita Broaddrick (INAUDIBLE) for quite a while.

LORD: Right. Let me with this.

The "New York Times" is flat out in their news columns campaigning against Donald Trump. They don't do a long sit down interview with Juanita Broaddrick. They are not going to.

This is their attempt to get off the e-mail story. This is their attempt to do this. This is totally political, and if I might add a cultural word.

I mean, liberals -- I mean, I'm a baby boomer. It is my generation, the sexual revolution and all of this sort of stuff that none of this stuff mattered. And now, all of a sudden, it does. It didn't matter when people on my side brought it up against Bill Clinton.

Frankly, he's becoming Clintonesque, if you will. And I would think that means he's going to be elected twice.

COOPER: But is it a double standard though to be saying well it matters in the case of Juanita Broaddrick, her allegations versus these women --

LORD: Anderson, in truth, I'd like to see one single standard for everybody. But I think this country is so confused about these issues and they have been so politicized. They went after Clarence Thomas and said -- just saying whatever it was. It was a pubic hair on top of my coke can was sexual harassment.

I look back the other day, there's a big column on the "New York Times" in the day, listen to us by then columnist Anna Quindlen. And the Bill Clinton things happen and everybody said, oh, it is just about sex. It's nobody's business.

And my friend Paul's friend James Carville said, you drag a hundred dollar bill through a trailer park, whatever. The reaction was totally the opposite.

So, I'm just suggesting here that there are a lot of double standards here. We need to focus on the issues, what goes on in these e-mails, what's the economy, foreign policy, et cetera.

COOPER: But is your candidate focusing on the issues? Because he's the one who held a press conference before the second debate. He's the one who had those --

(CROSSTALK)

LORD: Right, because I think you do have to fight the stuff. I mean, let's be candid as a Republican, you know, when they went after Mitt Romney for the steel workers wife commercial, the Romney campaign more or less rolled over. When "The New York Times" went after John McCain saying he had an affair with a lobbyist, the McCain campaign more or less rolled over.

Donald Trump fights and that's what people like.

COOPER: Paul?

PAUL BEGALA, CNN POLITICAL COMMENTATOR: I don't think it's a wash.

First off, as the last tape story was breaking, the polling collapses, Philip pointed, for Donald Trump. In fact, he went down to 28 percent among women, 28, in the Atlantic/PRRI poll. That's a catastrophe.

I think this is going to hurt enormously. Why? Because it comports with what Trump himself said. His most damning witness is Donald Trump, who said essentially, I'm not going to repeat his vulgarities, but he basically said he forces himself on women and they can't do anything about it because he's a start, he can get away with it. That's so shocking now. You have women coming forward saying precisely the same thing. By the way, in our last hour on this network, another story, Ed Lavandera about a Miss -- I'll make sure it's right, Miss Arizona in 2001 who claims Trump came backstage at that beauty pageant while she and other young women were changing clothes. She was 18 at the time, teenagers, changing clothes. He comes back there.

This comports perfectly with what Trump himself boasted about on the Howard Stern show.

COOPER: Right, he talked about going backstage.

BEGALA: He said he likes going backstage when these teenagers are changing clothes. It's -- it's disgusting.

[20:10:01] COOPER: Karine?

KARINE JEAN-PIERRE, HILLARY CLINTON SUPPORTER: Yes. I mean, look, these allegations are horrific and they should be taken very, very seriously. And, unfortunately, this is becoming part of larger theme, right? A broader theme that we are seeing with Donald Trump.

And it's not an isolated -- they are not isolated incidents and that is the problem. So, if you talk about -- if you look at the tape from last Friday, what we hear from that tape is sexual assault. He's talking about what he's doing to these women.

So, this cannot be a wash. This is just added to everything that we've been hearing about Donald Trump and who he really is.

COOPER: Andre, do you put any credence in any of this given that it is his actual denial of actually doing what he just called locker room talk is what according to these two women who talked to "The Times" made them come forward?

ANDRE BAUER, DONALD TRUMP SUPPORTER: Well, what's stunning to me is it happened thirty or so days before the presidential election. Look, if this happened in first class -- look, I don't get to sit in first class. I don't sit there but I get to walk through there and see what it's like.

And if someone was being molested or raped, other people in the cabin would see that. I mean, it's not like it's not a visually -- it's open. It is actually closer in the cheap seats where I sit where you couldn't see it as well. But a big open cockpit, you would see something if someone was being mistreated immediately.

And to report it, to say it now, to tie it in -- I just -- it's bad politics. But as an American, Anderson, it's sad that this is where we are. Republican, Democrat, it's sad that American politics is no longer about issues. It is how bad can each candidate tear the other down.

And we can laugh and say it is not, but it didn't happen in a Republican primary. It happened now. Thirty days before the election. LORD: That's right.

BAUER: It didn't happen by happenstance. This is all timed. It all came together.

COOPER: So, my sense is you are blaming the Clintons for this or blaming Trump for this?

BAUER: I'm not really blaming anybody. I'm saying it is a deplorable time in our history of our country that we have now got on the where we are discussing this, instead of discussing issues, and it wasn't an issue for the last 25 years. She felt violated. She should have come forward then, but she decided to come forward now and she even said, look, I plan on voting for Hillary Clinton. She had planned on voting for Hillary Clinton.

She already said she's a supporter. So, it just doesn't seem like it washes.

LORD: You can bet Juanita Broaddrick means nothing to her.

COOPER: Do you think -- well how do you know that?

LORD: Well, I mean, if that's her ground, why didn't she talk about it? If groping me is bad, raping Juanita Broaddrick is not so good. She didn't go there, did she? Right?

COOPER: But I'm not sure I understand --

JEAN-PIERRE: No, I don't.

COOPER: First, that was an interview of what happened to her and you're saying you wanted to her to talk about Juanita Broaddrick? Isn't that what --

LORD: I'm saying, if we're going to get into the entire issue, then we have to deal with the entire issue. And, of course, this comes back to Hillary Clinton --

COOPER: I guess my question is, why do you believe Juanita Broaddrick and you don't believe these two women?

LORD: All I'm saying is give them the equal forum. I mean --

COOPER: Well -- we've had -- we just we reported on Juanita Broaddrick.

LORD: Anderson, the "New York Times" is not going to sit down and do a long sit down with Juanita Broaddrick. There is a story in TMZ today about NBCexecutives having this tape, this last tape that was released, for months. And they held it deliberately before that debate. That is the accusation here.

COOPER: Well, actually, no, I think the reason they held it. They say they were working on legal issues. Possible they were trying to protect Billy Bush. First of all, you believe NBC itself released that to "The Washington Post" instead of releasing it themselves and getting the media benefit of that?

LORD: Anderson, look, see, this is the larger issue that goes well beyond the --

COOPER: What proof do you have of that?

LORD: Well, you have the executives saying it. Anderson, look, what I'm trying to --

COOPER: If NBC wanted to make a big splash before the debate, wouldn't they have released the tape themselves. The fact they were holding onto it actually I think raises a lot of questions about NBC and their judgment?

LORD: Yes, yes. Anderson --

COOPER: But I think it was more about protecting their people.

LORD: Anderson, what I'm trying to communicate to you is a lot of American, I met a couple from Virginia this evening.

COOPER: Anecdotal stuff. I know, you know --

LORD: Anderson, wait, wait, wait. It is important here because there is a view in the countryside that there are elites --

COOPER: You know a couple from Virginia who bolster your opinion. So, I had a cab driver who had a different opinion. What does that matter?

LORD: Anderson, Anderson, outside of Manhattan in New York, you have a lot of people who see elites in this country thumbing their nose at Americans. And they use things like this selectively. That if it is Clarence Thomas, it's a big deal. If it's Bill Clinton, it's not. If it was Donald Trump --

MCENANY: And bringing up Juanita Broaddrick is really important because literally on our airwaves three hours ago, on our airwaves three hours ago, Kellyanne Conway brought this up and she was met by the host with "those are exaggerations". You cannot call one class of sexual assault victim exaggeration and the other class --

COOPER: We not only reported on that and we're reporting on it again. Both what Bill Clinton is accused of doing and what Hillary Clinton is said to have done in all of those cases.

[20:15:02] So -- but I don't think it is fair to say that the mainstream media has completely ignored.

MCENANY: Except for Breitbart news.

(CROSSTALK)

BUMP: BuzzFeed has actually.

MCENANY: BuzzFeed and Breitbart, those are mainstream media.

BUMP: You know, as an employee of "The Washington Post", I feel like you are maligning my employer. I mean, we got this great scoop and we published this tape when got ahold of it, and it was -- it had nothing to do with the election. It had to do with the fact this was news worthy. And the fact we're sitting here and debating whether or not this topic should be discussed after literally the Trump campaign has spent two weeks talking about what Bill Clinton who is not running for president --

LORD: So, have you sat down with Juanita Broaddrick?

BUMP: "Washington Post" has reported on --

(CROSSTALK)

BUMP: -- all of the things that have to do with Bill Clinton. The thing about news is you report on it when it's new. This is new and that is why we're talking about it.

JEAN-PIERRE: That's exactly right.

COOPER: Let's take a quick breakout -- well, Karine, and then we'll take --

JEAN-PIERRE: I just wanted to say to my Trump supporters over there. Once again, there is only one Clinton on the ballot. And her name is not Bill.

LORD: She's --

JEAN-PIERRE: No. Here's the thing -- that is the definition of sexism when you blame the woman. That is --

LORD: There's other women doing it. They're blaming her.

JEAN-PIERRE: When you continue to do that, blaming Hillary Clinton for that, that is the definition of sexism.

MCENANY: I'm a female, I assume I'm when there is a deposition that says she puts private investigators --

(CROSSTALK)

MCENANY: That's a problem for me as a woman.

JEAN-PIERRE: You use the situation when it best suits you.

LORD: That's what you do.

JEAN-PIERRE: No, that's what you do and you bring up old cases for someone who's not running for president.

(CROSSTALK) JEAN-PIERRE: She's not Bill Clinton. Period, end of story.

COOPER: Let's take a break here. We're going to pick up this after the break. We're going to get some late reporting from Brian Stelter from possible legal action from the Trump side.

Later, more on how the Trump campaign and surrogates have been focusing on the allegations against Bill Clinton by several women. You just heard Jeffrey Lord talk about that as we mentioned.

We'll focus closer on actual truth behind those stories, ahead tonight.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

COOPER: The breaking news tonight, two women coming forward telling the "New York Times" Donald Trump touched them inappropriately. One is recently as 2005. Jessica Leeds says it happened to her border flight into New York more than 35 years ago. Trumps hands she says were everywhere.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

LEEDS: I don't think I said a word during the late '60s, '70s, and into the '80s.

[20:20:02] Culture had instilled in us that somehow it was our fault. The attention that we received from men, that we were responsible for their behavior. You didn't complain to the authorities. You didn't complain to your boss.

If something happened to you, you just bucked up and you went on. I thought to myself, gee, I wish the stewardess would come and rescue me.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

COOPER: "The Times" said Donald Trump categorically and angrily denied the allegations. The campaign publicly calls it fiction.

CNN "RELIABLE SOURCES" anchor Brian Stelter has new reporting.

So, you just talked to one of the reporters about how they got this story, Brian.

BRIAN STELTER, CNN SENIOR MEDIA CORRESPONDENT: Yes. Anderson, one of the "Times" reporters who wrote this story, Michael Barbaro, says it may not have happened were it not for your questions at the debate on Sunday.

And the other reporter whose byline on the story, Megan Twohey, just told me that one of the women, one of the two women reached out back after a story in May. This was a previous story the times wrote about the issues, about Donald Trump's behavior.

The other woman only reached out to the times after the debate on Sunday night.

COOPER: You've got some reporting also on how Trump personally reacted to the allegations.

STELTER: That's right. He was yelling on the phone to Megan Twohey, yelling at her an saying she was a disgusting human being. He delivered a threat verbally that night and Trump's office followed up this afternoon with another legal threat to the "New York Times", essentially threatening to sue the newspaper if it published the story.

Tonight, the executive editor Dean Baquet tells me there was no question "The Times" was going to move forward with the story despite the legal threats. He said, quote, "I think it is pretty evident this story falls clearly in the realm of the public service journalism, and discussing issues that arose from the tape and his comments since it surfaced."

COOPER: All right. Brian Stelter, appreciate that.

Back with the panel.

Phil, the fact that Donald Trump is threatening to sue the "New York Times" -- I mean, he threatens to sue lot of people. And he's carried through on those threats, interesting to see if he actually does this time.

BUMP: It will. I think we've seen a pattern of Donald Trump having a negative interaction with the press, so to speak. There are times at rallies when he calls out the press for negative attention. He's talked about opening up libel laws, loosely suggesting that he's going to go after the press.

Donald Trump and the press don't have a good relationship. I mean, he whacked "The Washington Post", I'm covering on the trail for a long time, and that makes members of the press nervous. I realize it doesn't make members of the public as nervous because the public doesn't really like the press. But it makes us nervous because we see our job as reporting the truth on what people do, on what politicians do on what they are doing and, you know, we don't like to hear things like that. It makes us nervous.

COOPER: Paul, what do you think Hillary Clinton's move on this? Does she comment? Does she just stand back and let it sort of play out?

BEGALA: I think so far she's just stood back. She doesn't have the facts. So people can judge for themselves. I do think. I'll say again. The most damning witness is Donald Trump.

He shouldn't have said. A reporter is reporting about you being mean to women, you shouldn't say you are a disgusting person. I've said a lot worse. I scream at reporters all the time. It's fun. I enjoy it.

Nothing against you, Phil, but I almost can give him a pass on that. But the stuff he said on the bus to Billy Bush. The stuff he said on the radio to Howard Stern comports exactly with these facts. Hillary Clinton doesn't even have to say that. Donald Trump is saying it.

COOPER: There's also a person that comes forward I think to Erin Burnett. I think Erin has talked about it on the air, in front of her, who says there was a similar incident happening. Does it -- do you think it's just a coincidence that this comports to what Donald Trump said on the bus? Or do you think these women are somehow influenced by that?

MCENANY: I don't think he said that on the bus at all. He said when you are a celebrity women, let you do x, y and z. Those comments were appalling.

COOPER: He said he didn't wait for it. He just kisses them and he grabs their genitalia.

MCENANY: Look, when you go back and watch and he says, when women let you do this when you are a star. They are despicable comments. I don't think he was advocating sexual assault on that bus.

COOPER: That is sexual assault.

MCENANY: I think it was very horrific discussion between two men.

COOPER: To be honest, sexual assault is any kind of behavior -- sexual behavior without consent.

LORD: And rape is rape.

MCENANY: And rape is rape. And I don't think he was saying that on the bus. I really don't think he was condoning that.

COOPER: Grabbing a woman's genitals.

MCENANY: I don't think he was saying that, that's what he does in his own life. I think these are accusations -

COOPER: Let's listen to that sound.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

TRUMP: I better use some Tic Tacs just in case I start kissing her. You know, I'm automatically attracted to beautiful -- I just start kissing them. It's like a magnet. Just kiss. I don't even wait.

And when you're a star, they let you do it. You can do anything.

BILLY BUSH: Whatever you want.

TRUMP: Grab them by the (EXPLETIVE DELETED). You can do anything.

BUSH: Yeah, those legs, all I can see is the legs.

TRUMP: Oh, it looks good.

BUSH: Come on, shorty.

TRUMP: Oh, nice legs, huh?

(END VIDEO CLIP)

COOPER: So, because a woman doesn't fight back it is not sexual assault?

MCENANY: Let me start by saying, again, what I've said before, because I know all of these liberal outlets out there will completely take me out of context. Those comments are despicable. He apologized for them.

That being said, I don't think he was condoning sexual assault. He said he starts to kiss a women and then they let him do x, y or z. That implies consent first of all.

[20:25:02] I don't think he was advocating sexual assault.

COOPER: How does that imply consent?

MCENANY: You might think he's going around assaulting women. I don't think that's the case. I think viewers and voters will make up their own minds.

(CROSSTALK)

MCENANY: I have to agree with Andre, too, that it's very sad and I think the media is a big perpetuator of this, that we talk about this on a daily basis instead of how the person in the inner city is going to get out of there. How the woman at home was afraid to put food -- not having the resources to put food on the table --

COOPER: By the way, Donald Trump is the one who held a press conference.

MCENANY: How does this conversation better the nation? I really don't think it does.

COOPER: Donald Trump is the one who held a press conference moments before the debate. That's what he was focused now.

MCENANY: When he's accused of baseless things, like sexual assault, which he's come out and denied that he's actually done, but the media will go out of their way to suggest that he has, he's going to fight back. But do you know what else is going to do? He's going to take it back to the issue.

COOPER: He never actually denied he did it until the actual debate which is actually after the press conference but, Karine, you're seeming to take issue --

JEAN-PIERRE: Trying to hold back.

So, here is the thing, Anderson. Here you have a man, on Sunday, on the debate stage, talked about jailing Hillary Clinton. And he continued to say he's going to put her in jail. And basically he doesn't understand the presidency. He's unfit because what he's saying he wants to do he can't.

But this is the man who is bragging about sexual assault, which is actually a crime. And he's bragging about grabbing women. And the irony of all of that is he needs to look in the mirror because he should be the one in jail, because you do not say things like that. And it is inappropriate and he is running for the president of these United States and he's talking about grabbing women?

COOPER: OK, we got to take a break and we're going to continue the conversation in a moment.

This all comes as Trump and his surrogates continue to attack the Clinton's marriage and the accusations against Bill Clinton from decades ago. What we know about those accusations, next.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

[20:30:51] COOPER: It's a breaking news tonight. Two women have come forward and told the "New York Times" that Donald Trump touched them inappropriately. One woman says it happened decades ago on an airplane. The other told the Times, her incident occurred in 2005 the same year that Trump talked about what is by definition sexual assault on an access Hollywood bus. Trump denies the accusations, all this comes as Trump and his campaign officials continue attacks on Bill Clinton.

At the last debate Trump tried to -- brought forward Bill Clinton's accusers as a -- right before the debate began. He allowed the women to speak. He didn't actually say much at that press conference. It is all very difficult to cover. The cases against Bill Clinton were litigated decades ago. Fact checked but we asked Tom Foreman to go over one more time some of the details of what we know. Tom?

TOM FOREMAN, CNN CORRESPONDENT: Hi Anderson. There are two chief accusations from the Trump campaign. First that Bill Clinton used his power and prestige to manipulate and sexual assault women. And secondly and more importantly for Trump, that Hillary Clinton helped Bill Clinton by then insulting and intimidating the victims.

Now you mentioned that he's brought in some people to help him out, Trump has in this case. Let's go through the cases. Starting off with the first one here. Juanita Broadderick. This is back when Bill Clinton was the attorney general of Arkansas. In 1978, she says that Bill Clinton raped her and at a public event shortly afterward Hillary Clinton grabbed her by the arm and the wrist because she had something to tell her. Now here's a piece of an interview posted, just of couple ago by the conservative website Breitbart, supporting Trump's claim.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

JUANITA BROADDERICK, FORMER NURSING HOME ADMINISTRATOR: And she says with this very angry look on her face do you understand everything you do? And that frightened me.

(END VIDEO CLIP) FOREMAN: So, one of the problems with all of this, well first of all Bill Clinton denied there was ever this rape taking place. Broadderick gave an affidavit at one point where she said there was no rape. And in 1999 when NBC interviewed her and she told them when they asked this question, did Bill Clinton or anyone near him every threaten you, try to intimidate you to, do anything to keep you silent, Broadderick said no.

Now, since 199 she has stuck with her story that there was a rape and there was intimidation afterwards.

Second one we're look at her is Paula Jones. This is when Bill Clinton was the governor of Arkansas. She says in 1991 he propositioned her and exposed himself to her. She filed a harassment lawsuit which eventually he settled by paying her $850,000 while admitting no guilt.

So what is the problem in this? In terms of how Trump capitalizes on it. Well, it's not at all clear what Hillary Clinton's role would have been in this if there was any kind of intimidation and there is lack of evidence about a law of this. For example Jones told "New York Times" shortly after this lawsuit was filed they sent out people to dig up trash on me. But again there is no real proof of that.

And third person who's joining Trump in this effort, is Kathleen Willey. Kathleen Willey was at the White House when Bill Clinton was the president. She was a White House aide. This is in 1993, he fondled her and then she tells a story of odd encounters. A dead cat on her porch. A mysterious man under her deck. Another man asking around the neighborhood about her children. She says all that was attempt by the Clintons to intimidate here. But again, the problems, Bill Clinton has said under oath there was never any kind of a sexual encounter between them and there's no physical evidence to support these claims, Anderson.

COOPER: What about some other women who have shown up in discussions of Bill Clinton?

FOREMAN: Yeah, well a couple of very famous cases that we've heard a lot about Gennifer Flowers, is back when Bill Clinton was running for the presidency for the first time she showed up and said she shad had a long running affair with Bill Clinton. And Hillary Clinton dismissed this publicly, calling Flowers, "Some failed cabaret singer who doesn't have much of a resume to fall back on."

However, after Bill Clinton was president under oath he did admit having at least one sexual encounter with her. And of course here is Monica Lewinsky, the most famous of all of this, the White House intern that Bill Clinton admits he did have improper relations with while he was in the White House.

[20:35:02] Hillary Clinton has said very little publicly about Monica Lewinsky over the years. However, her most pointed comment seems to have come in a conversation with a close friend who noted in a journal that in this phone call Hillary Clinton who knew about the relationship between her husband and Lewinsky called Lewinsky a narcissistic looney tune. But this did happened in a private conversation, it only became public when the friend passed away and her journal was made public. Anderson.

COOPER: All right, Tom Foreman. Tom thanks. Lots to talk about. Back with the panel. Also joining the conversation, CNN's senior legal analyst, Jeffrey Toobin.

So Jeff, I mean the charges against Bill Clinton, just in terms of evidence against him. How much was there exactly?

JEFFREY TOOBIN, CNN SENIOR LEGAL ANALYST: Well, you know, it's important to remember that Ken Starr who was investigating, starting with the Whitewater situation many other things and eventually Monica Lewinsky. He also investigated the Juanita Broadderick matter, the Kathleen Willey matter and he decided not to take any action as a result to that. So, I mean none of the stories are new. They have never led to any sort of legal proceedings, except of course for the Paula Jones case, where Bill Clinton did pay $850,000 and people can draw their own conclusions about why he paid the money, because he said he just want to get rid of it. She had said he paid her because he was guilty.

COOPER: What the Trump campaign also keeps saying is it's about Bill Clinton's behavior it's Hillary Clinton's. What about the evidence on that?

TOOBIN: Well, there the evidence is really very thin. On the Juanita Broadderick situation there is allegedly this one contact between the two of them in 1978 between Hillary Clinton and Juanita Broadderick where she said something vaguely threatened, she had subsequently denied that took place. With Kathleen Willey, there's absolutely nothing on the record regarding Hillary Clinton's behavior.

And, that the same really goes for Paula Jones as well, because the only thing as Tom pointed out in his piece was a private conversation between Hillary Clinton and her best friend Diane Blare back in Arkansas who subsequently died. And die Diane Blare took some notes. But I mean here is a woman who's accuse of having an affair with Hillary's husband, you can imagine she would be, you know, warm and cuddly about her in a private conversation to her best friend, but just to emphasize the point, there is virtually no evidence that Hillary Clinton had anything do with the situations involving the accusations against Bill Clinton.

COOPER: It wouldn't be though a stretch to imagine that someone on the Clinton side would have sent out private investigators or tried to discredit these people.

TOOBIN: Well, and there is no question that would Paula Jones. You know, Paula Jones filed the lawsuit, Bill Bennett represented Bill Clinton in that lawsuit. Bill Bennett hired private investigators to defend the case. I don't think there's any doubt about that. But, I mean when someone is sued, they are certainly allowed to hire private investigators and hire lawyers to defend themselves.

So there is no doubt that there was a defense put forward. And an investigation conducted by Bill Clinton's lawyers in the Paula Jones case. Again, as far as I'm aware there was nothing involving Hillary Clinton had anything do with that situation.

COOPER: All right Jeff, stick around we're going continue the conversation with the panel after take a short break. A lot more to talk about including Donald Trump escalating attacks and Hillary Clinton over her e-mail controversy, his words and tone getting sharper by the day.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

[20:42:37] COOPER: Well the breaking news tonight. Two women telling "New York Times" on the record that Donald Trump forced himself on them. One saying he groped her on a plane, the other describing him forcibly kissing her. The kind of behavior Trump did talk about in that 2005 recording that was leaked last week.

Now, you may remember I asked Donald Trump during Sunday's debate if he has ever done the things he talked about on that tape. He said he has not. Trump campaign says the women's claims are false and is now threatening to sue the "New York Times." They say categorically this is just -- this didn't happen. We took a look before the break at Bill Clinton accusers and the facts behind those allegations.

Back now with the panel. Where does -- I mean Kayleigh, with what 20- some odd days left to go. Where do you see this going? I mean it's, you know, these allegations from these two women can't be proven definitively one way or another. I assume all the evidence is out there on the Bill Clinton accusations and Hillary Clinton's role or lack of a role in there. So it's going to seems like it is going to boil down to just what voters believe or what they see.

MCENANY: It's true. And Donald Trump is in a very hard position, because when you have accusations like this, which he's denied. You want to fight back against them. And you want to throw mud back in that direction. And that's, you know, the temptation. But we have to move past this. Donald Trump has to move past this and put forth his message to the American people and not let this cloud the discussion for the next 23 days. He needs to turn the discussion to the WikiLeakswhere Clinton top aids are making fun of Catholics and Christian Evangelicals. He needs to turn the discussion to WikiLeaks and also to the issues which are enterically tie with WikiLeaks. This doesn't really do much for the American voter, I don't think and it is up to Donald Trump really to turn the conversation.

COOPER: Paul, how do you see it?

BEGALA: Well, Trump can't turn the issues because he's not running on issues. There was a time and Jeff worked for all bring up Ronald Reagan. When -- I'm old enough to remember when Republicans -- if you ask what they stood for they talked about ideas. They talked about lower taxes, smaller government. Things I don't agree with but they were ideas.

Standing up to the Russians, what an amazing concept. These things Reagan stood for. And so when Reagan had tough times, he had ideas to both string (ph), same thing with Bill Clinton. He ran on a set about this, Jeff probably don't like them either, but when tough times hit, people stop with him, because he -- they believed he was on their side fighting for an issue agenda that they believe in.

Now, Trump does have **immigration** and trade. These are two issues that do matter that he has run on. I don't agree with them but that's at least two issues. But the whole rest of the issue terrain he has abandoned in exchange for grievances and conspiracy theories and personal attacks. And so when he is now being personally attacked he's got nothing to fall back on.

[20:45:10] COOPER: Philip, I mean the "New York Times" -- I'm sorry Philip, Jeffrey, the "New York Times" last night, Monica Langley was reporting, that his strategy moving forward has really two fold, energize the base ...

LORD: Right.

COOPER: ... which is talking about Paul Ryan from the Wall Street Journal, Paul Ryan and, you know, the e-mails and WikiLeaks but also try to depress the Democratic turnout for ...

LORD: Right.

COOPER: ... Hillary Clinton. Talking about these issues, do you think accomplishes that?

LORD: I think it does. And here's why, Anderson. If I can just start take a little stick and move some of the particulars of what we've been discussing here for a while aside.

When he talks about Paul Ryan. When he talks about the "New York Times" or the "Washington Post" with all respect. And the media. And he talks in a larger sense about a battle between American elates and the American people, **immigration**, trade. This kind of presentation that these women are bringing forward and the attention they get, that it's all knit together as basically a battle between elite's and American people. And that battle, I think that he can bring on more people absolutely.

COOPER: Right, that does resonate with a lot of people Phil?

BUMP: No, it does absolutely, you now, but I think that one of the things that we've seen, you know, over the course of the past decade or so is the fact that now media and reporters are not to be sitting here defending the media constantly. But media reporters are seen as elite's not representing the truth to folks which I think I absolutely believe is inaccurate and I think does disservice to the American people as well.

I mean I also think that as we move forward here what we've seen Donald Trump do over the course the past several weeks is really focus on this Bill Clinton allegations. He's got two ads that have come out recently. One in which goes after Hillary Clinton for her health. You know, they are the focus -- they focus on bringing -- on suppressing the vote for Hillary Clinton backers, because he has this core base of support that he hasn't been able to expand outward.

And so he's trying to compress Hillary Clinton's base down. You know, that's where that election is. It's the stated strategy. I think that somewhat disappointing but I also feel like pitting this as the elite's against the people I think is disservice.

COOPER: Karine do you think the Democratic vote will be suppressed by Donald Trump's doing this?

JEAN-PIERRE: So, what we're seeing Anderson this last couple days is like a civil war right with Paul Ryan and it's almost as if you have an arsonist standing in the middle of the House passing, you know, throwing gasoline around and holding a match. Like he's burning down the House. And the more that continues to get into a fight with Paul Ryan with the GOP it's better for the Democrats. I really do believe that, right. And what he's going to do is depress his own, you know, his own party. And that's what it looks like to me it's depressing the Republicans actually.

COOPER: We got to take a quick, we're going to talk more shortly about the strike Hillary looted to a moment ago, another batch of hacked e-mails from the Clinton campaign comes out what they reveal, next.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

[20:51:40] COOPER: Hillary Clinton State Department e-mails maybe at the heart of Donald Trump's declaration today that she belongs in jail. Herbert (ph) is the publication of hacked e-mails from her campaign that have made headlines day after day after day. That's because like any good keep behind the curtains. They show things that campaign obviously would rather than keep under wraps.

Late today, campaign John Podesta put out a statement and pointing a finger recent part, "it is now clear that the illegal hack of my personal e-mail account was just like the other recent election- related hacks, the work of the Russian government is level of meddling by a foreign power can only be aimed at boosting Donald Trump and should send chills down the spine of all Americans regardless of political party.

More now from Joe Johns.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

JOE JOHNS, CNN WASHINGTON SENIOR CORRESPONDENT: The drip, drip, drip of Hillary Clinton's hacked e-mails continue. Another batch of Clinton campaign chair John Podesta's e-mails offers a glimpse into the inner worker into the Clinton campaign.

One e-mail reveals a disagreement between top Clinton aid, Huma Abedin and Podesta over Clinton's press strategy. Abedin wondering of Clinton can quote, "survived not answering questions from press at events". With Podesta responding, "if she thinks she can get to Labor Day without taking press questions, I think that's suicidal." In another e-mail Clinton's Communication's Director, Jennifer Palmieri, addresses Catholicism and responds to an e-mail from Podesta and John Halpin, a fellow at a liberal think tank. Halpin writes, 21st Century Fox chair Rupert Murdoch and News Corp chairman Robert Thompson who are both Catholic are attracted to the faith because of, "Systematic thought and severely backwards gender relations".

Palmieri responds, "I imagine they think it is the most socially acceptable politically conservative religion. Their rich friends wouldn't understand if they became evangelicals.

Today, she had this to say.

JENNIFER PALMIERI, COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR CLINTON CAMPAIGN: I'm a Catholic. I don't recognize that e-mail that we saw and this whole effort is led by the Russians, the Russians once said coprostatic (ph) attack.

JOHNS: The leak e-mails have been authored and a side of the Clinton campaign, and Donald Trump has tried to capitalize, like today in Florida.

DONALD TRUMP, (R) PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE: This is the heinous, the most serious thing that I've ever seen involving justice in the United States and the history of the United States. We have a person that has committed crimes, that is now running for the presidency.

JOHNS: Podesta brushing aside those attacks claiming, Trump's scorch earth tactics are designed to energize his supporters but turn off everybody else.

JOHN PODESTA, CLINTON CAMPAIGN CHAIRMAN: This seems to be their strategy, discuss everyone with that, you know, sort of Democratic dialogues into (inaudible) come out holes.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

JOHNS: If there is an effort to depress turnout, the Clinton campaign says the way to fight it is to continuing to push for voter registration emphasizing early voting. They also hope the county advice selling their voters on something to vote for and not just voting against Trump. Anderson.

COOPER: All right, Joe John, thanks very much. More e-mails and yet that comes. Just ahead, a preview of CNN Films "We Will Rise." It some extraordinary documentary about Michelle Obama's mission to educate girls around the world.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

[20:58:36] COOPER: Coming up at the top of the hour, a really extraordinary documentary I hope you watch. CNN Films "We Will Rise" it's called. Michelle Obama's mission to educate girls around the world. The first lady went to Morocco and Liberia with actors Meryl Streep and Freida Pinto and CNN anchor and correspondent Isha Sesay to meet with girls who were fighting to stay in school. Take a look. (BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

MICHELLE OBAMA, FIRST LADY OF UNITED STATES: I made sure that every day I came to my job that I brought a level of passion and confidence and trust, and I try to operate from that place every single day.

Maybe those are some of my strengths, is the ability to just be me no matter where I am. You don't have to be somebody different to important. You're important in your own right. People want and need to value you because of who you are, because of your story, because of your challenges. That's what makes you unique, you know? You want be to be different. You want to be special.

The fact that you've been able to overcome challenges, and this is what are we stop, that made me smarter. That made me better right? Because I could overcome things that a lot of people who were in the same position never had to overcome.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

COOPER: "WE WILL RISE" Michelle Obama's mission to educate girls around the world. That is the name of the film.

Thanks very much for watching. The CNN Film "WE WILL RISE", starts right now.

**NEW\_DOCUMENT\_HERE**

Anderson Cooper, Jim Acosta, Manu Raju, John King, Errol Louis, Christine Quinn, Paul Begala, Kayleigh McEnany, Drew Griffin, Errol Louis, Kayleigh McEnany, Paul Begala, Christine Quinn, Randi Kaye

9596 speakers\_end

ANDERSON COOPER, CNN ANCHOR: Good evening. Thanks for joining us tonight.

[20:00:01] Donald Trump goes rogue, goes to war with his own party, goes it alone. However you say it, it adds up to the same thing, with 28 days left to go until the election, a major presidential party candidate has all but broken with the party that nominated him. We've never, ever seen anything quite like this before Trump.

Trump is expected shortly in Panama City Beach, Florida, after lashing out all day at the organization he needs to raise money, buy ads, find new voters, and get them to the polls. On top of that, he's openly dissing the leaders he'll be counting on to help govern if he wins.

To some, it's just Donald Trump telling like it is. To many, it looks like a scorched earth campaign.

Meantime, when it comes to Republican likes House Speaker Paul Ryan who've been condemning Trump for what he said about grabbing women but still endorsing him, President Obama just spoke about that at a Clinton campaign event in North Carolina.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

BARACK OBAMA , PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES: You can't have it both ways here. You can't repeatedly denounce what is said by someone, and then say, but I'm still going to endorse him to be the most powerful person on the planet and to put them in charge. So, I just want to make that point because there re still a number of Republican elected officials, some of whom I know and I'm sure are embarrassed and say, wow, that was a really terrible thing he said, but they can't bring themselves to say I can't endorse this guy.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

COOPER: President Obama on the stump tonight again. So is Donald Trump . We'll be hearing from him shortly.

We've got inside information on what appears to be his new campaign strategy and so much more over the next two hours.

We begin with CNN 's Jim Acosta.

(BEGIN VIDEOTAPE)

JIM ACOSTA, CNN SENIOR WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENT (voice-over): Today, another reminder how Twitter is often Donald Trump 's weapon of choice. His target, House Speaker Paul Ryan , who a day earlier announced he'll no longer defend or campaign for Trump. Trump raged out on Twitter . "It is so nice that the shackles have been taken off of me and I can now fight for America the way I want to." And, "Our very weak and in effective leader Paul Ryan had a bad conference call where his members went wild at his disloyalty."

But Ryan is staying above the fray. Spokesman for the House Speaker saying in a statement, "Paul Ryan is focusing in the next month on defeating Democrats, and all Republicans running for office should probably do the same."

DONALD TRUMP (R), PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE: Man, those guys have guts --

ACOSTA: For now, Trump is holding on to his core group of advisors, New Jersey Governor Chris Christie who skipped Sunday's debate, finally emerged after the firestorm ignited by Trump's tape-gate.

TRUMP: You know, I'm automatically attracted to beautiful. I just start kissing them. It's like a magnet. Just kiss. I don't even wait.

ACOSTA: To concede mistakes were made.

GOV. CHRIS CHRISTIE (R), NEW JERSEY: I would have done it much differently. But, you know, I do think he's sorry, and I do think he's embarrassed by it. No question in my mind about it. I was there when he found out about it. And there's no question in my mind he is embarrassed by it. But I think he should have been much more direct and much more focused on saying, just saying I'm sorry and only I'm sorry.

ACOSTA: Even as another supporter, Dr. Ben Carson, is trying to downplay the scandal.

DR. BEN CARSON, TRUMP SUPPORTER: As I was growing up, people were always trying to talk about their sexual conquests.

ACOSTA: And Rudy Giuliani made light of the tape in knocking Hillary Clinton .

RUDY GIULIANI , FORMER NYC MAYOR: Boy, that is as phony as -- I can't say the word because I have to be nice. I might say it back in the locker room.

ACOSTA: Falling behind in the polls, Trump is ramping up his rhetoric, openly engaging in the idea of jailing Clinton if he is elected.

TRUMP: Lock her up is right. ACOSTA: Former Republican Attorney General Michael Mukasey who has been highly critical of Clinton's email conduct blasted Trump for that threat, adding it would be like a banana republic.

(on camera): In response to Trump's declaration that he's now unshackled in this fight against Clinton, a Trump advisor quipped that the GOP nominee had been this undisciplined from the beginning. As a source close to Ryan put it, Trump is on an ego trip that could very well split the party in two.

Jim Acosta, CNN , Washington.

(END VIDEOTAPE)

COOPER: Well, whether this splits the party is one thing. Another fear is what it might do up and down the ticket, damaging GOP chances of holding the Senate or house.

More on that possibility from CNN 's Manu Raju.

(BEGIN VIDEOTAPE)

MANU RAJU, CNN SENIOR POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT: The list of Republicans bailing on Donald Trump is growing, threatening the Republican hold on Congress.

Today, Senator Pat Toomey lashing out at Trump.

SEN. PAT TOOMEY (R), PENNSYLVANIA: I've been openly very critical of policy positions Donald Trump has taken.

RAJU: And other senators revoking their support for Trump, in the aftermath of the vulgar video where the billionaire boasts about groping women.

SEN. JOHN MCCAIN (R), ARIZONA: When Mr. Trump attacks women and demeans the women in our nation and in our society, that is a point where I just have to part company.

RAJU: A new poll finds Democrats holding a 7-point advantage. When voters choose a party, they want to control Congress. That is the largest edge Democrats have had in three years.

[20:05:03] To win back the Senate, Democrats need to pick up at least four seats, including the Wisconsin seat held by Republican Ron Johnson who has distanced himself from Trump.

SEN. RON JOHNSON (R), WISCONSIN: Obviously, we've got two people atop the ticket, flawed messengers for whichever side.

RAJU: And in the House, Democrats must pick up 30 seats to retake the majority. So, they are doing everything they can to tie their GOP foes to Trump. Like in this new ad targeting Miami area congressman, Carlos Curbelo.

AD ANNOUNCER: Carlos Curbelo shares Donald Trump 's dangerous views. RAJU: But Curbelo tells CNN he wants nothing to do with Trump.

REP. CARLOS CURBELO (R), FLORIDA: I'm not feeling better about the presidential campaign at all, it seems like every discussion is who to trust least and who lies more. So, it's a shame.

RAJU: North Carolina Senator Richard Burr is running in one of the country's closet races and he's concluded it makes sense to back Trump. Despite the nominee's crude remarks about women.

SEN. RICHARD BURR (R), NORTH CAROLINA: I don't think this is something that we dwell on after somebody has asked for forgiveness.

RAJU: Privately, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell agreeing with Speaker Paul Ryan , advising his colleagues to run away from the Trump if that will help politically.

Publicly, even McConnell is keeping his distance.

SEN. MITCH MCCONNELL (R), MAJORITY LEADER: If you're interested in the president election, you might as well go ahead and leave because I don't have any observation to make about it.

(END VIDEOTAPE)

COOPER: I'm joined now by CNN senior political reporter Manu Raju.

Manu, are there any GOP candidates getting backlash for not supporting Donald Trump ?

RAJU: Absolutely, Anderson. And that's a real concern for a lot of Republicans who are running in these tough races, as they consider whether or not to revoke their support of Donald Trump . There are a number of Trump supporters in their state that they need to come out on Election Day.

So, when a Republican candidate like Joe Heck of Nevada running for that Senate seat being vacated by Harry Reid suddenly comes out over the weekend and says he's no longer supporting Donald Trump . He all of a sudden is hearing a lot of blowback from his own base. You heard over the last several days, a number of people threatening not to vote for Joe Heck in the Senate race because he's pulled back his endorsement.

That is why a number of Republican senators are still siding with Donald Trump . That includes Roy Blunt of Missouri in a difficult race, as well as Richard Burr of North Carolina, also in a very difficult Senate race.

So, it just shows the challenge so many candidates have, Anderson, as they weigh what to do about Donald Trump , because at the end of day, they need his supporters' backing on Election Day.

COOPER: Manu Raju -- Manu, thanks.

RAJU: Thanks, Anderson. COOPER: All right. So given all that what exactly is Trump strategy right now?

One of the best source reporters on what goes on inside Trump Tower, "Wall Street Journal" senior special writer, Monica Langley, just follow the piece on exactly that question. She joins me now.

Your reporting is always spot on and really, really good.

MONICA LANGLEY, WALL STREET JOURNAL: Thank you.

COOPER: So, what is the strategy? I mean, what is the Trump strategy?

LANGLEY: Well, it was clear everybody got the part that he is firing up his base. He has gone back to the person he was during the primary.

COOPER: Right, he says he's unshackled.

LANGLEY: Exactly. I'm unshackled. I don't care about these leading Republicans. They never liked me anyway, OK? Everybody got that.

COOPER: Right.

LANGLEY: I think the big reveal in my reporter now is the second part of his comeback strategy is he is trying to go after Hillary in a way never seen before, and the goal is suppress the Democratic vote.

COOPER: Depress the vote on the Democratic side.

LANGLEY: Exactly. So, he's going to make her so unlikable, so messed up. Her -- he thinks it is a shaky coalition that she has. That she doesn't really have a solid handle on the African-Americans, on the millennials and things like that, and make her so much unlikable than she already is, that he will suppress the Democratic turnout.

And he knows his base is fired up and enthusiastic and he thinks hears hers is not. So, what everybody has been missing, he can't win with his base. It will only get him 40 percent. He needed the independents. He needed the suburban women who now may be turning against them.

This strategy shows he's given up on the reaching out. So, what's doing is he'll get his base and he's hoping he can suppress her turnout.

COOPER: How does he seem to you? I mean, just -- you have been covering him for a long time. I mean, in those tweets, he -- you know, seems to be kind of -- I don't know if "rejuvenated" is the right word.

LANGLEY: It's exactly the right word. So, I spoke with him Saturday morning and I said, you are in crisis. He said, no, I'm not, I'm getting tons of e-mails and calls. Everybody is supportive. But the people inside his campaign said when he was at debate prep, he was as gloomy as the rain on the windows in New York City. But then people started gathering in Trump Tower, so he went down in the afternoon and saw the people who are gathered and saw him. And he came up like a changed man they said. He goes, I don't care about those Republicans anyway.

[20:10:01] It was never about him. It was about the people.

And then he gathered up his papers and he went to his penthouse and the advisor said, well, we wanted to do more debate prep. But the most important thing is he feels like he can win and can come back.

COOPER: Interesting. And he certainly came into the debate with fire.

LANGLEY: He was loaded for bear and he came he had his two-prong strategy set. I'm going to fire up my base and I'm going to show Hillary Clinton is a two-face member of the establishment, and what she says in e-mails and all that in private and public are two different things.

COOPER: So, who has his ear now? I mean, is it Kellyanne Conway? Is it Steve Bannon? Is it --

LANGLEY: Well, the two closest people to him in running his campaign are I think Stephen Bannon, who, you know, the CEO of the campaign. And the Jared Kushner who is his son-in-law, married to his daughter Ivanka, who's always been the apple of his eye. I think those two are closest to him. He does Kellyanne and also the campaign manager and she's very good with him, but I think those two are giving him the advice.

And the top advisors when the leaked video came out about, you know, kissing women and all, et cetera, they decided on Friday night, now is the time to get aggressive. And that is when the strategy of the four women to show up at the debate was hatched.

COOPER: Because I saw in that pre-debate, it wasn't really a are press conference, just sort of an appearance with the women. Steve Bannon was off to the side. So, he was in the room when that was happening.

LANGLEY: They had this lined up for the first debate but they kept it in reserve of. They didn't think they needed it, because remember going into the first debate he was tied with Hillary Clinton and then he went down. So then they felt we need it now, and they did it.

COOPER: They pulled the trigger on it.

Stay with us, because I want to bring the whole panel, continue this discussion. It's just fascinating reporting, focusing on the growing challenge that any new Donald Trump strategy faces.

New polling numbers as well. The question is, are they insurmountable? John King has to answers on that next. And later, more Clinton emails, new attacks from the Trump campaign. We'll look at the smoke and see if it comes with a real fire when we continue.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

[20:15:44] COOPER: Donald Trump speaking in Florida. He's behind there, but close, behind in nearly every battleground in fact. He's down by doubles digits in national polling done since that video of him surface on Friday. There is one somewhat brighter note, that same national polling shows a slight bump in data gathered after Sunday's debate.

The larger question, though, can any candidate trailing so badly so late in the campaign actually turn things around?

John King is here looking for answers by the numbers.

John?

(BEGIN VIDEOTAPE)

COOPER: John, we often say national polls don't matter as much as this close to the election. But there are some eye-opening NBC/Wall Street Journal" numbers out today. What do they show?

JOHN KING, CNN CHIEF NATIONAL CORRESPONDENT: Anderson, they don't matter much if it's a one or two-point race nationally. But when the numbers look like this, it does matter.

Look at this, this is NBC/Wall Street Journal poll. Two parts of the sample. Number one, a lot of people were talk about this yesterday. The first two days of this sample when the tape came out of Donald Trump talking about the groping women, Hillary Clinton opened an 11- point lead, 46 to 35. That is astounding. This has been a very close race.

Now, they stayed in the field through the debate the other night. That helped Donald Trump a little bit. You see now, when you take the whole three day sample, it's a nine-point lead for Clinton. Republicans came back to Trump after the debate. Still, though, nine points, Anderson, nine points nationally with four weeks to go.

Just a little context, at this point in 2012, Mitt Romney was up one point. We know how this race turned out. This is a huge problem for Donald Trump . A lot of people think this means game over.

COOPER: With both candidates campaigning in Florida today, I mean, obviously, it's an important state for both parties. Where do Trump and Clinton stand there?

KING: They are both there, Anderson, because it is a very competitive state right now, just as it was in 2012, the closest state in 2012 between Obama and Romney. Let's look at the latest poll. This is an NBC/Wall Street Journal/Marist poll, Clinton with a three-point lead in Florida. That's within the margin of error. So, you would call which statistical dead heat.

Now, this poll was taken before the debate and before the tape came out, so we need updated data to see if it moved much. But Clinton with slight lead beforehand.

I want to go quickly through the internals of the poll, this is a pretty predictable. It's a very competitive state. Hillary Clinton trails among men to Donald Trump . She has about the same size lead among women. So, you have your gender split there.

This is why Clinton has the lead, though. Florida is a moderate state among independents. Hillary Clinton in this poll, you see there with the 9-point lead, I just want to push this over to the side, and among people who describe themselves as moderates, she has an 11-point lead. Again, Florida, a very centrist state if you're winning the middle of the electorate, independents and moderates, then you can win Florida.

COOPER: So, if Trump is to pull off a comeback, can he do it without Florida?

KING: No. I mean, can I show you some map? Let me switch maps and show you. Can I give you some math? It would be crazy to get him there without it.

Here's our map right now. We have Clinton at 272. That would be winning. Donald Trump at 196.

The Gulf States including Florida are the toss up states. Let's say Donald Trump won them all, right? Wins Florida, wins North Carolina, wins Ohio, and wins Nevada. That gets him in play, 264 to 272.

Then he would just have to find six more, right? It gives him a lot of options. Win Colorado, win Virginia, win New Hampshire and something else.

But if you take Florida, it's 29 electoral votes, Anderson. If you take that off the map, if Hillary Clinton wins Florida, it puts her over 300. Then it is almost impossible. Can Donald Trump do it? Sure. He'd have to win Pennsylvania and Michigan, or he would have to win Colorado, Virginia, Wisconsin and New Hampshire.

See what I'm getting at? Florida gives you 29 in one big package. If you can't get those, very hard to find it somewhere else, and unlikely to find it somewhere else, because Florida is more conservative than all these states. If Donald Trump is losing Florida, guess what, he's losing Pennsylvania, he's losing Michigan, he's losing Colorado, and he's probably also losing Ohio.

COOPER: All right. John King breaking it down. John, thanks.

(END VIDEOTAPE)

COOPER: All right. Let's bring in our panel. New York 1 anchor and long-time Trumpologist, if you will, Errol Louis, Clinton supporters Christine Quinn and Paul Begala. Christine is a former New York City Council speaker, Paul is a consigliore to a top pro-Clinton super PAC. I like that word.

Also with us is Trump supporters Kayleigh McEnany and Joseph Borelli. Joe is a New York City councilman. Monica Langley is back with us as well from "The Wall Street Journal".

Paul, based on Monica's reporting, this idea of this two-prong strategy of Trump, of trying to depress Democratic turnout, does that concern you?

PAUL BEGALA, CNN POLITICAL COMMENTATOR: No. I don't want to be too optimistic. But now, it's not the right strategy for Trump. I hope he's not watching. I guess he's doing another show right now. Good, Anderson. Comedy show.

But --

COOPER: He does watch CNN .

[20:20:00] He pretends he doesn't but he does.

BEGALA: He needs to reach out. And instead, he's going to try to drive down.

I can tell you, if he starts -- continues not starts, continues nasty personal attacks against Hillary, that will drive up Democratic turnout, not down. Nothing unites the people of earth like a threat from Mars.

There are a lot, especially some of the younger millennial Sanders supporters who are still resistant to Hillary, still reluctant, if he starts going her personally, they will leap to her defense.

I mean, this is a strategy for a blow out. I've always said it is going to be close. I think it is going to be close. I think Monica's reporting is right, always has been. But he's charting a path to his own destruction.

COOPER: Christine, do you agree with that?

CHRISTINE QUINN, CNN POLITICAL COMMENTATOR: I totally agree with that. Look, I think he's basically given up, right? That the reporting is clear. He realizes he can't branch out. He can't pick up any of the communities he needed to pick up.

So, now, he's going to triple down on attacking Hillary over and over and over again and I have seen it in the calls that I've gotten from people who were like, "I'm going vote for her" but I'm not enthusiastic who are now like ready to run to the polls, call their friends. This is going to boost our turnout and help us with communities where we haven't done as well.

COOPER: Monica, I mean, do you think it is that he's given up? Or do you think he believes this is a good idea?

LANGLEY: He's a true believer. And he feels so free to be himself right now. And he has wanted to come at Bill and Hillary from day one.

I mean, one of his advisors this morning -- I was over in Trump Tower, and he says, we are the only ones who have ever gone of the Clinton machine. None of the Republicans have ever been brave enough to do it because they have had the city locked up.

So, they believe they can do it. And he's walked away from a lot of the groups that have been not -- not really amenable to going with Trump and that he was trying to get. They still think maybe he the get few of the suburban women or independent women by showing that Hillary Clinton enabled her husband and getting the millennials who never had heard of Bill Clinton as a potential person who, you know, was intern, while he was in the White House.

COOPER: Kayleigh, do you see it as a gamble this idea of trying to suppress Democratic turnout? If you are listening to Democrats here, they say that is only going embolden.

KAYLEIGH MCENANY, CNN POLITICAL COMMENTATOR: Well, the answer is partly yes and partly now, and here's why -- the NBC poll that we look at, their turnout model assumes that 8 percent more Democrats will turn out than Republicans. I question that because I look back at 2012 where five points more showed up and Obama won. And back in 2008 where on point more showed up. I think it was the reverse, five and one. And when Bush won, it was about even turnout.

If he can depress that -- which I they that NBC number is bogus. I don't think 8 percent more Democrats are going to turn out, if that's flawed and Donald Trump can push down that number of Democrats, that's a good thing.

But here is where it is risky. He should focus on the issues, because what we hear is neither of these candidates are telling me how they are going to better my life. I think Mike Pence did a nice job balancing that with criticizing Hillary Clinton . Donald Trump did a good job at it, too, but the heavier focus on the issues on top of criticizing Clinton is the perfect --

COOPER: So, Joe, does it concern you do to see Donald Trump spending time going after Speaker Ryan and other Republicans?

JOE BORELLI, DONALD TRUMP SUPPORTER: Well, I mean, it will concern some people he's going after Speaker Ryan. It will also concern some people that Speaker Ryan is abandoning Trump.

If you look at the voters in the Morning Consul poll was out a couple of days ago, only 1 out of 10 Republicans are saying Donald Trump shouldn't be our nominee. If you go back to 2012 and "New York Times " exit polls, you see that one out of ten Republicans didn't vote for Mitt Romney . One of out ten Democrats didn't vote Barack Obama .

So, the voters themselves are still, as they normally would be, lined up behind Donald Trump . And I think someone like Trump who's in Texas today raising money for the Republican Party, not just his race, but only the down-ballot races: I think the question has to go back to Paul Ryan and say, aren't you causing the problem yourself? COOPER: Right. He was in Texas earlier and Florida tonight.

But, Errol, does going after Ryan and other Republicans, I mean, you could also make the argument that fires up his base and emboldens them to come out.

ERROL LOUIS, CNN POLITICAL COMMENTATOR: Well, it absolutely does. I mean, the fighting against the establishment, Democratic or Republican, has been part of the Trump brand literally from day one. For him to now say, I've got the shackles off, that's what his base wants to hear.

We should also point out what Paul Ryan 's support is worth is a little bit questionable. Let's look at what happened to Wisconsin four years ago when Paul Ryan was in fact on the ticket, they couldn't pull it off then. So what was he going to do this year that Trump really needs? An open question.

I should also say that I think negative campaigning is not done because it doesn't work. It is done because it does work. It does suppress the vote. It does get people so disgusted, some of those moderates, some of those undecided, some of those millennials and others who will say, look, they are both so awful I'm going to vote for my county commissioner and then I'm going to go home.

It's a risky strategy. It is not a proven successful strategy, but it is a logical strategy.

[20:25:04] COOPER: Paul?

BEGALA: It's a strategy -- I'm sorry.

QUINN: Go ahead, Paul.

BEGALA: It's a strategy to fracture his party and unite mine. This is in the data today from the -- this is the Atlantic poll that PRRI did. Non-college educated, high school only white women, Trump's base is high school educated white people, right? He's been stronger with men and with women.

But Hillary now has gone on high school only educated to a tie. High school educated white women, a tie. Now, Trump's winning high school educated white men by 42 points. He needs to win the women by 43 points just to be in the race.

It is a very narrow coalition. High school educated white men. High school educated white women. Now, he's driven his so vote so far down with high school white women, meanwhile college educated whites which President Obama lost, Hillary is now winning in this poll by 20. She's not going to win by 20 --

QUINN: That's the first time it would be I think ever the Republicans have lost that constituent.

BEGALA: Ever in the history of polling.

QUINN: Ever.

BEGALA: I hope he's not watching. He'll do well to listen to Kayleigh talk more about issues, talk more about voter lives, than his or Hillary's. That's the secret to this.

LANGLEY: The way he does fire up his base is through his nationalist populist theme, which is that team is based on issues. You know, the illegal **immigration**, the jobs and the bad trade deals. You know, he is hitting those areas to fire up his base.

So that is -- he still stuck with and he thinks that is what his base wants to hear.

COOPER: Wants to hear from him.

LANGLEY: Yes.

COOPER: We're going to hear more from our panel in a moment. Coming up, the latest on the e-mails posted on WikiLeaks the Trump is seizing on, saying it shows collusion in the investigation of Clinton's e- mails. Does that claim hold water? We'll look at that. Drew Griffin investigates, next.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

[20:30:45] COOPER: A new chapter in the long and winding political story of the Clintons and Gores. Al Gore and Hillary Clinton campaigned together today in Florida, where Gore lost -- Gore lost the White House by super close margin in 2000, obviously.

Meanwhile, Donald Trump continues to blast Clinton over stolen e- mails. WikiLeaks is posting thousands of e-mails hacked from Clintons campaign share. The latest that brought the hour of the Trump campaign is about a court hearing involving the case over Clinton's e- mails and a hearing there was matter appall record, but the Trump campaign says is proof of something very shady.

Our senior investigator correspondent Drew Griffin tonight, takes a look.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

DREW GRIFFIN, CNN SENIOR INVESTIGATIVE CORRESPONDENT: The latest batch of hacked e-mails purportedly from Clinton campaign chairman John Podesta and the Trump campaign has seized on this one. It is from Hillary Clinton 's campaign spokesman Brian Fallon, a person who used to work at the Department of Justice.

The Trump campaign says this e-mail proves Clinton's camp was in contact with the Department of Justice just as justice was investigating Hillary Clinton . "DOJ folks inform me there is a status hearing in this case this morning", Fallon writes to Clinton staffers, "So we could have a window into the judge's thinking about this proposed production schedule as quickly as today.

The e-mail concerns a civil lawsuit about the pending release of Clinton's State Department e-mails. Trump's campaign immediately pounced. "Today's report that Clinton's campaign was in communication with the Obama Department of Justice on the e-mail investigation shows a level of collusion which calls into question the entire investigation into her private server."

The e-mail doesn't specify who at the Department of Justice Fallon was in contact with. Other media organizations including CNN were already aware of the hearing that he's talking about. It was a matter of public record. Possibly more damaging in the recent e-mail dump are what appear to be excerpts of Hillary Clinton 's paid speeches to Wall Street executives. Clinton has refused to release the transcripts of these speeches. And according to the hacked e-mails this may be why.

A passage where she contemplates just how to regulate Wall Street reform in a paid speech to Wall Street bankers. "There is nothing magic about regulations." Clinton reportedly says, "Too much is bad. Too late is bad. How do you get the golden key? How do you figure out what works? And the people who know the industry better than anybody are the people who work in the industry."

It's one of several passages in her private speeches where Clinton mentions her long time friendship and financial support with Wall Street. Contrast that with how she speaks about Wall Street on the campaign trail as she did this past February.

HILLARY CLINTON , (D) PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE: Wall Street can never be allowed to threaten Main Street again. No bank can be too big to fail. No executive to powerful to jail.

GRIFFIN: The hacked e-males also show a very different view on trade when Hillary Clinton speaks in private and when speaks in public. Speaking in private before executives of a Brazilian bank, she says, "My dream is a hemispheric common market with open trade and open borders. We have to resist protectionism, other kinds of barriers to market access and to trade.

In April before a public gathering of trade unions, her message was different.

CLINTON: I will stand with you. I will have your back. And I will stop dead in its tracks any trade deal that hurts you or hurts America. But I believe we need a president who doesn't just complain about trade. We need a president who knows how to compete and win for American workers.

GRIFFIN: The Clinton campaigns response to all this is to blame Russian hackers. And without evidence, incinerate Donald Trump and Vladimir Putin are somehow engineering a campaign strategy. The Clinton statement reads in part, "The timing shows you that even Putin knows Trump had a bad weekend and a bad debate. It should concern every American that Russia is willing to engage in such hostile acts in order to help Donald Trump become president of the United States."

(END VIDEO CLIP)

COOPER: And Drew for joins us now. Has the Justice Department or the administration commented on this?

[20:35:00] GRIFFIN: Anderson, today White House spokesman Josh Earnest actually said he wasn't going to comment on what he quotes a "stolen e-mails of a private citizen". Remember these are in fact, John Podesta 's private e-mail that have been hacked. But as it relates or pertains to that issue about the Justice Department and the Clinton campaign, Earnest did tell reporters that both the attorney general and the FBI director have me clear the investigation of Secretary Clinton's use of a private e-mail server was conducted without regard to partisan politics. That's according to the White House spokesman, Anderson.

COOPER: All right, Drew Griffin. Drew thanks very much. Back with the panel. Errol, how big a deal do you think these are? Because again we don't know who in the justice -- in Department of Justices was allegedly talking to this guy Brian Fallon, but did certainly understandable why Trump supporters would say, but what this doesn't sound right.

ERROL LOUIS, POLITICAL ANCHOR NY1: He has some questions to answer. It's entirely possible from the way it was described by Drew -- Drew Griffin's reporting that maybe he saw it on CNN , you know, but he says in the e-mail well I heard from somebody. A lot of parts of the judicial system are really in tended for there to be sort of transparency and collaboration. Saying that there is going to be a status hearing on this date is not secret information that would give anybody an advantage, it's when people are supposed to show up in court.

So I don't think that in particular is all that damaging substantively, politically, can the Trump people sort of take it and use it as some sort of example of a rigged system? Yes. They have already started and I think they'll -- we'll see a lot of that.

COOPER: Kayleigh, as a Trump supporter does it seem particularly damaging to you?

KAYLEIGH MCENANY, TRUMP SUPPORTER: That part raises a lot of questions as Errol says but to me the most damaging revelations have been what she says behind closed doors, it seems contrary to her public position. I mean imagine at this time last year, when she's running against Bernie Sanders if she had said that she was for open borders, open trade, she said I have private positions in public positions and she said I've done everything I can for the financial industry.

Bernie Sanders ...

COOPER: And the people inside the financial industry are the ones best suited ...

MCENANY: Correct. And to me the second biggest point is that there's this idea of surrounding the Clintons that there's a double standard of justice. The Clintons get one and private citizens get the other. Well, today the e-mails showed that she released sources and messages information concerning the Osama bin Laden raid and a speech, a private citizen and navy seal who did the same thing was under criminal investigation and had to pay $7 million to make the criminal investigation to go away. That's the big deal and feeds directly into her e-mails.

COOPER: Paul, what about this?

PAUL BEGALA, DEMOCRATIC STRATEGIST: As I said they were talking about, you know, she didn't release any information how bin Laden was killed.

MCENANY: It did.

BEGALA: It's been reported ad infinitum. Including books like the one you're referring to by one of the members of reportedly, member of SEAL team six. I just think that, this is the sort of false equivalence that we are in. In a normal election this could be a huge problem for Hillary Clinton , right. This is revelation, behind close door, people always wonder what are these candidates like, right in the cameras are not ...

COOPER: Well and also the speeches, she's been avoiding releasing them for the entire.

BEGALA: Right. Of course. Because they are politically damaging. Duh. Trump however -- I'm sorry but it is like stating the obvious. Trump though did his thing is, Trump has now been revealed behind closed doors and to talking about -- bragging about sexual assaulting women. So it's hard to get spun up about Hillary having a different position on trade when we just learned the behind close doors, Mr. ...

COOPER: Come out of Donald Trump would you be ...

BEGALA: If sure running against -- yes.

(CROSSTALK)

BEGALA: Did you brag about sexual assault?

MCENANY: Bill Clinton said add nauseam when he was president when he was caught doing what he did in the Oval Office -- that was my private life it doesn't effect my public policy. Donald Trump said something very bad, there's no doubt about it. Ben Carson said he prayed for forgiveness before he went out on that stage and he should be forgiven. But, you know, what these policies are what will definitely effect American lives. If she is for open boarders and open trade that actually effecters the life of the American voter, not some all hand awful remarks stated 11 years ago.

BEGALA: Does anyone ...

MCENANY: This effects the American voter, not Trump's statement.

BEGALA: Does anyone with a pulse and functioning brain think that what Hillary said is more problematic than what Trump said?

MCENANY: Yes. JOSEPH BORELLI, TRUMP SUPPORTER: Yeah, and I think ...

BEGALA: Really? Come on.

BORELLI: ... because ...

BEGALA: Come on.

BORELLI: Here's the problem, everyone who is defending Hillary Clinton and excuse me I love you guys but here, you guys are all sitting there with your eyes close and not seeing what's really fundamentally flowed about these e-mails and this WikiLeaks and instead of opening your eyes and seeing we can all see about corruption and pay to play, you're hoping the public just keeps their eyes closed as well.

COOPER: Christine I want you to respond.

BORELLI: And this is a problem with a people a lot of this. It is not just as DOJ. Maybe Brian Fallon, taking just in itself you could say maybe he didn't do anything illegal but take that in the context of the vice -- of the former president now meeting the attorney general on a plane. These are broader things at play. And these WikiLeaks just serve to confirm them not make them baseless.

COOPER: Christine?

CHRISTINE QUINN, CLINTON SUPPORTER: Let's step back for a second. We're talking about as it relates to the DOJ issue. Brian Fallon passing on information that is public information. It is as if he, you know, is passing on the Associated Press day book or for where is in the city hall, what's in the city record. He's alerting his superiors to something that is public information. That was on news broadcast. So there's no corruption there, he's merely being a press guy saying heads up. This could be in the press and is in the press.

[20:39:57] Wait, wait, wait, wait, wait. Two, she said the industry she wants to regulate should be consulted. Well of course they should. You shouldn't throw regulations on somebody without talking to them, understanding how it works. You know that at city hall, Joe. Whenever we -- whoa, whoa. When we were doing things around the banking industry in New York we talk to the bank, they hated the bill. They sued us, but I talked to them and our colleagues talked to them.

Now, let's actually be clear. I actually wish and I say this as a huge Hillary supporter, that horrible tape never came out. Because people are talking about it and it is affecting people. And it's affecting people profoundly in a way that is hurtful to them. And that ...

(CROSSTALK)

QUINN: No, I'm not take no two, I'm actually not.

COOPER: But Hillary Clinton is talking about open borders. I get she's not saying that -- I mean I guess assume she's not saying the Mexican border spiel. But it certainly not something we've heard her say on the campaign ...

(CROSSTALK)

BORELLI: ... of Syrian **refugees**. She says publicly I want to increase the number of Syrian **refugees** and then in private you heard donors, she said well, this actually ...

(CROSSTALK)

COOPER: Hold on.

MONICA LANGLEY, WALL STREET JOURNAL: While you all are fighting, I'll just show you as a reporter ...

COOPER: Right.

LANGLEY: ... who write -- wrote my story straight, let say a different one on Saturday when I called Donald Trump and he said there is zero chance I'm going to quit. So we posted that story. It was the first interview with him. And so it went out. We got more hits that day when we didn't have a newspaper than we have in a long time.

I got my e-mail was flooded, with plus I got thousand responses within three hours. I have to tell you in case somebody was going to leak me something or tell me something, I dutifully went through a thousand responses. 800 of those were for Donald Trump . They said what he said was horrible. But I don't care what he did privately. I wanted to know what's going to effect me as a voter.

So, I mean I just -- it was obviously unscientific and obviously people are motivated to write in, so it was totally. But as an -- as a distant objective observer it was like ...

COOPER: I want to (inaudible) discussion in a second, we're going to have to take a quick break. We'll also get to comments Trump just made on Fox News about House Speaker Paul Ryan saying he's going to defend him anymore. And more ahead.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

[20:46:07] COOPER: As we've reported House Speaker Paul Ryan says he's not going defend Donald Trump anymore. Trump just talked about that on Fox News. Here's what he said.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

DONALD TRUMP , (R) PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE: We'll we've been having a problem. We have millions and millions of followers. We set records in the primaries. We have a group of people that want to see America be great again. And Paul Ryan , you know, open borders and amnesty and lots of -- and bad budgets by the way. Very, very bad budgets. Frankly the only one that Obama negotiates well with this Paul Ryan with the budgets, because that's the only negotiation he could make ...

BILL O'REILLY, FOX NEWS ANCHOR: All right ... TRUMP: The fact is that I think we should get support and we don't get the support from guys likes Paul Ryan . He had a conference call yesterday with congressman, with hundreds of them. And they practically rioted against him on the phone. One person stuck up for him.

So, I'm just tired of none support and I don't really want to support, you know, he calls now and once to this happens all the time. If you sneeze he calls up and announces. Isn't that a terrible thing.

So look, I don't want his support. I don't care about his support. What I want to do is I win for the people, because Hillary Clinton ...

O'REILLY: All right.

TRUMP: ... she's a disaster.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

COOPER: And back with the panel. Monica, just -- as a reporter, what do you make of what he said?

LANGLEY: It's getting even with Paul Ryan . I mean, you know, when Donald Trump is upset with someone for taking him on he punches back. He's always been doing that. We saw it through the primary and we're seeing it now. And, you know, he may be doing something to hurt Paul Ryan . I mean Paul Ryan did have a mini rebellion on that phone call which Donald Trump just mentioned and Donald Trump has been threatening that if this -- a lot of these leaders come at him his supporters will come back at them. And there is some truth to that.

The Republican base is loyal right now. He has more of the Republican base than a lot of these leaders have right now.

COOPER: Kayleigh, do you think it's a good idea for Donald Trump to be going after the highest ranking Republican in the U.S. government ?

MCENANY: Yes, because look, I don't think this is going after him or getting even. You know, Paul Ryan used the moment. Donald Trump had an amazing debate. Best one he's given primary and general election hands down.

Paul Ryan reacted to that by stepping on the moment and it was deeply frustrating to me, to several of our colleagues here at CNN who also support Trump, Jeff Lord just put out a column an open letter to Speaker Ryan, "It's time to leave". Jeff Lord is someone who work in Reagan administration, he treasures and values conservatism the same way Paul Ryan , you know, is an under study to Jack Kemp and values those things.

But a sentiment that I've express, that Rush Limbaugh has expressed, that Jeffrey Lord has expressed is there seem to be some people in the party who look at it as a country club. Who look at it as the Washington Elite. And they will -- they don't care what the voters think because they care more about preserving the country club than preserving the Republican voting base which is in line with Donald Trump not Paul Ryan .

COOPER: Joe, I mean I assume Paul Ryan his supporter will say, look he was making a principle stand based on his abhorrence of what he heard Donald Trump say on that tape.

BORELLI: And I said the same thing. I don't agree with what Donald Trump said, I think it's awful. But that's it. Look, I don't see the long game for Paul Ryan , let's play out his fantasy, maybe Donald Trump loses the election. But within six months a year, even we're going to be having hearings on a Supreme Court nominee potentially under a President Clinton that would be the most liberal judge in our lifetime. Someone who is set jurisprudence for the next generation. And the focus will be on Paul Ryan to answer, you had the opportunity. Instead of helping the cause why did you hurt the cause, why don't you do everything you could?

COOPER: We've got to take quick break. Coming up, the tape of Donald Trump , most thing about sex -- it was sexual assault has cause them the support of many Republican politician who just been talking about that.

But his most loyal supporters said have a much different take, even women. We'll hear from some of them, what they're saying in Dallas.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

[20:53:16] COOPER: More breaking news tonight. Here's what President Obama said a short time ago about the tape of Donald Trump both seen in 2005 about what is essentially sexual assault.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

BARACK OBAMA , PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES: You don't have to be a husband or a father to hear what we heard just a few days ago and say, that's not right. You just have to be a decent human being to say, that's not right.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

COOPER: Well, since the release of the tape, dozens of Republican politicians and lawmakers, as we've said, have jumped off the Trump train. Some of them didn't support Trump to begin with. New polling by the "Wall Street Journal" and NBC News shows Trump now lags Hillary Clinton 29 percentage points among white women with 4-year college degrees, the group that Mitt Romney won by 6-points in 2012. Now, that said, not all women see Trump's comments through the same lens.

Randi Kaye tonight, reports.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

RANDI KAYE, CNN CORRESPONDENT: They dined over salad and lemonade and dish about Donald Trump .

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: It doesn't sound like his voice at all. I need to listened to it four times. KAYE: These women are all members of "Texas Women for Trump", and all longtime supporters of the Republican nominee. It seems not even the leaked tape on which Trump is heard bragging about grabbing women's genitals will change that.

How many of you are willing to write this off as locker room banter, as Donald Trump says?

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: I think ...

KAYE: All of you?

AMY HILLOCK, TRUMP SUPPORTER: I have two brothers, my dad, military family. I've heard words worse. I've seen things worse. The word is a little derogatory. I wish, if he had said it, I wish he had said it a different way. But, you know what, he wasn't saying it to females. He just saying it to men, locker room bus ...

(CROSSTALK)

MICHELLE WERNTZ, TRUMP SUPPORTER: I would be upset if a man said that in my presence.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Yeah.

[20:55:04] WERTNZ: But I do find the words offensive, but that's locker room talk. That's the boy's club.

KAYE: You know, he don't think it says anything about him as a person or what he truly believes about women, speaking this way?

DENA MILLER, TRUMP SUPPORTER: No, I don't. It's just a man being a man in a man's world, talking to men.

KAYE: At first, some of these women feared the tape would bring down Trump's campaign. But once they heard it was more than a decade old, they thought it no longer mattered.

KAYE: Lori, should he be judged on something that happened 11 years ago?

LORI ANTHONY, TRUMP SUPPORTER: I don't think so. He was a non- politician, he was not in the spotlight, not being scrutinized.

KAYE: Only a couple in the group said they were actually offended, but none of these women believed he would ever make those same comments today.

MELANINE LORANT, TRUMP SUPPORTER: He understands the jeopardy and the risk that would be put in place and he is truly out here to make a difference for our country.

KAYE: So -- I mean is this kind of a joke to some of you?

(CROSSTALK)

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: And it's a destruction that we should really move on.

KAYE: And you don't care about it, right? It doesn't ...

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: No.

(OFF-MIC)

KAYE: This group preferred to talk about how Trump plans to secure the borders, lower their taxes, and defeat ISIS. But the conversation never strayed far from Trump and women.

You all think that he respects women? Is that fair to say?

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Absolutely.

HILLOCK: If you can't be respectful of women, you can't raise daughters like he has raised. And those daughters, those girls are the most self-respected women that I have ever seen on TV.

KAYE: Why then, I asked, would Trump throw Howard Stern to say disrespectful things about Ivanka, even though Stern meant it as a comment.

HOWARD STERN , RADIO HOST: Can I say this? A piece of ass.

TRUMP: Yeah.

KAYE: What if that was your daughter? Would you be OK with that?

MARY BURNHAM, TRUMP SUPPORTER: I would not like that, not at all. But I have to look at the core of the man, the individual. And what his passion is.

KAYE: Even with the first woman on a presidential ballot, these ladies have their minds made up.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Of course, that bothers me, but is it going to make me lean towards Hillary Clinton ? Absolutely not.

BURNHAM: This is the worst dirt they can dig up on this man, and I think he deserves my vote.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

COOPER: And Randi joins me live now from Dallas. Did you get chance to talk with those women about how they feel about the comments Trump made about Alicia Machado, or is that sort of old news at this point?

KAYE: No, no, we talked about all of that and more, Anderson. I asked them what they thought of the comments of him calling her miss piggy because of her weight gain, and once again, Anderson defended her. They said, you know what, she signed a contract, she was supposed to look a certain way, and she gained weight.

And in fact they said, from their point of view, he tried to help her. He got her a trainer, he got her a gym membership and they really thought that he was trying to do some good for her. And even when I asked them, what about the fact that his and pointed that she ate everything in sight, really doubling down on his initial comments, and they said to me, well maybe she did.

And there was one former Dallas Cowboys cheerleader in that group and she said, you know, what I was hired a long time ago to present a certain image and I had to maintain that image. So she said that Miss Universe should have done the same. And they really do respect Donald Trump , Anderson. They felt they were quick to point out that he has a woman as his campaign manager. They think that's very important and he has their vote.

COOPER: Randi Kaye, appreciate it, thanks. Much more ahead in the second hour of "360," including what Donald Trump says tonight and how his campaign is going, now that he's decided to run against Republican Party leaders, and not just Hillary Clinton , his campaign manager joins us ahead.

**NEW\_DOCUMENT\_HERE**

Anderson Cooper, Sunlen Serfaty, Jeff Zeleny, Dana Bash, Christine Quinn, Alex Burns, Jeffrey Lord, Corey Lewandowski, David Chalian, Ana Navarro, Scottie Nell Hughes

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[20:00:16] ANDERSON COOPER, CNN ANCHOR: And good evening. Thanks for joining us tonight.

Tonight, the presidential race possibly at a turning point in the Republican Party at a breaking point after a debate unlike any other and developments you simply would not believe if you hadn't heard them for yourself. In just the last 72 hours, we've heard Donald Trump talk about being able to sexually assault women with impunity because he's a star. We've heard him promise on the debate stage last night to put his opponent behind bars if he wins the election.

We've seen the highest ranking lawmaker in Trump's own party disavow him and today, we got new polling that shows how much this race may have shifted in just a few days. We'll break down those numbers, coming up.

Meantime, CNN's Sunlen Serfaty is traveling with the Trump campaign. She joins us now from northeastern Pennsylvania.

Donald Trump is on stage right now. What, if anything, he's been saying about the debate last night?

SUNLEN SERFATY, CNN CORRESPONDENT: Well, Anderson, he seems quite satisfied with his debate performance. He's bringing it up in front of his crowd today, saying it was an amazing night and it seems to be that he's trying to bring up the moment that many thought worked better for him last night in which he was very focused, going on the attack on Hillary Clinton over e-mails.

He just brought up a few minutes ago the fact that he said if he were elected president, he would appoint a special prosecutor to investigate Hillary Clinton. That's certainly throwing out red meat to his crowd.

And he is doubling down on bringing up Bill Clinton's past indiscretions, almost threatening to do more so. He says, look, if they're going to bring out more tapes on me, I'm just going to keep brings up inappropriate things that Bill Clinton has done -- this sort of scorched-eth strategy that we've all been talking about over the last 24 hours. He is certainly bringing here to his rallies tonight -- Anderson. COOPER: What's his reaction been to Paul Ryan who's saying he won't campaign with or defend Donald Trump?

SERFATY: Well, no surprise here. He really lashed back and lashed back quickly. He basically tweeted, Paul Ryan, do your job, don't you have jobs to focus on and balancing budgets to focus on and **immigration** to focus on in the House?

He said pointblank, not waste his time on fighting the Republican nominee. So, some pretty strong words between Donald Trump and Paul Ryan. Of course, no love lost, we all know this is the latest in their long saga of their, really, interesting relationship.

COOPER: Yes, Sunlen, appreciate it. Thanks, Sunlen Serfaty.

We're going to keep our eye on what Mr. Trump is saying there tonight and if he makes more news, we'll bring that to you, of course.

Meantime, Hillary Clinton, how she played last night's debate performance on the trail today, that and stop me if you heard this from before, dealing with another batch of unearthed e-mails.

CNN's Jeff Zeleny has late details. He joins me now from Columbus, Ohio.

So, the fact, Jeff, that Clinton is in Ohio now, a day before the voter registration deadline there, how is she trying to take advantage of what's going on in the Republican Party?

JEFF ZELENY, CNN SENIOR WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT: Well, Anderson, she just left the stage really a couple moments ago here. There are thousands of people, the campaign estimates some 18,000 people here. I'm not sure there are quite that many, but there are certainly thousands upon thousands and voter registration is a central part of this event here.

Tomorrow is a critical day in this campaign. There are voter registration deadlines in Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Florida. So, the Clinton campaign today is going all out to try and make sure everyone is registered to vote and not just Democrats. They are going after some independents and moderates as well.

And, Anderson, the Clinton campaign also started some new commercials today aimed specifically at Republicans featuring Republicans -- a veteran, a mother. Others saying, "Look, I'm crossing party lines to vote Hillary Clinton," because they simply can't stomach Donald Trump.

So, Republicans are definitely a key part of their strategy tonight, Anderson.

COOPER: Is there a concern within the campaign that they could get overconfident?

ZELENY: Believe it or not, there is. And this is something that really for the month of September was not discussed when Democrats were very worried. But now there is a sense among Clinton advisers that they do not want Democrats to get too sure of themselves here.

They're watching all the news coverage as well. They're seeing, you know, an unprecedented implosion on the Republican side, so they are trying to make the case that they need people to vote for them.

And I am told that Hillary Clinton is sending that message directly to her staff, saying there's a no-gloating policy. They must take this seriously. She is, you know, going to be campaigning until the end, but it's one of the reasons she's doing a nighttime rally here in Ohio.

Anderson, we simply have not seen her do that much campaigning like this, but she knows that the moment is now to try and seize on this opportunity from Donald Trump.

COOPER: So, Jeff, there were another 2,000 e-mails from the Clinton campaign chair, John Podesta, posted this morning by WikiLeaks. What was in them, what's the Clinton campaign saying about them?

ZELENY: Anderson, it was another batch of e-mails. It's largely internal office work. We're really seeing how the sausage is made inside the campaign. How they come to their decisions on policy, how they write speeches and other things, how they respond to negative stories.

[20:05:05] But one thing really struck us, it involved Chelsea Clinton and a comment from Doug Band, the longtime adviser to President Clinton. He referred to her as a spoiled brat. And he was sending an e-mail to John Podesta, the chairman, of course, of the Clinton campaign and he was pushing back hard on how the campaign was sort of handling some of these Clinton Foundation questions, but using the two words, "spoiled brat," to describe Chelsea Clinton certainly opens some internal discussions that we never see at all.

But the Clinton campaign responded very sharply to the fact that these were being released at all via WikiLeaks. And this is what they said in a statement. I believe we have it.

They said, "It is absolutely disgraceful that the Trump campaign is cheering on a release today engineered by Vladimir Putin to interfere in this election," the statement says. "And this comes after Donald Trump encouraged more espionage over the summer and continued to deny the hack even happened at Sunday's debate." Now, "The timing shows", the statement says, "you that Putin knows Trump had a bad weekend and a bad debate."

So, clearly, here trying to deflect all of this on Donald Trump and Vladimir Putin, Anderson, but note, major headline in this, but certainly shows how internal things are agreed upon.

And more importantly, the Clinton campaign believes there's much more that could still be released in these WikiLeaks in the next 29 days.

COOPER: More e-mails to come.

Jeff Zeleny, thanks very much. Republican Chairman Reince Priebus late today said there's no change in his relationship with the Trump campaign. Earlier today as we mentioned, House Speaker Paul Ryan said when it comes to his own relationship with Trump, there certainly is. Ryan telling fellow Republicans he'll no longer defend the campaign for him, plenty of other Republicans weighing in as well, not to mention weighing their alternatives.

Chief political correspondent Dana Bash joins us now with more on that.

So, let's take Speaker Ryan first. What do you, first of all, how he arrived at this decision, what exactly it means for Trump?

DANA BASH, CNN CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT: You know, it's unclear what at the end of the day it's going to mean for Trump because my understanding in talking to sources who are close to Paul Ryan is that he really felt that he didn't have any choice but to be in what is very much a gray area that effectively means he's sending some mixed messages, because as you said, he told his rank and file today that he is not going to defend Donald Trump anymore, won't campaign with him. But he has endorsed Donald Trump and he's not taking that endorsement away. He's not rescinding that.

So, that did Trump some of the more conservative members, those in sort of ruby red districts who have a lot of Trump supporters at home to say, wait a minute, how can you do this? By saying this, you're going to help defeat Donald Trump and help put Hillary Clinton in the White House. Those who Speaker Ryan is trying to actually defend and help, they were a little bit more quiet, and that I think is the key thing to remember.

He has a very diverse caucus, and he has a lot of Republicans who are okay, but some who are on the bubble, who really could be tied, brought down by Trump. So, he feels that he needs to protect them.

COOPER: Right. I mean, Reince Priebus clearly made a decision to stick with Trump. Has a different calculation. How does that impact the RNC?

BASH: Really different calculation. And that's something that people might not understand because it does sound like really mixed messages from the leadership of the Republican Party. Reince Priebus' job as the chair of the RNC is to get Republicans elected and what he feels and his sort of mode all along since Donald Trump became the nominee is, this is what the Republican voters said that they wanted. So, his job as the chair is to try to help get him and all the other Republicans elected.

As we reported this weekend, Anderson, because of this tape, and it was so hard for him and everybody else to defend, they were considering pulling the plug on support for get-out-the-vote efforts, grassroots efforts, money, which is really key for the Trump campaign, more so than probably any other partnership in recent history.

Because, I mean, just to be blunt, Donald Trump didn't melt down on the age with you last night, the RNC feels that they can't pull the plug and that's what he told his members today. Not in those terms but said, you know, he's our guy, he made an apology, we're going to stick with him and the partnership between the Trump campaign and the RNC is going to continue.

COOPER: All right. Dana Bash -- Dana, thanks.

I want to bring in our panel, Clinton supporter, MoveOn.org national spokesperson Karine Jean-Pierre, Clinton supporter, former New York City Council Speaker Christine Quinn, "The New York Times" national political reporter Alex Burns, Trump supporter and former Reagan White House political honcho Jeffrey Lord, the former Trump campaign manager Corey Lewandowski, remains a Trump supporter to this day.

Alex, I mean, did Donald Trump do what he needed to do last night, essentially stop the focus on the tapes from Friday and kind of solidify his support or at least bolster the RNC support?

ALEX BURNS, NATIONAL POLITICAL REPORTER, THE NEW YORK TIMES: If his goal is to win a presidential election, then no, I don't think he came close to achieving that goal.

[20:10:03] If he had really had a turnaround moment last night, I don't know that you would have seen Paul Ryan go through with such a dramatic announcement today. And what you confront now, Anderson, is a party in a state of crisis unlike any we've seen in modern presidential politics, where you have the highest ranking elected Republican in Washington breaking with the nominal standard bearer of his party and the fear across Washington and across these congressional races around the country is they actually haven't hit bottom yet, that I'm aware of.

One private poll for one of the parties that shows Trump losing by double digits, numerous polls from Senate races and governor races from across the country that show him tanking in the swing states. Sunlen referred kind of offhand to this mention Trump made at one of his rallies that maybe there are more videos still to come and I would return fire in those videos got released.

The fear -- petrifying fear among Republican members of Congress is there are still six, seven, eight more shoes left to drop.

COOPER: Corey, do you think -- I mean, do you think we're painting too dire a picture of what's going on in the RNC, do you think Donald Trump did what he had to do last night?

COREY LEWANDOWSKI, CNN POLITICAL COMMENTATOR: Yes, Donald Trump was very good last night. He tried to focus on the issues, it's what I think. I think he talked about his difference of opinion on open borders versus pro-amnesty. I think, you know, Donald Trump was painting the picture for what his vision of America was, in contrast to Hillary Clinton, very important. I think it's the right thing to do.

I want to touch on the RNC for just a second. You know, Reince Priebus is accountable to a 168-person committee. It's very important to remember that. So, he's an elected official but is elected from within the 168-person committee. Those 168 people are thereby elected in their own states. So, there's a national committeeman, national committeewoman and usually chairman of the party.

The rank and file where those people have to run have predominantly been with Donald Trump. It's not a big surprise the RNC is standing behind Donald Trump, because when you get right down to the grassroots level, when the elected officials, I mean those national committee men, national committeewomen, who are elected by the people in the states, those are the rank and file that have to go back to the states.

As you get closer to the people, they're much more receptive. That's what we've seen many, many, many times. That's why Reince today has stepped forward and said we are going to make sure Donald Trump is our party -- and to be clear, Donald Trump is now the leader of the Republican Party. It's not Paul Ryan. It's not Mitch McConnell. It's the GOP nominee.

COOPER: So, Jeffrey, but is Paul essentially giving cover to rank and file members to distance themselves if they feel they need to and further --

JEFFREY LORD, CNN POLITICAL COMMENTATOR: No, I don't think -- if he thinks that's what he's doing, that will work. I mean, let me just say in the world of conservative media, Sean Hannity, they said, in essence, he's done with Paul Ryan. That's a big deal.

I mean, everybody likes Paul Ryan. I like Paul Ryan, but when you start to do this kind of situation, in essence, sabotaging the party nominee of your own party, this goes back a long way before Paul Ryan. I mean, Boehner and the response of Republicans in Congress not just to Barack Obama but before that.

And so, what you've got her, is a speaker of the House now saying he's abandoning the Republican ship. There are a lot of Republicans that think he and many Republicans in Washington abandoned it a long time ago, so this is only the latest episode here. And he's going to take a lot of flak for this.

And to the point here, one of two things is going to happen. Donald Trump is going to win this election. I think he had a great debate last night. Or he's going to lose it. Either way, the things he's talking about, the issues he's talking about, I spoke with a former Reagan colleague today, these issues are going to be around for a very long time. And what we've got is a situation with what Reagan used to call the fraternal order Republicans versus the Washington elites.

COOPER: Well, also, I mean, these divisions are going to be around no matter who wins coming down the road. Just in terms of governing, in terms of, you know, running the country for the next four years. I mean, there are stark, stark divisions not only in the Republican Party but in the electorate.

CHRISTINE QUINN, CNN POLITICAL COMMENTATOR: I mean, look, that is absolutely true and that's often the case after a long, tough presidential election that you end up with the country kind of close. I think Secretary Clinton -- and let me just be clear, no one in the campaigns taking anything for granted but is doing incredibly well. And I think she's going to have a very significant victory over Donald Trump.

Regardless, let's say there's a real division in the House, the fact that Paul Ryan, the speaker of the House, has distanced himself from Donald Trump, to me says she's going to be able to work with him quite well, and Hillary has shown over and over when she was a senator, when she was secretary of state, that she can and will work with anyone when there's potential agreement on a particular issue, even if there's disagreement on anything else.

So, actually with this division, what you don't want is a bombastic Donald Trump as president. You want Hillary who can bring together and get --

COOPER: Alex talked about that, the fear among some Trump supporters about more shoes to drop, but with all these e-mails still possibly to come out from WikiLeaks, how concerned are you of what's in them and whether that's going to affect Clinton.

KARINE JEAN-PIERRE, HILLARY CLINTON SUPPORTER: I mean, it's a nothingburger. I'm not really concerned about the e-mails, because it seems like to me, like the Kremlin's last paycheck to WikiLeaks must have bounced, because -- no, seriously, because they've not been effective at all.

[20:15:06] So, I'm not worried about that, especially when you compare it to someone who's a sexual predator, right, who's been on tape saying the ugly, disgusting things that he does to women because, quote/unquote, "he's a celebrity".

COOPER: By the way, last night, he said he hadn't done any of those things.

JEAN-PIERRE: Well, good --

QUINN: Took a couple days to figure that out.

JEAN-PIERRE: Took a couple days. We still have the tape, right? The tape is still there for us to view.

But look, here's what's happening, Anderson. The Republican Party is being taken over by the far right. That's what we saw last night from Donald Trump's performance. It was Breitbart.com, right? It's almost like they lifted what was from the front page of that website and that's what he delivered.

He gave red meat to his supporters, his hardcore supporters. That's all he did. He didn't get any independents.

COOPER: We're going to have more from the panel ahead. We're going to dig deeper into new polling, both state by state and national. They're showing big changes when it comes to the race for 270 electoral votes, and victory. Later, Donald Trump supporters who say they are with him, win or lose, and what that is doing to the GOP. We'll be right back.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

COOPER: Well, numbers go certainly get your attention. New NBC News/"Wall Street Journal" polling shows Hillary Clinton with an 11- point lead over Donald Trump. And that's in a four-way race. With Gary Johnson and Jill Stein out, her lead is 14.

[20:20:01] For more on that and especially the state-by-state road to the White House, we're joined by CNN political director David Chalian.

So, David, the fact that Donald Trump is down below 40 points in this poll, that's very significant, isn't it?

DAVID CHALIAN, CNN POLITICAL DIRECTOR: Hugely significant, Anderson. Thirty-five percent, you don't get down to 35 percent without losing some of your core supporters.

So, we took a look at just Republican support. In that NBC/"Wall Street Journal" poll, Donald Trump is getting 72 percent of Republicans. By comparison, on Election Day in 2012, Mitt Romney had 93 percent support among Republicans and John McCain had 90 percent support among Republicans in 2008.

Donald Trump has a lot of work to do, so what's happened in that poll after the bombshell of the tapes that were released on Friday, his comments about women, he lost some of his own party. Maybe last night, he brought some of them back, but that's only going them back from 35 to 37 or 38. He's not adding much beyond his base.

COOPER: What about state by state, the path to 270 electoral votes?

CHALIAN: Yes. So, when your national picture is as bleak as it is in that NBC/"Wall Street Journal" poll, it makes the path to 270 that much harder. Here we are -- our current battleground map. Just so you see, Hillary Clinton's already over 270 here.

And this is how tricky it is for Donald Trump, Anderson. If we give him all of the four remaining true tossup battleground states, Nevada, Ohio, North Carolina, Florida, he still doesn't get to 270. So, that's a very favorable map. He's in the hunt in those four states but a sweep is still probably an unlikely scenario, but even if he did, he's not at 270. That means he's got to dig in to some territory that Hillary Clinton already holds.

Where was he tonight? Two stops in Pennsylvania. That's his key. He said today he's going to spend much time in the next couple of weeks in the suburbs of Philadelphia to try to win Pennsylvania. That's his key. That would do it, but by God, that is putting a lot of eggs in one basket in a state where Hillary Clinton has a significant advantage right now and that has been Democratic since 1988. That is a tricky proposition for Donald Trump.

COOPER: All right, David Chalian. Appreciate looking at the polls. Back with the panel now.

Alex, I mean, how hard is it for Donald Trump to try to turn these numbers around? Because you could argue we have seen big changes just in the last couple of months going back and forth, but is it too late to change?

BURNS: It's definitely difficult. It's not impossible for him to get some of those Republicans back, and if there's a silver lining here for Trump, it's that most of the drop is coming from those Republicans who are abandoning him, so if he plays to the gallery, plays to the base, not just his base, but the traditional Republican base, maybe he can bring those numbers back up.

But that math that David was showing, as dire as it look actually doesn't even fully encapsulate how rough the landscape is for Donald Trump. Our reporting indicates that the Clinton campaign is looking at several additional states that we weren't even talking about as being on the map -- Missouri, Indiana, Arizona, Georgia, as places where they're going to do research, do polling and look at making an offensive ay to broaden the map even further. That would knock him back on his heels to an extent that it would be really tough for him to, you know, really work over a state like Pennsylvania. Really work over a state like North Carolina the way he needs to.

QUINN: And I think, you know, one of the things that's noteworthy about what Alex said, yes, throwing the red meat the way we saw last night and maybe at this rally even, that plays to his base which is very different than the typical Republican base and I think that is slipping on him. His core, core people may never leave, but if that slips and he's unable, which I think his performance at this debate shows, unable to put a message out there that's going to bring in independents, he's in a very, very tough spot and Secretary Clinton's in a very good spot.

COOPER: Corey, what are they missing?

LEWANDOWSKI: Look, what they're missing is Maine second congressional district. You guys are giving that to Hillary Clinton right now. Donald Trump is up 11 points in that district in the most public poll.

So, you know, I know it's only one electoral vote but it could be a very important electoral vote. In the particular state of Maine, if you actually carry the state, even if you don't win the first congressional district, you get that's not accounted for here.

What we haven't accounted for, New Hampshire. A state I happen to know very well. It's a state where you've got Kelly Ayotte on the ticket. You've got Chris Sununu on the ticket.

QUINN: Kelly Ayotte who stepped away from him, who stepped away.

LEWANDOWSKI: Donald Trump who had dominated in a state in the primary and has some of the strongest support anywhere in the country.

COOPER: But Kelly Ayotte, to her point, has dropped support for Donald Trump.

LEWANDOWSKI: I understand. But, again, when you look at the success Donald Trump has had in the state of New Hampshire, the team he has built, ground operation he has built there, it's second to none. That is the state if you remember in the primary where they said you can't be competitive and he won by 20 points. Who came in second place there? John Kasich.

COOPER: Jeffrey, do you agree with Corey? I mean, do you have any doubts? Are you concerned at all?

LORD: Sure, I mean, you're always concerned when you're behind in the polls, but as we saw -- I was talking to one of our colleagues the other night before we went on and I said, boy, in last 48 hours things have changed, they could change again. The words were no sooner out of my mouth than we had this Donald Trump press conference with the four women there and it changed all over again.

[20:25:01] So, there's still time here.

Anderson, the thing I just want to emphasize here, I think there's very much a divide between the elites of America and the base -- Americans, average Americans. This whole business of this outrage over this tape -- I mean, I'm certainly not going to defend the tape. It's disgusting.

But there are plenty of Americans out there that feel this kind of stuff has been injected into American culture for decades and that if Donald Trump were the Democratic nominee and not the Republican nominee, everybody would be saying, ah, what's the big deal? What's the big deal?

QUINN: Well, thank God actually this hasn't been injected into elections always. We've never seen a presidential before on a mic say those kind of words.

LORD: Or seen a presidential candidate like Bill Clinton --

QUINN: And we've never seen -- I mean, forget a candidate, but he is a candidate -- talk about being able to grope women's genitalia without their permission.

LORD: Like bill Clinton did.

QUINN: That is by definition --

LORD: Did.

QUINN: -- sexual assault. This is not something Americans are --

LORD: Christine --

(CROSSTALK)

QUINN: He said it. COOPER: Hold on. Karine, do you think -- I mean, Donald Trump gave that press conference, not really press conference but had those women with him on a panel right before the debate. Is there, you know, if he continues down that road, has the damage -- whatever damage that could do to Hillary Clinton, has that been done or do you think there's more to come on that front and it could be damaging for Secretary Clinton?

JEAN-PIERRE: Look, what he did yesterday is he used those women. That's what he did.

LEWANDOWSKI: Oh, my -- Alicia Machado?

JEAN-PIERRE: Let me finish. He used those women and these are the same women that some of them he called, what, stupid, he's called some of them ugly. Remember, this is the same guy who said Bill Clinton was also a victim when all of this went down back in the '90s and '80s.

LORD: Hillary Clinton believed that.

JEAN-PIERRE: He also praised Hillary Clinton back in the day. I mean, it's just ridiculous. He's using those women.

(CROSSTALK)

COOPER: You don't think -- do you think --

LEWANDOWSKI: On their own volition, decided to engage the media, Anderson --

(CROSSTALK)

COOPER: Do you think it's a working strategy and can do lasting damage to Hillary Clinton?

LEWANDOWSKI: Look, there's a couple of things to remember, right, if you ask the American people is the country on the right track or wrong track? The wrong track is plus 35. It's 30-65, the country's going the wrong direction.

You know what that is? That's a failed Washington, D.C. That's everything that has gone wrong in Washington for the last 30 years and people want change. That's what Donald Trump represents.

As it relates to these women, they volunteered to come and address the media. They weren't part of a pawn scheme where we'll raise this at the end of the debate and Alicia Machado -- that's not what happened. These people wanted to come forward, and you know what? This woman was a rape victim and wanted to tell her story.

COOPER: We got to leave it there.

QUINN: He could have done it at any point during the --

LEWANDOWSKI: He did it last night. (CROSSTALK)

COOPER: We're taking a break.

Just ahead, some Trump supporters weigh in on the debate. They say Trump crushed it last night. What they like most about his debate performance. Why even those who offended by what he said on that tape are still going to vote for him. We'll be right back.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

[20:31:57] COOPER: Well, tonight as you saw new NBC News/Wall Street Journal polling, shows Hillary Clinton with 11-point lead over Donald Trump in a four way race a 14-point lead in a two way contest. The poll was done after Friday's release of the tape of Donald Trump talking about women in vulgar and degrading terms, bragging about being able to force himself on winning -- women, grabbing them by the genitals and getting away with it because he's famous.

He was an unprecedented backdrop certainly for a presidential debate but anyone who was expecting a contrite Donald Trump to show up last night, they got the exact opposite.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

DONALD TRUMP, (R) PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE: Yes, I'm very embarrassed by it. I hate it, but it's locker room talk. If you look at Bill Clinton, far worst mine are words and his was action.

Honestly I never lied. That's the good thing, that's the big difference between Abraham Lincoln and you. But if I win, I am going to instruct my attorney general to get a special prosecutor to look into your situation because there has never been so many lies. Believe me, she has tremendous hate in her heart.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

COOPER: Well, that's how it was last night. Trump in full-on attack mode. Some of his most loyal supporters loved it. More, from Randi Kaye.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

RANDI KAYE, CNN CORRESPONDENT: Donald Trump supporters in Ambridge, Pennsylvania fired up about his debate performance, especially the women here.

Who do you think won the debate?

KESLEY DEL VALIE, TRUMP SUPPORTER: Oh, Trump. He destroyed it. He killed it.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: He was much stronger last night than he's been so far.

KAYE: Stronger on the issues his supporters say and stronger on offense, too. Those we spoke with thought Trump's decision to invite several women who once accused Bill Clinton of sexual assault or harassment to the debate was brilliant.

ANITA ROHM, TRUMP SUPPORTER: I like the idea that he had those women who Hillary went after, after, you know, Bill Clinton assault, them.

KAYE: He was accused of assaulting them. It was never proven.

A. ROHM: Well, he paid out money to one of them.

KAYE: Doesn't mean it was proven though, just for the record.

A. ROHM: So why would you put out money?

KAYE: A lot of Donald Trump has settled cases as well that he says he's never admitted guilt in. So.

A. ROHM: Well, I listen to the women, and I believe them.

KAYE: Most here thought that stunt successfully rattled Hillary Clinton. Even though the accusers were not allowed to sit in Trump's family box.

MARIANNE STERNS, TRUMP SUPPORTER: Hillary Clinton started it. She brought Mark Cuban. So if Mark Cuban can sit there, Trump can do the same thing.

DEANNE CHICKOS, TRUMP SUPPORTER: I don't know if I would have put them on display. No. But like I said before, I think he's pulling out all the stops.

KAYE: All the stops after Trump was heard on a leaked audio tape boasting about groping women and grabbing their genitals. Trump apologized again on the debate stage then said he never actually did those things. Some supporters here refuse to even discuss it.

Let me talk about the tape that was released on Friday.

K. DEL VALIE: I don't care. I literally -- I don't care.

KAYE: You don't care that he talked about groping women?

K. DEL VALIE: No, you know, what, because I have brothers and I can guarantee you -- my dad was a basketball coach and I can tell you with confidence they all say the same exact type of stuff.

[20:35:02] KAYE: Her husband accepted Trump's explanation that it was locker room talk, then took a page out of Trump's book and blamed us, the media, for vilifying Trump.

PAUL DEL VALIE, TRUMP SUPPORTER: You guys hold a trial, you guys find him guilty.

KAYE: We're not trying anyone.

P. DEL VALIE: No, no, but that's what the media does, they take words and they make a huge leap over basically a grand canyon and they said he's a sexual predator. It's never happened. He said a few words that he regrets.

KAYE: And he wasn't the only one who took issue with us.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Why do you guys lie to us?

KAYE: Why would we lie to you.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Why are you working for Clinton? You are.

KAYE: OK.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: You guys are liars. You are biased. And we're not dealing with it no longer.

KAYE: Those who did talk with us about the tape said they were offended, but don't expect that to change their vote.

BRIAN ROHM, TRUMP SUPPORTER: I didn't like it but it's not enough to discount him in the election.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: We're all -- we've all said things that we're ashamed of all of us. None of us are perfect.

KAYE: Definitely not perfect, but presidential, that remains to be seen.

Randi Kaye, CNN, Ambridge, Pennsylvania.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

COOPER: On my first question to Donald Trump last night was about the tape released on Friday. Remember, this was after he released a statement and a video to apologize. In both apologies he brushed off his vulgar remarks as, "locker room banter", he was bragging about sexual assault, grabbing women by their genitals, forcibly kissing them.

Last night he doubled down on that strategy saying, "it's locker room talk and it's one of those things." To some women, though, his words and tone sounded dismissive.

Lots to discuss. Joining me, CNN political commentators Ana Navarro and Scottie Nell Hughes. Ana is not -- is a Republican strategist, she does not support Donald Trump. Scottie is a Trump supporter.

So Ana, oh many Trump supporters seem certainly to give him a pass on this tape, many people found this tape so offensive because it was Trump describing what is by definition sexual assault. I did press him on that point at last night's debate. I just want to play part of that.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

COOPER: That is sexual assault. You brag that you have sexually assaulted women. Do you understand that?

TRUMP: No, I didn't say that at all. I don't think you understood what was said. This was locker room talk. I'm not proud of it. I apologized to my family. I apologize to the American people. Certainly I'm not proud of it, but this is locker room talk.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

COOPER: I mean, by the Department Of Justice definition of sexual assault, what he was talking about, the behavior sexual assault. Do you think his answer, though, put this issue to rest for him or won him any new supporters, Ana?

ANA NAVARRO, REPUBLICAN STRATEGIST: I don't think it won him any new supporters. I think it didn't lose him any of his core supporters. In fact, I would tell you that I think what he did yesterday, bringing out those four women, parading out those four women with a history with Bill Clinton and Hillary Clinton actually energized his base. They've been wanting him to hit hard even if it means hitting below the belt. I think it repelled, antagonized, disgusted, a lot of independents, a lot of moderates, a lot of independent-leaning Republicans who -- or Republican-leaning independents who just found it disgusting and gutter politics.

But look, this issue about his supporters giving him a pass on this is consistent with what his supporters have done from day one. When he said, talk about Megyn Kelly's menstrual cycle, no, it wasn't about menstrual cycle. When he mocked a reporter with a disability. I guess I don't know why. He was scratching his neck or something. When he called a judge incapable of doing his job because he was Mexican, despite the fact that he wasn't Mexican, no, that wasn't racism. When he called Carly Fiorina ugly and said her voice was irritating, no, that wasn't sexism.

This type of stepford wife and stepford husband behavior and reaction from Trump supporters giving him a path, telling us that what we heard is not accurate, what we saw is not accurate ...

COOPER: OK.

NAVARRO: ... has been the modus operandi from day one. Nothing has changed.

COOPER: Scottie, do you think he put this issue to rest last night by continuing to say it was locker room talk and apologizing?

SCOTTIE NELL HUGHES, TRUMP SUPPORTER: Well I think it actually developed since Friday since the tapes came out, because he did apologize for it. That obviously was not acceptable to people, to some like Ana and others. But what is developed since then has been very interesting. Because now you're seeing the exact words that Donald Trump said, it's being reflective, it's in fact that there's hate in her heart. And what I just heard, with all due respect, Ana, you just insulted all of the female supporters of Mr. Trump calling us all stepford wives. That sort of name calling is not justified. And this is the problem with the feminist movement today ... NAVARRO: Except to Donald Trump, Scottie.

COOPER: Let her answer.

HUGHES: Is that they feel like they're justified in spreading hate because they feel like that because Mr. Trump said something 11 years ago that you are justified in spreading hate and calling other people names. And I'm sorry. Maybe I'm held to a higher standard because I have little eyes that are watching how I handle these types of situations.

But the last three days I have seen nothing but absolute unbridled vileness and disrespect from one woman to another and I think past the election, past November, we're going to have a real issue because now women are being -- younger generations of women are being taught it's OK to hate other women, they're justified in their hate if you don't agree with them.

[20:40:09] I think -- unfortunately, I think, you know, the feminist movement are this having a major effect right now in a lot of positive way.

COOPER: So Scottie, when Donald Trump said that Hillary Clinton has hate in her heart and call her the devil, do you agree with that?

HUGHES: When I looked at Hillary Clinton, she can look at a mom whose son was in a casket, and lied to her in her eyes and say that the reason why her son died was because of a video and then later on go on national television and say that woman -- that the mother, herself was obviously didn't hear her right, that there was something wrong with her.

When I look at a woman who can laughed -- talk about a rapist but she was able to get off of a 12-year-old girl, I think there is something very much wrong with Hillary Clinton in this time. When you've never heard the apologies, it's never been a sincere apology to the people she's insulted. She said I'm sorry, you know, that I said it, I'm necessarily sorry for calling those people those names. She -- you know, that's what scares me about Hillary Clinton right now.

COOPER: Ana ...

HUGHES: Mr. Trump does apologize.

COOPER: Ana, do you see a double standard in Trump in supporters who want, you know, say Hillary Clinton hasn't given sincere apologies and yet Donald Trump for the time ever apologize just this weekend?

NAVARRO: Right. After having admitted earlier in the campaign that he had never expressed regret, he had never asked for forgiveness not even from God. And what I find, frankly, hypocritical and I find inconsistent, I find absurd and surreal is for Scottie or any of his supporters to tell me that I'm spreading hate, to tell me that I'm name calling.

This man has been doing nothing but name calling and spreading hate from the first moment he announced June 16th, 2015. He called Mexican rapists. He has called Rosie O'Donnell a fat pig. He has called Carly Fiorina ugly. I mean, what do you call that?

COOPER: All right.

NAVARRO: He has called Miss Universe ...

HUGHES: But -- and here's the difference ...

NAVARRO: ... this is disgusting and said he make sex tape ...

HUGHES: Here is the difference ...

(CROSSTALK)

HUGHES: Ana?

NAAVARRO: Is I'm just a TV ...

HUGHES: Ana ...

COOPER: I want to ...

NAVARRO: The difference is he's trying to run for the highest ...

HUGHES: Ana?

COOPER: I want you both ...

NAVARRO: ... office of the land. Representing all Americans.

COOPER: I want you both to hold this. You got to hold this thought.

NAVARRO: And let me tell you Scottie, I get stopped at airports by victim of sexual assault who say to me, thank you for speaking up, thank you for understanding that that is sexual assault. That an unwanted sexual assault, a man will think he is entitled and powerful, being able to grope a woman who does not want it, is sexual assault. So it may not mean anything to you. It means a lot to me.

COOPER: Scottie, you'll be able to respond in a second. We got to take a break. We'll have more on this discussion. We'll also take a look at the body language expert breaking down for the last night's debate. We'll be right back.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

[20:46:30] COOPER: We're back with Ana Navarro, Scottie Nell Hughes talking about Donald Trump, women to Clintons and double standards. Scottie, we're talking about the tape that Donald Trump what he said on Friday. Ana was saying lots of survivors of sexual assault have come up to her in recent days.

Do you agree that what he described doing on that tape is, in fact, sexual assault? As you know the Department of Justice defines it as any unwanted sexual contact or behavior without explicit content to the recipient.

HUGHES: Yes, if that's the action. But Mr. Trump has said time and time again that was not his action, those were just his words.

COOPER: So he was just bragging about sexual assault, he didn't commit that assault?

HUGHES: But unfortunately, we have made that to be a sort of a part of culture, a "50 Shades of Gray" culture in today's society, that men can talk like that. There was nobody on that bus, and as we've seen today, with someone actually losing their job or being suspended ...

COOPER: Let me, let me ask you about that, because where have we made it OK to talk like that?

HUGHES: 80 million copies of "50 Shades of Grey" was sold. Even "Magic Mike" was one of the most popular in this story ...

COOPER: That was a consensual where -- I didn't read the book but I assume that was a consensual relationship.

HUGHES: No, it was not all the time, and the things that were done were not. You look at the vampire trilogy. Unfortunately becoming a very interesting, pop culture, itself, has become very stretched in these areas. So this is just a part of it, if you read anything from "Sports Illustrate", the "Playboy", you know, sex, unfortunately, sells.

However, you know, you talk about the women that have walked up to you. Let me read just a quick note that I got from a mom, that said, "I don't expect a man to fight for me, I can fight for me. But I sure as heck don't expect the woman to stand up for me and Hillary Clinton has stood against women -- more women than she has stood up for. And I think that's why her message right now is not resonating. This is not about sexual assault, this is about one woman who has torn down the four woman that were standing there on the booth yesterday who has looked a mom in the eye, has looked at several other gold-star mothers and angel mothers whose children have been killed by illegal **immigrants**. That is what is affecting women today on Main Street.

COOPER: OK.

HUGHES: And Hillary Clinton, this type of language that she's doing and I'm sorry -- and I personally I like thank you, Ana, because I think this is a teaching moment for the next generations. I hope they watch this segment. The women -- and young ladies can listen to segment because words aren't going to be used that if any man ever said against any, trust me. I would be extremely angry from, but, you know, it makes me more angry when another woman uses it to describe another woman.

COOPER: Ana?

NAVARRO: Yeah it makes you angry except when the person who's running for president of the United States says it. And listen let me tell you something. Everything you just said is 50 shades of crazy. To compare running for president to an erotic film or an erotic movie, an erotic novel, it's crazy. If he wants to be held to that standard, great, then go write the art of the groping. But if you are running for president of the United States, you are a role model. You're a role model for children like your daughter who you keep quoting. You're a role model for all Americans. You're held to a higher standard. You should not be behaving like if you are in a locker room, you should be behaving like if you are in the Oval Office.

HUGHES: Ana, what were you doing 11 years ago? I find it, you know, it's funny. On Friday you saw the sanctimonious high road, all of these never Trumpers, left-wingers, all of a sudden they were holier than thou. And now 48 hours later with the cursing and the pictures that are showing up trying to prove their point, it seems like they're in the biggest mud pack ever -- mud pile ever.

NAVARRO: Let me ...

HUGHES: What were you doing 11 years ago? Do you want to be held you were doing? You know ...

NAVARRO: No, that's why I don't run for office! That's why I don't run for office!

(CROSSTALK)

COOPER: One at a time.

NAVARRO: That's why I am a private citizen, because I realize ...

HUGHES: And you have ...

(CROSSTALK)

NAVARRO: ... want my life in a magnifier glass.

COOPER: We're going to -- we're going to ...

[20:50:01] NAVARRO: No, I will you tell what ...

COOPER: ... appreciate both of you.

NAVARRO: ... why don't you answer, what was he doing 11 days ago? He was tweeting at 3:00 a.m. in the morning ...

COOPER: OK, we're going to leave it there.

NAVARRO: ... that something tweet about Alicia Machado.

COOPER: I've got to leave it there.

NAVARRO: So has not been angel playing the harp for the last 11 years.

COOPER: Now appreciate ...

NAVARRO: He have been lewd and grasp the entire time. COOPER: Appreciate both of you being with us. We'll be right back, a lot more ahead.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

COOPER: Well, I'm probably not the first person to tell you that last night's debate was for many Americans, watching their living rooms and incredibly stressfully experience. All you had to do was look through Twitter, people were firing up and melting down, turning to alcohol, you name it. And then this happened.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

KENNETH BONE, DEBATE AUDIENCE: What steps will your emergency policy take to meet our energy needs, while at the same time remaining environmentally friendly and minimizing job loss for fossil power plant workers?

(END VIDEO CLIP)

COOPER: And just like that, armed dole (ph) with a microphone and a mustach, a red sweater and a supreme sense of chill Kenneth None won the hears of America. Just a small sample, the tweets. "Thank you from all of us for asking a question that will generally matter in literally the 22nd century. Thank you, Kenneth, we mean it."

"Only the gentle hug of Kenneth Bone's warm red sweater can heal us divided nation. We are all clean to Ken Bone right now, like he's the door in Titanic. You all don't mess up this Ken Bone thing by interviewing him or finding out anything about him. Thanks."

[20:55:04] With apologies, that last tweeter, joining me now is Kenneth Bone. Ken, thank you so much for being with us. I love that you've got the red sweater on. I've got to ask you, first of all, just about the sweater, because a lot of people have asked me about it. It's gotten so many comments online, as your question did. How did you choose to wear it last night?

BONE: Well, Anderson, I don't think your producers would have let me on the show if I didn't promise to wear t sweater. But thank you so much for having me on. The reason why I went with the red sweater, is I had a very lovely olive-colored suit that I was going to wear, and my grandfather helped me to pick out, before he passed away. And I thought, man, that would be great, I'm going to be on national TV, I can wear grandpa's favorite suit. But apparently since he passed away, I've gained about 30 pounds and when I got is into my car to leave for the debate venue, I tore the seat out of pants ...

COOPER: Oh no.

BONE: ... of that suit. And had to do an emergency switch to what is normally a Christmas sweater.

COOPER: Well, it works. There were signs outside the debate hall saying, Bone 2016 for President, people were talking about Halloween costumes in your name. Does it feel strange to sort of become an overnight sensation?

BONE: It's been very strong, and I'm very sorry to all the Ken Bone 2016 people, but I am only 34 years old, you'll have to wait for Ken Bone 2020. And look, if you want to dress as me for Halloween, you better be quick, this sweater is sold out on Amazon and these mustaches don't come overnight.

COOPER: I want to read just couple more tweets, one saying, "Kenneth Bone, sorry, I can't think about anything else tonight. The debate is whatever now. Kenneth Bone, Kenneth Bone, Kenneth Bone."

Another, "Kenneth Bone is real and he's strong and he's my friend. And take me to the Kenneth Bone zone." Trending on social media, has it won you some points? I know you have a 12-year-old son, Logan. Does he think you're pretty cool tonight?

BONE: Yes, well, it's Columbus Day today, so he had the day off of school. So today having internet famous dad is the greatest thing ever. Tomorrow, when he has to go in and talk to his friends, maybe he'll change his mind. But just to be cool in the eyes of your pre- teen son is worth this whole thing.

COOPER: Well, first of all, as I said to all the participants last night, I met with you all before the debate, you know, to put the time in that you put in, to come up with your question, to spend the day there, it's not an easy thing, to stand on that stage, ask a question, I'm so glad we got yours in, and I wish we got more in, but did you change your mind at all? I mean you were an uncommitted voter before. Are you still uncommitted?

BONE: Anderson, I think I'm more uncommitted than I was when I started, I'm afraid. Donald Trump, he might have my economic interests more in mind just from a personal level. He will help my coal-fire power industry probably more than Secretary Clinton and give me a lot of future for my wallet and my ability to take care of my family.

But on the other hand, if he's allowed to point the next Supreme Court nominee, there's a very good chance that we could lose some of the rights that we've fought for, for the last eight years, rights that all Americans should share, like marriage equality and, I do not want to see anyone's rights taken away. And so that's what makes it difficult for me, is we're looking at a personal interest versus community interest election.

COOPER: Right. Well, Kenneth, again, I appreciate participation last night. It's an uneasy thing and I wish you all the success in the world and we'll see if you run in 2020.

BONE: I'll do my very best.

COOPER: All right, Kenneth Bone, thanks so much and a best to your son, Logan.

Coming up, in the next hour of "360". Clinton and Trump both back on the campaign trail tonight. We'll have the latest from there. (COMMERCIAL BREAK)

**NEW\_DOCUMENT\_HERE**

Anderson Cooper, Jim Acosta, Dana Bash, Maria Cardona, Angela Rye, Gloria Borger, Kayleigh McEnany, Corey Lewandowski, Kayleigh McEnany, Ana Navarro, Jennifer Gray

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[20:00:22] ANDERSON COOPER, CNN ANCHOR: And good evening to you. Thanks for joining us.

A potential direct hit from a category four hurricane, that's what Florida's Governor Rick Scott is telling people to prepare for, Hurricane Matthew. Mandatory evacuations already underway in parts of Florida, Georgia, the Carolinas. Moments ago, Governor Scott announced that six medical facilities across the state have begun moving patients out. There is new information coming in on the storm's track tonight, and we'll be bringing that to you as we get it throughout the next two hours.

We begin, though, with a run-up to the next presidential debate here on CNN on Sunday, as well as Donald Trump's victory lap after the vice presidential debate last night with polls moving sharply since the first Clinton-Trump face-off. This next encounter, round two, Sunday night could be more than significant. It could be decisive.

Trump in Nevada which saw the biggest polling shift to Clinton's favor. He just wrapped up a rally in Reno.

Our Jim Acosta is there.

What was his message tonight, Jim?

JIM ACOSTA, CNN SENIOR WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENT: Well, Anderson, you can tell we're getting closer to November 8th. Donald Trump was talking about early voting here in Reno, Nevada. He also lit into President Obama's signature legislative achievement Obamacare. He noted earlier this week that Bill Clinton, former president, husband of Hillary Clinton, described Obamacare as crazy system. Of course, Bill Clinton has walked that back in the last few days. But Donald Trump even tried an impersonation of Bill Clinton here.

He also tried to convince the crowd the name of the state is pronounced Nevada. We know it's pronounced Nevada. But he said over and over again, it's Nevada. It sounds like an episode of life imitating art. That was episode "Veep", Anderson. It's called Nevada.

COOPER: I understand there were reports Trump might have felt upstaged by his running mate after Pence's debate performance last night. I think the campaign's denied. What can you tell us? ACOSTA: Right. Well, the Trump campaign is pushing back on any notion that Trump was upset by Mike Pence's performance last night. Trump campaign manager Kellyanne Conway said that that was false. Truly outrageous were the words she used and Trump was praising Mike Pence at this rally, didn't talk about it for very long.

But earlier today in Henderson, he was basically taking a victory lap for Mike Pence in saying he deserves part of the credit for that performance last night. Here's what he had to say.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

DONALD TRUMP (R), PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE: Mike Pence did an incredible job. And I'm getting a lot of credit because that is really my first so-called choice. That was my first "hire" as we would say in Las Vegas.

And I'll tell you, he's a good one. He was phenomenal. He was cool. He was smart.

He was -- I mean you just take a look at him. He was meant to be doing what he's doing. And we are very, very proud of Governor Mike Pence.

Thank you, Mike Pence.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

ACOSTA: Now, of course, throughout the day, Anderson, we've been hearing from political pundits all the way up to Rush Limbaugh, asking Mike Pence whether this performance was generating some buzz about Mike Pence in 2020. That is not the effect that the Trump campaign intended when Mike Pence was out there debating Tim Kaine last night.

So, perhaps not exactly what they wanted in picking Mike Pence. It is never good to up stage the boss, especially in politics, Anderson.

COOPER: Now, Jim Acosta, thanks.

Much more now on Trump's visit tomorrow to an event in New Hampshire which will be, unlike the rallies as we mostly saw him during the primary campaign, a town hall, same format as Sunday's debate here on CNN, no coincidence there.

Our chief political correspondent Dana Bash joins us with the details and the political strategy behind this.

This basically seems like an obvious dry run for Sunday night's town hall.

DANA BASH, CNN CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT: Right, one source told me that it was a scrimmage, that they really want Donald Trump to kind of retain his muscle memory from town halls. Now, he hasn't done as many town halls as, say, a Chris Christie or going back in time in John McCain who basically lived in New Hampshire where a town hall is part of the DNA there, the political DNA. But the fact is they want him to be in an intimate setting, just like on Sunday night. They have chosen the place where Chris Christie had his first town hall when he announced for president in 2016. And Chris Christie is involved in trying to get Donald Trump ready stylistically for the idea of being questioned by undecided voters, even just how you sit, how you stand, how you approach them, what you say when you approach them -- the things that are quite different fairway the traditional debate without the town hall.

[20:05:02] And so, that is about as far I'm told as they are getting in terms of getting Trump to change up the way he's preparing for this debate, as opposed to the prep for the first debate.

COOPER: So, they're not -- you are hearing that they are not doing other kinds of prep, mock debates or --

BASH: Correct.

COOPER: -- study sessions, anything like that?

BASH: Well, study sessions, yes. I'm told that the group have gotten a bit smaller. That before the first debate, it was a big conference table with maybe upwards of 20 people. Got a bit sometimes unruly, no focused, smaller sessions now, but no mock debates, nothing along the lines of, what, you know, never mind Tim Kaine and Hillary Clinton, but Mike Pence, his running mate had, that his people have said, explicitly to me and others, was what made him successful in that debate. He had the practice.

One texted me as it was going on last night -- practice, practice, practice, it matters. I just spoke to a source familiar with Trump's debate strategy and I said are you going to fly some of Pence's people into Trump Tower to help him, and the answer was, of course not. They could not be more different. What difference would it make? It wouldn't matter.

COOPER: Interesting. And Hillary Clinton is taking a lighter schedule, is focusing on debates.

BASH: Yes, absolutely. Hillary Clinton is doing what she did before the first debate. The debate team had sort of shifted over to Tim Kaine. Now, it shifted back. She had some debate prep today and she'll continue to do so.

I will say, though, that Trump's schedule is clear on Friday. He's not going campaign and he's going to be prepping.

COOPER: All right. Dana, stay with us.

I want to bring in the rest of the panel. Clinton supporter and 2008 Clinton senior campaign adviser Maria Cardona, Democratic political strategist and former Congressional Black Caucus executive director, Angela Rye, chief political analyst Gloria Borger. Also, Trump supporters Kayleigh McEnany and Corey Lewandowski.

Good to see you all. The fact that Trump is doing this, essentially run-through town hall for those who said he didn't prepare enough, it will certainly I assume come as good news.

GLORIA BORGER, CNN CHIEF POLITICAL ANALYST: Yes, I think so. Look, I think inside the Trump campaign, there is a sense that Donald Trump kind of needs the practice. And that the only way to get him to focus is to actually have this dry run or scrimmage, as Dana is calling it.

And I think it could really help him. However, we're all going to be watching it. Don't forget. So, he's going to be judged on this town hall before he does the one on Sunday night. And it doesn't work with Donald Trump to say be like Mike. That is not going to work with for him.

So, he's going to be Donald Trump as Corey --

COOPER: Corey, how concerned are you that a town hall format might not be to his greatest strength?

COREY LEWANDOWSKI, CNN POLITICAL COMMENTATOR: Look, I think the moderator is going to be a concern on Sunday night. He's tough, bold, and brash, right?

Anderson Cooper is going to be there.

COOPER: Yes, yes, yes.

LEWANDOWSKI: He's going to be tough on Donald Trump. He's going to be tough on everybody.

But I think what people don't remember in the presidential primary process is Donald Trump did a lot of town halls. The difference became, you know, he did some in Salem, New Hampshire, did some in Londonderry the day before the primary. He did a giant one in Rochester, New Hampshire. We did one in Iowa. We did -- you know, Donald Trump did one in Virginia on Monday with the veterans.

So, this has been a consistent message. Now, what most people are accustomed to are large scale rallies where Donald Trump gets up and talks, freelance, or off the teleprompter for 40 minutes. This is much different. And what you'll see hopefully, is Donald Trump at his best, interacting directly in a small environment, one on one with those people and answering their questions and really hopefully getting a head start, if you will, on what the questions are that will be asked on Sunday night. Hopefully, the same concerns people have Sunday night will be addressed tomorrow night in New Hampshire.

COOPER: Kayleigh, as a Trump supporter, are you worried he's not taking enough time off or lightening his schedule enough in advance of this debate?

KAYLEIGH MCENANY, CNN POLITICAL COMMENTATOR: No, I think Friday is good to take that time in the mock town hall tomorrow is good. The veterans town hall. He just had that on Monday. He does very well in this format. I think that's the commander-in- chief town hall where the consensus was Donald Trump did better. They were upset that Hillary Clinton, how she appeared in a town hall. Some -- she blamed it on the moderator, Matt Lauer, which is absurd. But Donald Trump did well because of the simple fact, he likes people. He's got at engaging with people.

Take Hillary Clinton. She seems to hold in contempt anyone who disagrees with her, we're deplorable, we're irredeemable, or we live in a basement if we support Bernie Sanders.

So I think he likes people and engages with people in a real way and Hillary Clinton does not.

COOPER: Dana, is there consensus among Republican you talk to that Donald Trump needs this debate? Needs to do much better?

BASH: Yes, 100 percent, 110 percent if that what was actually mathematically possible, no question. Amongst Republican whose like Donald Trump, those who don't, those who are his nearest and dearest will say he needs do better, and that means saying on the message that he wants to talk about as much as possible and don't get into a tit for tat with Hillary Clinton as much as he tries to goad him which is no question he'll try to do again.

COOPER: Oh, there is still going to be tit for tat, no doubt about it. But whether it is on policy or whether --

BASH: Or her terms or his.

COOPER: On her terms, exactly, right.

Angela, I mean, how concerned are you? The stakes are obviously high for Hillary Clinton. She comes in with wind at her sails, wind at her back. But the part to try to keep that momentum going.

ANGELA RYE, FORMER EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS: That is right. And I think expectations manage at this point. I agree with the first part of what my good friend Kayleigh said, that this is a format that works really well for Donald Trump. He does engage people really, really well.

I think Hillary Clinton depending on the person, right, it can be hit or miss. And so, for me, I'm concerned that there is a question that comes up and she comes across as guarded or protected and that is normally when she comes across as likable, frankly.

I will say, though, I've seen several videos, footage, where she's been in these town hall forum where she's done very, very well. So, I'm concerned it can go either way. Certainly, things are on her side right now and that is all the more reason I think the Clinton campaign and Clinton supporters have a lot more to worry about.

MARIA CARDONA, CNN POLITICAL COMMENTATOR: I would agree. And I would say that the Clinton campaign and Clinton supporters all across the board should always be concerned, because that's actually how you win, right?

These polls now that re showing that she has now opened a lead of 10 points, nationally, that she's leading in every battleground state now especially in Ohio, I would say to Clinton supporters, don't believe them. Let's get out the vote, let's mobilize and make sure Donald Trump never gets to the White House because that's the only way that will happen.

Plus, anything can happen. I actually agree with Corey. I think this town hall format will be actually good for Donald Trump because it can keep him boxed him, because he won't be a rally where he can say whatever he wants. He won't have a teleprompter, he won't have notes, but he will have the kind of parameters of the moderators, the people in front of him that I think will keep him much more managed. Or at least I think that is what the campaign hopes.

BORGER: You know, if the king of town halls is John Kasich. Let's --

COOPER: He did more than a hundred in New Hampshire.

BORGER: Yes, and let's get him that because he emotes and he hugs people. And he was great anyway in that format.

I actually disagree with you guys. I think that Donald Trump has had some difficulty at town halls. He -- I mean, and you have done them with him. He doesn't address the person directly. He turned and talked to you. And he didn't seem to kind of embrace the person who asked the question or ask that person more questions about their question which Hillary Clinton does really well.

And your town hall, one of the key moments during this campaign so far for Hillary Clinton is when she said she's not a natural politician and said that at a town hall. Donald Trump has not sort of offered part of his personal self, in any of these settings, even when people were asking for it. And I think that is a difficult part for him. It's not the way he sees. He doesn't want to share that way, right?

COOPER: We're going continue this conversation with the panel in just a moment throughout the evening. Of course, the two hours we're on. Not to mention on Sunday, starting at 4:00 Eastern Time, when our CNN debate coverage gets underway from St. Louis.

As Corey mentioned, I'll be docking out for a bit to actually moderate, along with ABC News' Martha Raddatz.

Again, our special CNN live coverage gets under way Sunday at 4:00 Eastern Time.

Just ahead tonight, Dana Bash gets answers from Eric Trump about whether his dad does pay federal income taxes. I'll ask an expert on Donald Trump's finances or someone who's actually seen his tax returns, what he makes of it.

Later, the line from last night's debate that became a headline and to some a controversy as well. We'll talk about quote, "that Mexican thing", unquote, and what Latino voters are saying about it when we continue.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

[20:17:25] COOPER: Donald Trump's former tax attorney, the one who oversaw the 1995 return with that $916 million business loss deduction says Trump had little interest in or knowledge of the tax code back than. Jack Mitnick says Trump was only concerned with bottom lines. Significantly, he said that he could not comment on whether Trump used that massive deduction to legally avoid paying personal federal income tax for up to 18 years.

Last night, Eric Trump did talk about it with Dana Bash and ever since, people have been talking about the answer he gave. Watch.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

BASH: Has your father paid federal income taxes?

ERIC TRUMP, SON OF DONALD TRUMP: We pay a tremendous amount of taxes. Beyond --

BASH: Federal income taxes.

TRUMP: And beyond -- yes. And beyond --

BASH: Yes?

TRUMP: And beyond taxes, we also employ tens and tens of thousand of people.

BASH: Eric, my question though is, has he paid federal income taxes over the last 18 years, yes or no?

TRUMP: Of course. Yes, absolutely. My father pays a tremendous amount of tax. We as a company pay a tremendous amount of tax.

BASH: So, if we ever see your father's federal income taxes, it will show that he has paid federal income taxes.

TRUMP: There's no question about it. We pay tremendous taxes.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

COOPER: Well, for some, this puts it all to rest. For others, the answers themselves are raising questions.

Few people have dug deeper into Donald Trump's finances than "Bloomberg View" executive editor Timothy O'Brien. He's the author of "Trump Nation: The Art of Being the Donald".

I spoke to him earlier this evening.

(BEGIN VIDEOTAPE)

COOPER: Tim, when Eric Trump insists that his father has paid federal income tax, obviously, it's not the implication from the more than $900 million loss reported by "The New York Times" back in 1995. Based on your reporting on Trump over the years, are you skeptical?

TIMOTHY O'BRIEN, BLOOMBERG VIEW: Well, I'm not really sure, Anderson, what anything is that Eric Trump has seen. I think both of the Trump boys tend to get their father in hot water whenever they speak up on these issues. I think the returns in question go back, you know, two decades. And Eric Trump is I think his early thirties. So, I'm not really -- I doubt that his father was showing him all the tax returns when he was a toddler.

That being said, I think one of the interesting things that's gone on in this debate off of the "New York Times" story is that there is a lot of focus on the legality of this massive deduction he took. And Rudy Giuliani and Chris Christie have spun this as examples of the Donald's genius, when in fact the write-off represents an epic business failure. It is I think representative of about $900 million worth of loans that he guaranteed personally when he went on this acquisition spree in the mid-1980s, late 1980s.

[20:20:14] And all of it, all of it ended up in a giant train wreck. He bought airlines, hotels. He overleveraged his casino business. And he ended up with a ton of debt he couldn't repay because he overpaid for properties. He didn't think far enough ahead about the prospects for the various businesses he was entering.

And it's classic Donald Trump decision making. He's actually a very undisciplined, short-term, non-strategic thinker. And that write-off is a big numeric emblem of that tendency he has.

MADDOW: You know, obviously, Trump could put all of these questions to rest by releasing his tax returns. Obviously, he says he won't release them while he's under audit, even though there is nothing preventing him from doing that. And by his lawyers own admission, his returns from 2002-2008 are no longer under audit.

O'BRIEN: And they haven't -- and by the way, Anderson, the Trump campaign has not given any proof to anyone they are actually under audit. They could release the letter interest the IRS showing that to be the case and they haven't.

Secondly, even if there were an audit -- and they haven't made that clear -- that wouldn't prevent him from releasing anything. That's just not -- all of the audit stuff is a red herring.

COOPER: Forbes Magazine, their latest list of 400 richest Americans, is now out. They put Donald Trump's net worth at $3.7 billion, that's obviously far less than the $10-plus billion that he claims he's worth.

As someone who was sued by Trump for writing that he wasn't as rich as he claimed he was -- a suit that was dismissed, by the way -- how much does something like that actually bother him?

O'BRIEN: Oh, I think it bothers him immensely. You know, for all his bluster and bullying and bragging, he's immensely insecure about some very fundamental things. And one of them is his sense of himself. And he -- his net worth and how rich he is, and where he figures on the pecking order is much more important to him than it is to anyone else. No one cares about his wealth as much as Donald Trump himself cares about it.

COOPER: Tim O'Brien, Tim, appreciate you being on. Thanks.

O'BRIEN: Good to be here, Anderson.

(END VIDEOTAPE)

COOPER: Well, still plenty of questions out there. Back with the panel.

I mean, Dana, you had that conversation with Eric Trump. Does that settle anything? Or does it raise more questions?

BASH: No, no. I think questions that were out there remain. There was only so much time and there were a lot of unanswered even as he was answering the questions. One of which frankly looking back, I probably should have been specific, personal income taxes or income taxes, and then maybe the obvious is he said he'd seen them. Did you see the check, how do you actually know he paid the income taxes?

I mean, it was his knee jerk reactions as the son of somebody who's under fire to try to put it to bed by saying yes because that give. But we don't know.

COOPER: Kayleigh, I mean, Donald Trump could very easily just -- even him not releasing the actual return, the full returns which are obviously very large as Eric Trump pointed out in the past. I mean, he could just acknowledge one way or the other whether, in fact, he did not pay personal income tax for years and years as result of this write-off. It's something he hasn't done.

MCENANY: Well, he did release a statement when this "New York Times" story came out, saying I paid hundreds of millions of real estate taxes, excise taxes, employee taxes, real estate taxes, city, state and federal taxes.

COOPER: Right. But he hasn't answered that part.

MCENANY: Federal taxes was part of that.

So, I think this whole "New York Times" story is emblematic of the reason he shouldn't release his taxes. They put on a headline that says Donald Trump could have not paid taxes for 18 years. Since when do we have speculatory headlines with no basis to make that claim other than the fact there is a loss claim on a tax form.

They're speculations. We're still talking about this "could have not paid taxes" story. There's no proof me didn't pay taxes. So, why would you release hundreds of pages that are going to be misconstrued by the media and the Clinton campaign?

COOPER: But, Corey, he could release just basic information, his tax rate, what he paid, what he made, his deductions and charitable contributions, without releasing all thousand pages. LEWANDOWSKI: I honestly think it is irrelevant at this point, right? You have the opportunity to move forward and set out the course for America over the next four or eight years, as the next president of the United States. And the issues that are affecting American people today -- jobs, **immigration**, their own personal taxes, the burden of Washington, D.C., regulations.

Look if people want to dwell on Donald Trump's taxes, they are welcome to do that. That does nothing to set the agenda moving forward. What we do know, 11 percent of people think Hillary Clinton is honest and trustworthy, 11 percent approval rating in Congress, and 55 points in the wrong direction if you think the country is on the right track or the wrong track.

[20:25:10] The American people don't care about Donald Trump's taxes. They care about jobs and the economy and safety.

COOPER: Maria?

CARDONA: This is exactly the problem with the Trump campaign. They are so tone deaf when it comes to these issues. We have seen in poll after poll, that multiple, majorities of American people, majorities of Trump supporters believe in number one, taxes is a civic duty and people should pay them. But majorities of American people, 70 percent, above 70 percent, believe that he should release his taxes.

And I think put legality aside. Two things, it is unseemly when you have a multibillionaire who touts his business acumen and touts how rich he is every three seconds and then there was a news article today how about back 1978 and '79 that shows that he also did a lot of losses and so, not just he didn't pay taxes but his business acumen is actually a plus.

BORGER: You know, it's not so much, even how much taxes he paid, if you want to buy the argument that he had a good accountant and he didn't have to pay taxes, let's even assume that argument, OK? What is it -- a question is, where are his investments? What potential conflicts of interests are there with foreign governments? Particularly since he's said I'm going the hand over my business to my kids. And they will still be running that business.

These are the things that would be outlined in a tax return. Not just the bottom line and not the charitable and all the rest -- these are serious foreign policy issues.

CARDONA: I think that's probably the most serious issue.

BORGER: I think the public deserves answers.

COOPER: Angela?

RYE: On that point certainly. But I also think there is yet another point and that is, this is the same person who's called for transparency from potential opponents and from this opponent. He's asked for Wall Street transcripts. He's asked President Obama when he was just thinking about a run for a birth certificate. So, why would not meet the very same standard? I think one of the famous lines is he's not even meeting the Nixon standard on this. And, of course, we know he released the tax returns after he ran. But still --

LEWANDOWSKI: Donald Trump said in the first debate he'll release his full tax returns as soon as Hillary Clinton releases 33,000 e-mails. Very clear.

(CROSSTALK)

LEWANDOWSKI: And moreover, he did call for Hillary Clinton to release her transcripts from those Wall Street speeches and she refused to do that as well, where she has made tens of millions of dollars or more from Wall Street executives, right?

CARDONA: Apples to apples, Corey.

LEWANDOWSKI: If you want to see Donald Trump's holdings are, go down to Federal Elections Commissions and pull out the piece of paper that shows what obligations he has, what properties he owns, how much he owes in debt in each of those. They're all available for public viewing.

COOPER: But, Dana, there is a lot that is not in those documents that would be in the tax returns.

BASH: Yes. There's no question about it. The federal -- the financial disclosure has some information. But not nearly as much as you would learn by what he pays or doesn't pay in taxes with regard to his personal taxes about his company.

(CROSSTALK)

COOPER: I mean, Kayleigh, if Hillary Clinton, if none of her tax information was out there, wouldn't the Trump campaign or any opponent be raising lots of red flags about that?

MCENANY: I think Congress has put in place laws that suggest what we expect of someone who's running for the highest office in the land. You fill out financial disclosure form. Donald Trump did that.

For Maria to say it's not the same, the emails and the tax returns, you're right it's not thee same. Because we have a law, the Federal Records Act, that required her to keep the e-mails that she disobeyed.

One candidate in this race has violated transparency laws. One candidate and that is Hillary Clinton.

COOPER: Maria, and then we got to go.

CARDONA: Not of that has been proven.

MCENANY: It has been proven --

CARDONA: No, no -- (CROSSTALK)

CARDONA: This was looked at by the FBI. This was looked at by a gazillion committees in Congress.

MCENANY: He confirmed that. He violated the Federal Records Act.

CARDONA: You guys continue to say there's no law that Donald Trump has got to release his taxes. But the fact of the matter is that again for 40 years, this has been the standard. And the American people expect that, for all the reasons that we just talked about.

The most important one I do believe is what Gloria mentioned, when you have someone who we know has a very strong bromance with Vladimir Putin and you have we already know has connections with Chinese banks who owe -- who actually own the debt that he holds. And he is asking us to give him the position of commander in chief, when he would have the ability to pass laws and to be favorable --

(CROSSTALK)

MCENANY: Your candidate accepted $200 million in foreign donations. I know you ignore the FBI director when it's not convenient for you. He confirms she violated that act.

(CROSSTALK)

COOPER: All right. We've got to leave. We're going to take a break. We'll have more with our panel.

Ahead, Mike Pence has been getting good reviews for his debate performance. But it's also stirred of some controversy about his comment about the -- that Mexican thing. We'll take a look at that ahead.

Plus, the latest on the deadly hurricane barreling toward the U.S. tonight, where it's headed and how bad the damage could be.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

COOPER: Trump's running mate, Mike Pence is speaking right now in Grantville, Pennsylvania. CNN/ORC poll, a debate watcher says that Pence won last night vice presidential debate, 48 to 42 percent.

One moment became a hashtag in a headline, Clinton running mate Tim Kaine repeatedly brought up Donald Trump's **immigration** policy in remarks about Mexicans. His attacks culminated with this exchange

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

TIM KAINE, (D) VICE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE: When Donald Trump says women should be punish or Mexicans are rapist or criminals ...

MIKE PENCE, (R) VICE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE: I tell ...

KAINE: ... or John McCain is not a hero, he is showing you who he is. PENCE: Senator. You whip out that Mexican thing again. He -- look ...

KAINE: Can you defend it?

[20:35:00] PENCE: There are criminal **aliens** in this country Tim, who have come into this country illegally, who are perpetrating violence and taking American lives.

KAINE: You want to use our brush against ...

PENCE: He also said and many of them are good people. You keep leaving that out of your quote.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

COOPER: But again Pence response went viral, its hashtag #ThatMexicanThing sparked a lot of discussion.

Joining me is CNN political commentator and Republican strategist Ana Navarro, she's not a Trump supporter. Also Trump surrogate, Steve Cortes. Good to have you both.

With this Ana, your reaction to what the governor said last night about whipping out that Mexican thing again?

ANA NAVARRO, REPUBLICAN STRATEGIST: Well what can I tell you? I giggled a lit bit because I thought it was a weird phrase. For a while there I thought maybe Anthony Weiner had gone crazy celebrating National Taco Day which was last night, yesterday.

But, look, Mike Pence has been guy who's actually supported **immigration** reform. When he was in Congress, when he was part of the Republican conference, he was a very compassionate man who supported and spoke and say we have **immigration** reform. So I give him the benefit of the doubt.

But most of America doesn't know who Mike Pence is, has never heard of him and only knows him as Donald Trump's running mate. And when you are the running mate of a man who has spoken about Mexicans, have said that some of them are rapists and said these things he had said about Mexicans for 16, 17 months now. Somebody who has attacked a judge for being of Mexican heritage. An Indiana born judge. A man from the state that Mike Pence represents. You don't get the benefit of the doubt from most Americans and what we've seen it turned into a hashtag it say -- turn into a rallying call for a lot of Latinos.

COOPER: Steve, I mean do you think it is actually going to hurt him in the Latino community? I mean look at the latest national polling on the Latino-Hispanic vote. Donald Trump winning just 17 percent of likely Hispanic voters. And Secretary Clinton 65 percent. That was before the debates. Do you think this hurts?

STEVE CORTES, TRUMP SURROGATE: Right. You know, Anderson listen, I will be the first to concede we're not doing great among vote of color and by the way the Republican Party hasn't for many election cycles. So this is hardly new Donald Trump. What I would say regarding ...

COOPER: It has done better in years past.

CORTES: Sure. But what matters to me as an Hispanic is he went down to Mexico and I thought acted very presidential when he met with President Nieto -- Pena Nieto down there and he said, and he meant it from his heart that the Mexican-American community is a treasure to the United States.

We need and we love legal **immigration**. And no one by the way is more adversely affected by illegal **immigration** than legal **immigrants**. They are the ones who I think most of all people like my father who did it the right way, who went Weiner, sometimes honor is procedures to become illegal American. They are the ones who are most cheated when we say it is OK for illegals to hop the line and to get in front of them. It's unfair, it's bad economic policy and it's terrible national security policies.

So we are going to get control of our border. We love **immigration**. He's the son of an **immigrant**. He's married to an **immigrant**. We know what **immigration**does to the United States in terms of our culture, our economy, our vitality.

COOPER: So.

CORTES: But we've been right as a people to do it through legal means.

COOPER: Ana, I mean there are some key battleground states with large Latino-Hispanic populations, Florida, Arizona, Nevada, Colorado. It is not monolithic population by any means. Is it possible the way Governor Pence handled Trump' statements on undocumented Mexican **immigrants**, how he pivoted away from the questions about Trump's past- talk by deportation that might actually help some conservative Latino voters vote for Trump.

NAVARRO: Look, there are some conservative Latino voters but they are the huge minority. The very small minority. Let me just say this, I came to this country legally too. I came by plane. I did it legally. But I also understand and I think most Latinos have got the empathy to understand that but for the grace of God there go i. I realize that I came to this country as an eight-year-old girl. But I could very well have been a dream ad girl.

Had not my parents not had the money to hire lawyers and my parents not have the resources and ability to make me legal the way they did. I could have been one of those girls who found out when they were 19 years old and going into college, that I was illegal. But for the grace of God, I realized that wasn't the case because I was a lucky ...

CORTES: Ana ...

NAVARRO: ... one with fortunate one. But I think that -- that because this campaign has prayed on Latinos, has prayed on **immigrants**. Has made it a pillar of their campaign to attack in Hispanics, to attack **immigrants**, to make a one of the things that they stand on they don't get the benefit of the doubt. And ...

(CROSSTALK)

NAVARRO: ... have got to walk on Ed Show ...

CORTES: Ana, you are trying ...

NAVARRO: ... because he doesn't have the benefit of the doubt.

(CROSSTALK)

NAVARRO: You know, I'm not trying to make anything. Donald Trump has made it so since January -- since June 16th when he first announced ...

COOPER: OK, Ana, let Steve respond.

NAVARRO: ... and called Mexicans rapist. It wasn't me, Steve. It was Donald Trump ...

CORTES: Ana.

NAVARRO: ... who went on the attack against Mexicans from day one of this campaign.

COOPER: Steve go ahead.

[20:39:58] CORTES: What you are doing is you are trying to make the illegal **immigrants** the victims. They are breaking the law. The victims are not illegals. People who break our **immigration** laws who come here in a way that is not allowed by our laws. They're not ...

COOPER: But Steve, Ana is talking about language ...

(CROSSTALK)

COOPER: Steve, Steve. Ana is talking about language that that your candidate -- the candidate your supporting has used when you hear some of the language he is used. Do you any problems with it?

CORTES: Listen, Anderson I'll be the first to say particularly early in the campaign I didn't like some of the tone. And I think he **alienated** some Hispanics unnecessarily. I think we're doing our very, very best to win them over now and try to convince voters of color whether be Hispanics or African-Americans that the Democratic Party has taken you for granted and they have pandered to you whether it is illegal **immigration** or whether its schools or economic opportunity and what we are saying is we have a better way forward for you.

COOPER: OK.

CORTES: And part of it by the way for legal Hispanics is that illegal **immigration** is a non starter for us.

COOPER: OK.

CORTES: And particularly ...

COOPER: I got to go.

NAVARRO: Steve, those are reason why your Hispanic Advisory Council has shrunk every single day. Well right now, there's a meeting at (inaudible), because they are ashamed of the words that Donald Trump has used and you should begin by not calling us voters of color and understanding that African-American, Muslims, Hispanics we are all different people with different priorities and different issues ...

COOPER: OK, I going to leave it there. Ana, thank you. Steve Cortes, as well.

Programming note, Mike Pence and Tim Kaine will both be on "CNN's New Day" tomorrow morning.

Just ahead, a closer look, the impact Gary Johnson and Jill Stein might have in the election from someone who knows also well, when a third party candidate can do. My conversation with Ralph Nader, next.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

[20:45:34] COOPER: The wild card in this election, could come down to the third parties. The latest CNN polling, shows Clinton at 47 percent, Trump just 5-points behind. Third party candidates Gary Johnson and Jill Stein have 9 percent between them. I spoke about their potential impact tonight with Ralph Nader. Some argue that his third party run in 2000 cause Al Gore, the election he disagrees.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

COOPER: Are you supporting any particular candidate this presidential ...

RALPH NADER, FORMER INDEPENDENT PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE" No because what I would like do is comment favorably or unfavorably on what they do or what they say.

COOPER: In terms of if it's a choice between Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump, do you see much difference between the two?

NADER: Yeah, of course there's a difference, but they both flunk.

COOPER: They both flunk?

NADER: You know, yeah -- I mean the country deserves a lot better. I mean here you have a failed gambling czar who became a corporate welfare kin that's cheated his way to a billion dollars.

COOPER: And the Secretary Clinton.

NADER: Well she is, you know, more Wall Street, more war. I mean she's a hawk that actually scares the generals. Look at the Libya disaster. She over road the Secretary of Defense gait whose didn't want to topple the regime in Libya because of the chaos, and that this fully over into Africa, he foresaw that, he was right. COOPER: So you won't say publicly who you'll vote for. What will you do on Election Day if you don't like any candidates?

NADER: There are third parties and there are write ins.

COOPER: But, you know -- I mean you obviously know the argument about spoilers. You have called the whole idea of a spoiler candidate as the politically bigoted word. What do you mean by that?

NADER: Well, you'll notice that the two major party candidates never call each other spoilers. It's only directed to a third party candidate who is considered someone that takes votes away. Well if you have an equal right to run for election on the constitution and use our First Amendment right, then we're all trying to get votes someone another. So we're all trying to either spoil one another or none of us are spoilers.

COOPER: There are some folks watching these polls they were saying that, you know, Hillary Clinton is having a hard time getting some the millennial voters who were -- you know, appeal to back then. Who are also went for President Obama. If Gary Johnson or Jill Stein are taking votes from Hillary Clinton but don't have an actual chance of getting into the White House themselves, aren't they by definition spoilers.

NADE: Not at all. Why don't do major candidates take away votes from Johnson and Stein.

COOPER: Well they certainly are.

NADER: I mean that why don't they take their issues, when Franklin Delano Roosevelt was challenge by Norman Thomas in the 1930s, he took away some of his platform. So this idea of scapegoating. Whining, constantly whining in instead of the Democratic Party looking at them in the mirror. They have been fiddling in the House of Representatives trying to assemble all the bad Republican votes that they passed in the House. They still haven't come out with it.

COOPER: So if Donald Trump won on Election Day and it is a close election, you don't think or Hillary Clinton won, that the third party candidates would have had anything to do with that.

NADER: Not when they are at 1, 2, 3 percent. And they're both going to shrink from the present polls, that's the practice. They're be lucky to get 1 or 2 percent.

COOPER: But some in these states they are, you know, they're doing double digits.

NADER: That's true, but there all kind of other sine qua non. Like in Florida in 2000 for example. 300,000 registered Democrats voted for Bush. The secretary of state with her shenanigans. The butterfly ballot misidentifying thousands of people as ex-felons, taking away their vote. The Supreme Court decision selecting 5 to 4 George W. Bush. See there are a lot of seen sine qua nons. And just to blame the Green Party for that is to give the Green Part illusions of grandeur.

COOPER: But do you think you play any role in that at all? And what happened in 2000?

NADER: I wouldn't be surprised if by pushing Gore he made some critical comments on corporation, insurance companies, oil companies, and stronger on the environment that he got far more votes than whatever would have voted for them. You know ...

COOPER: You actually think you by being in the race you actually have got Gore more?

NADER: Yes. Because when you are at that small level percentage that we were. Just a surge of getting out the vote in Wisconsin because they thought that the Green Party was nibble away at them, you know, ensured them getting Wisconsin.

COOPER: Do you think about how the world would be different had you not run in 2000?

NADER: Yeah, I think the result would have been George W. Bush. There was a poll right after the election. Without me in it and he won it. But look how crazy it is, Anderson. We have an election where Gore won by 550,000 votes nationally and the Electoral College took it a way from him, this crazy Electoral College and flew into Florida and you're blaming the greens on this.

[20:50:11] I mean this is absurd, it's scapegoating at its worst, because the Democratic Party doesn't want to look itself in the mirror and ask itself, why isn't it land sliding the worst Republican Party in history and defending the country? They don't want to look at those, because they're dialing for the same commercial dollars.

COOPER: Ralph Nader, thank you very much for being with us.

NADER: You're welcome.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

COOPER: Coming up, we have breaking news. After battering the Caribbean and killing 10 people, Hurricane Matthew heads for Florida. We'll get the latest, next.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

COOPER: Just breaking news tonight from Florida. Where the governor is warning if Hurricane Matthew lands a direct hit, there could be devastating a massive destruction. Evacuation is underway and parts of Florida, Georgia as well as the Carolina's after the hurricane left at least 10 people dead across the Caribbean.

Now forecasters are watching to see what's in store in Florida, the rest of the southeast. Our meteorologist Jennifer Gray joins us from CNN Weather Center with the latest. So where is Matthew now?

JENNIFER GRAY, CNN METEOROLOGIST: Well, right now, it's about 360 miles southeast of West Palm Beach. So it's getting closer and closer. This is the latest advisory. At 8:00 Eastern Time, winds of 115 miles per hour. Gusts of 150. Strong category 3 storm, moving to the northwest at 12 miles per hour.

[20:55:05] On this track Anderson, it is going to re-strengthen. We are thinking that it is starting to get a little better organized, it will have time to strengthen into a possible category 4 storm just off the coast of say, Miami-Dade, Broward counties. Thursday afternoon, 130-mile-per-hour winds. And then either brush the coast of Florida, move inland, or stay out to sea. See with this cone as of uncertainty.

And so, all of these different scenarios will mean huge differences in the impacts that are felt, because hurricane force winds extend about 45 miles from the center. So this storm jogs a bit little more to the west. It could mean much more far-reaching impacts for the state of Florida, it jogs a little bit more to the east, that would be the best case scenario. It does look like it is going to loop back to the north and east by the time we get into the weekend. And then a lot of uncertainty from there.

Some of the models are showing this actually bending back around and impacting Florida for a second time. As we get into the middle part of next week. A lot of uncertainty there. But one thing we are certain of, is this -- this going to have huge impacts for Florida and the southeast coasts in the coming days.

COOPER: Yeah, we'll be watching it very close. So Jennifer Gray. Jennifer, thank you.

Up next, another -- our second hour of "360". More on how Donald Trump and Clinton are getting ready for this Sunday's town hall debate. Coming up.

**NEW\_DOCUMENT\_HERE**

Anderson Cooper; Jim Acosta,; Jeff Zeleny; David Swerdlick ; Gloria Borger; Van Jones; Pamela Brown; Jennifer Gray ; Sara Sidner; Kayleigh McEnany;

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[21:00:34] ANDERSON COOPER, CNN HOST: And welcome to the second hour of "360".

We have breaking news on Hurricane Matthew, late word on evacuations from Florida, through Georgia, through Carolina. It could come ashore as a category four storm. No one is taking that lightly. We'll bring you the latest throughout the hour and all the major developments.

We again though in Reno, Nevada where just a short time ago, Donald Trump wrapped up a rally, has been losing grounds in the poll there and elsewhere since the first presidential debate. Tonight, how he and Hillary Clinton turn a late groundwork for their next face off this Sunday, which I'll be moderating, along with ABC's Martha Raddatz from St. Louis.

Our Jim Acosta joins us from Reno. What was Trump's message to voters tonight?

JIM ACOSTA, CNN SENIOR WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENT: Anderson, he was talking a little bit about last night's vice presidential debate. He said Mike Pence did a great job. He didn't go on and on as he did earlier today in the Las Vegas area. You know, that what was when Donald Trump basically took credit for the job that Mike Pence said -- did last night, saying that he deserves part of the credit because it was Mike Pence that was one of his first big important decisions as a presidential candidate.

Later on the speech here, he went after ObamaCare, reminding the crowd here that President Bill Clinton earlier this week described the Affordable Care Act as a crazy system.

But Anderson, it was interesting to hear Donald Trump sound like a wonk on the election process. He was talking about early voting dates here in Nevada. He was pointing people in the crowd to volunteers who could talk to them after the rally. It was over to make sure they know where to go -- go to vote. So it sounds like Donald Trump is trying to get into the knitty-gritty of the voting process which is only a little more than a month away.

COOPER: This would certainly be the time to do that. I mean, he is hosting a town hall in New Hampshire tomorrow, similar format, I understand to the one on Sunday's debate, I guess kind of a dry run for Sunday.

ACOSTA: Right. Yeah. And the Trump campaign admits this. This is sort of a practice run for Donald Trump tomorrow night in New Hampshire. He's going to be doing a town hall-style format to get him ready for this town hall event that is going to be taking place. You'll be moderating on Sunday with Martha Raddatz in St. Louis.

And it is -- it's interesting, Anderson, because, earlier, you know, after that or before that first presidential debate, his advisers were trying to lower expectations. Now they're basically raising the bar. Kellyanne Conway, the Trump campaign manager, says the town hall format is something that suits Donald Trump. Tailor made for Donald Trump's skills.

So they're actually doing something that most campaigns don't do at this point. They're raising expectations for their candidate.

And I will tell you, after talking to people inside the Trump campaign, they're pushing back on this notion that Donald Trump was somehow jealous of Mike Pence's performance in the vice presidential debate last night. They say, no, that is not the case. Kellyanne Conway, the campaign manager says that's truly outrageous.

But Donald Trump is going to be getting back into debate prep, a GOP source told me earlier this evening that Reince Priebus, the RNC chair, and New Jersey Governor, Chris Christie, will be a big part of that debate prep process which Donald Trump will be getting into here in the next few days, Anderson.

COOPER: All right. We'll see the results Sunday. Jim Acosta, thank you.

Hillary Clinton meantime spent the day largely off the stump heading from New York down here to Washington where she held a fund-raiser tonight.

Jeff Zeleny, he's got the latest on that, and the debate preps she's been doing, he joins us. So, what was Clinton's message to supporters at the -- tonight's event?

JEFF ZELENY, CNN SENIOR WASHINTON CORRESPONDENT: Well, Anderson, she did talk about that vice presidential debate for the first time as well. And she said this about Mike Pence. She said he bobbed and weaved and tried to get out of the way, but defending Trump is the impossible task. But then, she went on to focus on the key event that her campaign is focusing on that showdown in St. Louis. And she told her supporters this.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

HILLARY CLINTON, (D) PRESIDENTIAL NOMINEE: I'm looking forward to our next debate next Sunday. I thought the first one went pretty well. And just as in that first debate, I feel it's my responsibility not to defend myself against his attacks, because really, been there, done that. I think it's my responsibility to defend everybody else against his attacks. (END VIDEO CLIP)

COOPER: And moving forward, I mean, Clinton is planning, I understand, to stay off the campaign trail largely to prep for the debate similar what she did before the last debate.

ZELENY: She is indeed. I mean, practice makes perfect. And her campaign believes practice could actually win debates. They are preparing in the very same way. She was with a small group of her advisers in her home here in Washington for several hours today. She'll be doing the same thing really for the next three days.

[21:05:08] Off the campaign trail, not meeting any voters, she is having some fund-raisers but no actual campaigning until after that debate in St. Louis. They are trying on replicate the process from her first debate because, Anderson, they believe it worked for them and one goal over all here. They want to keep that momentum alive that she thought she won in that first debate.

COOPER: I mean actually the last time she actually did a town hall -- I know Donald Trump we just talked about he's having a town hall tomorrow night, is Clinton doing anything specifically to prepare for the town hall format? I mean, mock debates, do you know?

ZELENY: She will be doing some mock debates for some topics that did not come up in that first debate. So she will be once again working with her mock Donald Trump. That didn't happen today but I'm told it will be over the next couple days. But she also is just going back into the mindset of all those town halls she did early on in the campaign. And some of the more interesting moments she has had have indeed come from town hall meetings, some in New Hampshire, some in Iowa, some here on CNN, some with just regular voters.

So they really believe that, you know, she is able to connect with voters in that respect. But they are taking questions from some staffers and others of what they think may be some of the topics here. Her big challenge is being relatable and likable. And she wants to convey that she can indeed win people's trust, even if they don't necessarily like her right now, Anderson.

COOPER: All right. Jeff Zeleny. Jeff, thanks very much.

Back with our panel. Joining us this hour, Clinton supporter, Bill Press, and new CNN contributor and "Washington Post" assistant editor, David Swerdlick.

It is interesting, Gloria, that Hillary Clinton is essentially doing what she did before which is going off the campaign trail, you know, doing some fund-raisers, but off the campaign trail, and really prepping for this in a very serious way.

GLORIA BORGER, CNN CHIEF POLITICAL ANALYST: Donald Trump mocked her for it during their first debate and she said, yeah, I was off the trail preparing. Do you know what else I was preparing for? Become president of the United States. I don't think he's going to mock her for it again because he is doing a very public prep session tomorrow late in the day, because he needs to get focused, as well.

And so, I think she is going to do what worked for her the first time around and try and repeat it. I just don't know who's going to play you in the ...

COOPER: Plenty of white haired weird looking guys around. So that's -- that shouldn't be fun.

So, David, I mean everything that Hillary Clinton went after Trump on in the first debate, I guess, he will try to practice or be trying to prepare for similar kind of attacks?

DAVID SWERDLICK, CNN POLITICAL COMMENTATOR: Yeah. He's got to prepare for those same attacks, because they worked the first time. So there's no way that the Clinton campaign is going to let their foot off the gas on Trump. At the same time, though, I really think Clinton has to be prepared equally for some Trump attacks to come back from Trump on Bill Clinton's infidelities, on, let's say, the e-mail scandal, opportunities that Trump missed. And that they're not going to miss again.

COOPER: Corey, do you think Donald Trump should bring up Bill Clinton's past?

COREY LEWANDOWSKI, FORMER TRUMP CAMPAIGN MANAGER: Look, I think as it relates to Hillary Clinton attacking the victims, I think it's fair game if she wants to talk about Donald Trump, and Hillary Clinton has a history of attacking the victims of Bill Clinton's sexual, you know, propensities. And if that's the case and Hillary Clinton wants to make that the issue of this campaign, then so be it. But I think the American people at this point want to talk about taxes and jobs and Hillary Clinton's flip-flops on TPP, the fact that she hasn't released her 33,000 e-mails, I think they want to talk about **immigration**, in fact, that she's for amnesty and open borders. There's a clear difference in this election when it comes to those important issues. I think that's what the American actually care about.

COOPER: Bill, do you think if Donald Trump goes down that road, then Secretary Clinton talks about Donald Trump's past?

BILL PRESS, CLINTON SUPPORTER: I would hope so. Look, I think it is a huge mistake if they really are thinking about going into Bill Clinton's infidelities.

First of all, there's nothing that pisses women of more than to blame the wife or what the husband has played ground.

BORGER: Do you think?

PRESS: Yeah, all right, OK. So I've been told. But also, we've been there before. I mean, remember, Bill Clinton was reelected after this. Hillary was elected senator from New York and reelected senator from New York. This dog don't hunt as they say down south.

I would agree, Corey, stick to jobs, stick to trade, stick to those issues. I would stay away from the infidelities for sure. The other thing I want to say is, I think everybody learned in the first debate, I would hope that preparation matters. And Hillary is doing serious preparation for this debate as well.

You indicated Donald Trump is going to have a practice town hall. But that's not sitting down, really going over the issues, preparing on what you want to bring up and how you're going to get under her skin the way she got under his skin. So I think the lack of preparation will show again Sunday night.

COOPER: Kayleigh, you know, with a lot of his observers said about the first debate is -- that she did a very good job of pivoting to not only get her point across, but to counter attack to Donald Trump. And he did not -- there are number of missed opportunities that he didn't do that, obviously, something you would like to see him do more of. Do you think he -- is that something you think he can learn or has learned?

[21:10:01] KAYLEIGH MCENANY, TRUMP SUPPORTER: Definitely. You know what Scott Walker said today that he counseled Mike Pence to do which was, don't take the bait. So that something that's learnable. It's something I'm sure will ...

COOPER: Which Pence did brilliantly, I mean, I thought ...

MACENANY: He did brilliantly and he laid out some of the harshest critics of Hillary Clinton, the Clinton Foundation, the e-mail scandal and so forth. But what he did that I think was almost more important than that, is he managed to make up Kaine look very small. Because Kaine when he was asked about the Syrian **refugee** crisis, which we all remember that picture of that little boy badly hurt by a bomb, he used that opportunity to go back to Donald Trump's taxes. He did the same thing when asked about Russia. It was just too much.

And Pence looked line he was taking it to the issues and elevating and having a more positive tone and it made Kaine look small. And I think Donald Trump has an opportunity to carry that strategy forward.

COOPER: The flip side of that the -- that knock against Pence obviously was that the candidate he was talking about was not the candidate who is actually running.

MARIA CARDONA, CLINTON SUPPORTER: Exactly. And here's the other thing, and I hate to break to it to Republicans, but the person who's going to show up with this debate ain't going to be Mike Pence, it's going to be Donald Trump. Somebody who does not have a training to pivot, somebody who doesn't have the practice to do those pivots, somebody who interestingly enough, is a decades long Washington based typical politician, right, the kind that Donald Trump rails against.

COOPER: Do you think ...

CARDONA: Yet he is the one that has to have -- they want Donald Trump to imitate in this debate in order to be successful.

SWERDLICK: Part of the strength of Mike Pence in that debate is that he has a core conservative ideology.

CARDONA: That is ...

SWERDLICK: He is a career politician although he was a radio host before that. And so he can assess the question and say this is more of a policy question, this is more of bait that I do or don't want to take. Donald Trump, even if he is boning up this week, doesn't have the years of policy now ...

(CROSSTALK)

MACENANY: I don't think Donald Trump -- I mean I think Donald Trump had a good first debate. Certainly those first 30 minutes, he won.

And I think that what's important for him is not to try to imitate Mike Pence but to be him. Anyone who's met Donald Trump knows how engaging he is, when you meet him knows what -- how personable he is, that person wins a town hall. Hillary Clinton doesn't have that.

COOPER: But can -- I mean, Corey, you know Donald Trump -- can he resist the bait that Hillary Clinton throws at? I mean, which -- I think you can make the argument clearly that in the first debate, you know, she brought up little issues that got under his skin and that he did end up beating time up talking about it and discussing it.

LEWANDOWSKI: Look, I think in this debate, you have to remember the town hall format.

COOPER: Right. It's different.

LEWANDOWSKI: Very different. So this is not Donald Trump attacking Hillary Clinton or Hillary Clinton attacking Donald Trump, is responding to the people who are asking questions and we don't know what those questions are going to be. The moderator's ability to control those are very limited because the people have concerned and that's what they want to hear from the candidates.

Now, does that mean you can't pivot and talk about your ideology versus her ideology? Of course you can. But I don't think what you're going to see is direct attacks in the same way that you saw the last time. Because in my recommendation to Donald Trump, to talk to the person who has asked you the question, answer their question, make sure you can outline your vision -- you want to do to help that person and fix that problem that they're having and contrast that with what your opponent is doing. Now I think, if you can do that, you can be successful.

BORGER: You know, we're in a situation now, too, where the bar is even lower for Donald Trump than it was at the first debate because of his performance of the first debate, for the last hour of it. Let me say -- Keyleigh, I will give you the first 30 minutes of that debate. I thought he did well.

I think now people are sort of going to say, well if he doesn't trip, he's, you know, he's done well. And I think the challenge for Hillary Clinton here is very different. Hillary Clinton did very well at that debate. She has to show her humanity here. Donald Trump has to show how substantive he is.

COOPER: Bill?

PRESS: Well, I'm just going to say, we haven't seen the two of them in a town hall format. But we've seen Hillary Clinton in a town hall format.

BORGER: Yes.

PRESS: I think comfort has a lot to do with the people that look comfortable in that format. There's no podium. We haven't seen Donald Trump operate without a podium. I think he's real honest on him. She is very comfortable in that situation.

(CROSSTALK)

PRESS: And she was very relaxed in that first debate and he wasn't and she showed again, she knew how to get under his skin.

CARDONA: Exactly.

PRESS: I think she can do it in the town hall format.

(CROSSTALK)

CARDONA: What Donald Trump said last time when Hillary Clinton got so under his skin is I can be nastier than she is. So let's see how he does at responding to questions from voters ...

COOPER: OK. Corey?

LEWANDOWSKI: To Bill's point, the Commander-in-Chief Forum in NBC held with Matt Lauer as the moderator, there was no podium there, everybody, every poll, everybody saw that's Donald Trump was better there. Hillary Clinton ...

PRESS: Who's sitting?

LEWANDOWSKI: He was seated but there was no podium. He's sitting next to Matt Lauer.

(CROSSTALK)

LEWANDOWSKI: And I think all of the acclaimed came that Donald Trump was well prepared for that. He was focused. He did a very good job there. There was no podium and it's a one-on-one discussion with Matt Lauer. And he's answering audience questions.

COOPER: We're going to take a quick break. There will be plenty more to talk about as the debate prep ramps up, all the way to the face off in St. Louis, Sunday, Washington University, as people reminding me. ABC News's Martha Raddatz and I will be moderating.

[21:15:02] Our CNN live coverage gets underway Sunday afternoon starting at 4:00 p.m. Eastern. I hope you join us for that. More ahead tonight of what's being called Bill Clinton's ObamaCare gaffe, which Donald Trump as you heard is capitalizing out. We'll talk about that as well as President Clinton's larger history and sometimes causing campaign drama with his statements.

We'll also bring you up to today in our Hurricane Matthew which hit Florida with a category of four punch.

(COMERCIAL BREAK)

COOPER: Donald Trump weighing in again tonight of Bill Clinton who we have seen and not just in this campaign can be an asset and a liability on this. Donald Trump -- here's what got him in trouble remarks of the day about the Affordable Care Act.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

CLINTON: You've got this crazy system where all of a sudden 25 million more people have health care and then the people are out there busting it, sometimes 60 hours a week, wind up with their premiums doubled and their coverage cut in half. It's the craziest thing in the world.

(END VIDEO-CLIP)

COOPER: The Republicans and Donald Trump down seized on that. Trump talked about it again tonight at a late stop in Reno, Nevada.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

TRUMP: Did Bill Clinton blow it. Whoa, did he blow it. We're going to show the whole world that America is back bigger, and better, and stronger than ever before.

The first thing we're going to do is repeal and replace ObamaCare. President Clinton has come out and told the truth about ObamaCare. In all fairness, he told the truth.

[21:20:02] Two days ago, Bill Clinton torched President's Obama's signature legislation. Remember, Hillary Clinton ObamaCare one of the greatest accomplishments of the President, of the Democratic Party and of our country. Except it doesn't work. It's a disaster. It's costing everybody, including our country, a fortune. accept it doesn't work. It is a disaster.

Bill has a different view. Oh, did he suffer? Can you imagine when he walked home to that beautiful home in West Chester and he said, "Hi, Hillary, how was your day?"

(END VIDEO CLIP)

COOPER: Donald Trump turning the gaffe into a campaign in Reno tonight. Here's how President Clinton try to clean up the damage yesterday.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP) B. CLINTON: Look, the Affordable Healthcare Act did a world of good. And in the 50-something efforts to repeal it that the Republicans have staged were a terrible mistake. We, for the first time in our history, at least are providing insurance to more than 90 percent of our people.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

COOPER: Well, again, this is not the first time the manage job -- the explainer in chief has had to explain something he said during a campaign. More on that tonight from Randi Kaye.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

B. CLINTON: I have no confidence in my political field anymore. I've just been out of it a long time.

RANDY KAYE, CNN CORRESPONDENT: Former President Bill Clinton in September last year downplaying his skills as a surrogate for his wife, Hillary.

VAN JONES, CNN POLITICAL COMMENTATOR: He was cool, calm, collected, he was kind of calibrating himself, and then he dropped a bomb. I don't know anything about politics. I'm out of it. And then he drop another bomb. That kind of Bill Clinton will be a tremendous asset to Hillary Clinton.

KAYE: CNN political commentator, Van Jones, considers Bill Clinton one of the greatest defenders of his wife. Listen to him on CNN with Fareed Zakaria

B. CLINTON: I have never seen so much expanded on so little. The other party doesn't want to run against her. And if they do, they'd like her as mangled up as possible.

JONES: He is a beloved figure, period. He's one of the most popular politicians or political leaders on the planet Earth. You don't put somebody like that in a jar and hope they don't say anything. Will he make mistake? Sure.

KAYE: Mistakes like he made back in 2008? Early that year the former president called then Senator Barack Obama's campaign a fairytale, then had to explain later that he was talking only about Obama's stance on the Iraq war, not Obama's quest to become the first black president.

Bill Clinton also compared Obama South Carolina a primary win to Jesse Jackson's successful campaign in the state years earlier. A comment that angered black voters who thought he was marginalizing Obama. Clinton tried to explain.

B. CLINTON: I think that they played the race card on me. This was used out of contest and twisted for political purposes by the Obama Campaign to try to breed resentment elsewhere.

KAYE: After the interview, the former president thought his mic was off. Then went on to say this.

B. CLINTON: I don't think I can take any shit from anybody on that, do you?

KAYE: When a reporter asked him about his comments, the former president was the one pointing fingers.

B. CLINTON: You always follow me around and play these little games and I'm not going to play your games today. You have mischaracterized it to get another cheap story to divert the American people.

JONES: The reality is the black community forgave him 20 seconds later as soon as Obama won. And since then, he hasn't made those kinds of mistakes.

KAYE: A July CNN/ORC poll shows the public's view of Bill Clinton has changed since he hit the campaign trail. Over the summer, 50 percent of registered voters polled said they had a favorable view of Bill Clinton. That's down 15 points from March of last year. Still, he's always connected well with voters which the campaign hopes, despite a tendency to go rogue, will only help Hillary Clinton.

Randi Kaye, CNN, New York.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

COOPER: Back now with our panel which never needs any damage control. Let's start off with Gloria. I mean, it is interesting to see, you know, the problems of Bill Clinton has had on the trail before, we all remember of course when his wife was running against Obama. But -- I mean, he basically did hand the Republicans and Trump a huge gift with his comments on ObamaCare.

BORGER: Yeah, you know, a huge gift. The thing about Bill Clinton that we really don't see very often in politics anymore is that he's candid and he sometimes forgets where he is. And it might be something he'd be saying sort of at the dinner table or to some aid, and say, you know ObamaCare turned out to be a disaster. But he was actually saying it on stage with cameras on him and causing the -- his wife's campaign a lot of grief.

COOPER: I mean, David, we should point out what he was saying in particular was so -- what he was saying was so crazy is that small businesses and their employer and their employees, small business owners and their employees who are working really hard and not above a certain income level have seen their premiums go way up and their coverage drop.

[21:25:01] SWERDLICK: Yeah. ObamaCare has a lot of kinks in it and it remains unpopular program with a lot of people. You can see what President Clinton was trying to do there. He's sort of folksy, you know, I feel your pain, can you believe what these stuffed shirts in Washington sort of stuck you with kind of thing. But it doesn't play the same way for him than it did in 1992 or 1996 or even 2008. And I frankly see him as a little bit of a liability for the Clinton campaign. COOPER: Bill?

CARDONA: I absolutely do not agree with that. And in fact, I don't think that this was such a gaffe at all. I think a couple things. ObamaCare is absolutely transformational and it will go down in history as that when we hear and read what President Obama did for this country. To give coverage to 25 million people who did not have it before is nothing less than transformational. Is it perfect? No.

COOPER: Right. But just in terms gaffe, anything that in these closing days of a campaign ...

CARDONA: Yes, of course.

COOPER: ... you have to spend a couple days talking about takes you off ...

CARDONA: But I also think it gives Hillary an opportunity to say, look, I've never said it was perfect. President Obama has never said it was perfect. And in fact, they could have fixed it by now except for Republican's never want this health opportunity ...

COOPER: Bill?

PRESS: First of all, why should that piece -- my one thought was what fun this will going to be for all of us when he is first lady? We're going to have every day or whatever you call them, every day something to talk about that Bill Clinton has said that -- I disagree a little bit with this.

First of all, I think Bill Clinton was right. ObamaCare is a mess. It's a scam for the insurance company. Bernie Sanders was right. Get rid of the insurance companies that have single payer. Having said that -- but Bill Clinton, he didn't say anything different than Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton have been saying all along, which is ObamaCare is not perfect. It needs a fix. Not repeal ...

(CROSSTALK)

COOPER: Kayliegh?

MCENANY: He's obviously saying something different than the Obama Administration when Josh Earnest came out today and said, "Yeah, I wouldn't have said that." He called ObamaCare a crazy thing. And to David's point ...

PRESS: He said he wouldn't have used the word crazy ...

MCENANY: To David's point, a majority of voters in almost every single poll do not like ObamaCare, why? Because they were sold a bill of goods. If you like your doctor, you get to keep it away. No, you don't like to plan ...

PRESS: You know why? Because the House has voted over 50 ...

(CROSSTALK) COOPER: Corey, go ahead.

LEWANDOWSKI: The greatest part, since we're talking about another Bill Clinton mistake. I love -- right, this is greatest the thing. Honestly, I think for the first time what we see in this campaign is someone who actually said the truth on the Democratic side.

MCENANY: Yeah.

LEWANDOWSKI: He went out and just spoke from the heart. He spoken extemporaneously. This is what he truly believes. This is what the American people believe. He understands that.

The fact that you are a small business owner and you are getting destroyed working 60 hours a week and your premiums are going up, and multiple insurance companies now dropping the plan in multiple states because it's just too expensive. Everyone understands this.

Bill Clinton said what everybody already knew but the Obama team and Hillary Clinton -- no, no you got to (inaudible) vote. What we saw today was Bill Clinton trying back track. He doesn't want to backtrack. He wants to say exactly what he said yesterday. That's the real Bill Clinton. That's the real problem.

(CROSSTALK)

CARDONA: But then when you have Donald Trump who says, we're going to repeal and replace, replace with it what? Republicans have not been able to come up with a real plan ...

MCENANY: Yes, they have.

CARDONA: ... that would give the 25 million people or more coverage than they absolutely need. And I also think it really hurts them again with the Obama coalition. ObamaCare gives 20 -- 10 million Latinos covers that didn't have it before, millions of African- Americans, single women who have not been able to sleep at night because they worry about not being able ...

(CROSSTALK)

CARDONA: ... to take care of their children and ObamaCare gives them that.

MCENANY: That is incorrect to say. That is incorrect to say that Republicans have not come up with a plan. Paul Ryan put out a great plan involved giving tax credits to people to be able to purchase insurance. It is ...

(CROSSTALK)

MCENANY: Eliminating state alliance allowing companies to compete. It is a good plan. One that is a lot better than ObamaCare.

COOPER: Bill? PRESS: No, no, no, let's get to that. Look, Republicans in the House have voted over 50 times to repeal ObamaCare and replace with it nothing. I've read Paul Ryan's plan.

CARDONA: Exactly.

PRESS: It's a joke. Tax credits for whom? And the people who have never been able to afford health insurance ...

CARDONA: Right.

PRESS: ... don't have enough money to -- need a tax credits to buy health insurance. They just need to get the insurance companies out of the way and be able to get in and get a federal subsidy. Paul Ryan does a way with all of that.

But the point is again, I want to come back. Hillary Clinton has always said, don't dump ObamaCare. Let's fix it. And it needs fixing.

COOPER: Well certainly ...

SWERDLIKE: That's not what President Clinton said and that's the problem. ObamaCare hasn't been a big issue in this campaign and now all of a sudden now here we are talking about it.

BORGER: Well, and all of a sudden Hillary Clinton is in a position of trying to explain what her husband really meant and trying to unwind it. And Bill Clinton tried to do that today because he's a smart politician, he understands what that looked like for his wife and he doesn't want to step in it for her. She's going up in the polls right now. He doesn't want to do anything ...

COOPER: It also gives Donald Trump something specific to talk about that is a hammer against Hillary Clinton that's not dealing with his taxes or anything else.

CARDONA: Well, that's why they loved it.

[21:30:00] LEWANDOWSKI: Every time that you're defending something that your spouse said has probably a win for the other side, right? And today Hillary Clinton is suspending something that her husband say, trying to change that. Look, maybe this comes up in the debate on Sunday. We did not discuss health care and ObamaCare in the last debate.

PRESS: I hope it does.

LEWANDOWSKI: This is something that should come up in the upcoming debate because there a lot of people who need a health care system that actually works, not one where the premiums go up and they get dropped from their provider. That doesn't work. So hopefully Hillary Clinton can address this issue on Sunday, does she agree with Bill Clinton, that has been an ought of failure or does she want ...

(CROSSTALK) PRESS: But do you know what? I'd say, still with an occasional malapropism or whatever, Bill Clinton is a huge asset to Hillary Clinton. Absolutely. People love him.

(CROSSTALK)

PRESS: He has big crowds. He's one of the most popular people on the planet. His foundation is doing immense good around the world. Keep Bill Clinton out there.

(CROSSTALK)

BORGER: In certain places in the country, I think Bill is right. But Republicans think two for the price of one here. We can attack Bill Clinton. We can attack Hillary Clinton. It works for you guys. That's exactly what Donald Trump was doing today and he kind of teed it up for him and I wouldn't be surprised if it comes up.

CARDONA: But I don't think that works for Donald Trump to grow his appeal, which is what he needs to do.

COOPER: We'll see. We'll see what happens Sunday. A lot to talk about ahead, a lot more news tonight, stay with us.

Just another quick reminder about our CNN coverage ahead. Mike Pence, Tim Kaine, fresh from their debate will both be guest on New Day tomorrow morning. Not talking at the same time.

Showing up tonight in the key swing state of Nevada former Trump supporters tell our Gary Tuchman why they now are planning to vote for Clinton. We'll see what changed their minds.

Also ahead, evacuations begin in Florida and several other south eastern states as Hurricane Matthew heads that way after causing massive destruction. The Caribbean latest forecast when we continue.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

[21:35:38] COOPER: A reminder on Sunday night, the presidential candidate's going to face off their second debate. This time in St. Louis, I'll be co-moderating. 84 million people watched the first debate. According to multiple polls, Hillary Clinton got a bounce nationally in several swing states, the biggest shift, Nevada. In a Fox News poll done before the debate, Trump was ahead by four points among likely Nevada voters, 46 to 42 percent. In a Suffolk University Poll done after the debate, Clinton leads Trump by six points among likely Nevada voters, 44 to 38. Now those are the numbers. Here's what voters in Nevada told our Gary Tuchman.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

GARY TUCHMAN, CNN NATIONAL CORRESPONDENT: Robert Klein is a biker, an army veteran and a registered Republican. He says he has never before voted for a Democrat for president. So why is the Nevada resident of a Democratic rally in support of Hillary Clinton? He says the first presidential debate is the reason. Before you watched the debate, who were you going to vote for?

ROBERT KLEIN, NEW CLINTON SUPPORTER: Donald Trump.

TUCHMAN: And the debate ended and what did you think?

KLEIN: Totally convinced, Hillary Clinton.

TUCHMAN: Following the debate, polling indicated a dramatic shift in Nevada, a big swing from Trump to Clinton. One of the biggest turn arounds in the country and that's because of people like Klein now attending his first ever Democratic rally.

Are you disappointed that Donald Trump didn't convince you that he should be president?

KLEIN: Absolutely, absolutely because I've always admired the man.

TUCHMAN: The 55-year-old says it wasn't anything Trump said during the debate that changed his mind.

KLEIN: It's the things he didn't say. You know, he never, ever speaks that he has a plan or he has some idea of what he's really getting into.

TUCHMAN: Shauneece Bonilla is a Nevadan who says she is an independent.

Before this debate, did you know for sure who you were going to vote for president?

SHAUNEECE BONILLA, NEW CLINTON SUPPORTER: No.

TUCHMAN: And do you know for sure today?

BONILLA: I do, yes.

TUCHMAN: And who is that?

BONILLA: I'll be voting for Hillary.

TUCHMAN: Bonilla says Clinton answered questions directly. And as for Trump ...

BONILLA: He kind of -- instead of answering the direct question, he kind of skirts around it.

TUCHMAN: Thomas Stark is a registered Democrat. But after Bernie Sanders dropped out, it was Clinton facing Trump.

THOMAS STARK, NEW CLINTON SUPPORTER: I wasn't enthusiastic about either one.

TUCHMAN: But after the debate, he also decided, yes for Clinton and no for Trump.

STARK: He reminded me of Richard Nixon. And the reason being is that it just looked like he was hiding too much from the get-go.

TUCHMAN: Donald Trump's Nevada campaign stops on this day are part of the effort to stop Clinton's momentum in the state.

And many Trump supporters here fervently believe the upcoming debates can help do just that.

DAVIS CROUCH, TRUMP SUPPORTER: I think it's sometimes about the issues that he'll win Nevada if he goes like the person then, he'll lose.

MICKEY WATSON, TRUMP SUPPORTER: Might have to have faith in humanity and in people and I think they're going to realize that she is crooked.

TUCHMAN: But Robert Klein says his decision is final.

Is it a weird feeling knowing that for the first time you're not going to vote for a Republican for president?

KLEIN: Yes, it is. I feel kind of a betrayal.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

COOPER: And Gary joins me now from Henderson, Nevada where Trump spoke in a rally earlier today. So the people you talk to, did any of them tell you that their family members or friends were surprised or upset that they're now voting for Clinton?

TUCHMAN: That did indeed happen, Anderson. Several people we talked with who have made the decision to vote for Hillary Clinton were afraid to go on camera because they did not want to get family members angry. They did not want to create embarrassment for their families.

One woman we talked to who decided to vote for Hillary Clinton after the debate has a son who works for a Republican politician here in Nevada. She's a good mom and she was concerned if she went camera, her son could lose his job. That we don't know if that could happen but you could see it's a very sensitive issue. Anderson?

COOPER: All right, Gary, thanks very much.

Just ahead, the Justice Department said a top secret intelligence was stolen from the NSA. The government contractor who allegedly took files home with him has been charged. Details ahead.

(COMMERCIAL BEAK)

[21:43:38] COOPER: Tonight, we're learning about another breach of top secret intelligence at the NSA. Government contractor was arrested back in August. The Justice Department has just now making it public. Our justice correspondent Pamela Brown has the latest details. So what do we know about this and how big of a deal is it?

PAMELA BROWN, CNN JUSTICE CORRESPONDENT: Well, it's a big deal according to federal authorities. They say unauthorized disclosure of the top secret documents that Harold Martin allegedly stole from his workplace could cause exceptionally grave damage to the national security of the U.S. and this is a picture of him right here.

And furthermore, Martin worked at Booz Allen Hamilton as a contractor to the National Security Agency, the same contractor, Anderson, that employed Edward Snowden. Among the documents the FBI believes Martin stole were some detail in the hacking tools that the NSA developed to break into computer systems in other countries.

And according to law enforcement officials documents detailing the tools were posted on the internet in recent months and we're told that the FBI and NSA had been suspicious of Martin for some time. And when those tools were released online, the investigation into him intensified. He was arrested in August but that wasn't made public until today, after the "New York Times" reported the story, the arrest. Anderson?

COOPER: So he worked for the same contractor who was working for the NSA that Edward Snowden worked for which I guess is Booz Allen. Do we have any idea what his alleged motivations were? Or who he was trying to give this to with anyone?

[21:45:03] BROWN: So at this point, investigators haven't concluded what his motivation is, Anderson, whether it was political like what we saw with Edward Snowden or profit driven. At this point, sources do say that the FBI does not believe that he was working on behalf of a foreign country. We should note that his attorneys have released a statement and that reads in part that this is yet another blow to the NSA after and -- I'm sorry, the statement isn't on here. But basically the attorney said that he's a good man, that he loves his family, that he loves his country and that these are simply allegations at this point, Anderson.

COOPER: After Snowden, was anything done to prevent future leaks? I'm sure they must have done some sort of security review.

BROWN: Right. And so there was a lot of effort done after the Snowden leaks, Anderson, to try to prevent future insider leaks, future insider threats. And so this is a huge blow to the NSA. The NSA and other national security agencies have been trying to prevent this very type of thing from happening. Not to mention, the NSA has been trying to rebuild its reputation. So this is a blow to the NSA and of course, to Booz Allen as we pointed out the same contractor that employed Edward Snowden, Anderson.

COOPER: Yeah, all right, Pamela, I appreciate the update. Thanks, Pamela Brown.

Up next, devastation in Haiti from Hurricane Matthew in Florida along with other parts of the southeast on alert. Evacuations tell you about underway tonight. The latest on the storm's path ahead.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

[21:50:14] COOPER: Welcome back. All of Florida is under a state of emergency with Hurricane Matthew in its sights. Florida Governor Rick Scott briefed the public earlier tonight, making the threat as plain as he could.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

GOV. RICK SCOTT, (R) FLORIDA: Protecting life is the number one priority right now. If Matthew directly impacts Florida, there will be massive destruction that we haven't seen in years. Again, this is a deadly storm approaching our state.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

COOPER: The hurricane has already left at least 10 people dead, caused massive damage in the Caribbean.

Our meteorologist, Jennifer Gray is with us again from the CNN Whether Center. So how far away from Florida is Matthew now and when will we begin to see impacts? When will we begin to see impacts?

JENNIFER GRAY, CNN METEOROLOGIST: Well, right now, it's about 360 miles southeast of Florida. The Governor is right. He's not being dramatic. This is a serious situation. We haven't had a major storm impact Florida since 2005, so it's been a very long time. With this being a transient state a lot of people are new, maybe never experienced a hurricane. This is going to be -- could be the most powerful storm we've seen impact this portion of the coast since history ever recorded, as far as storms are concerned.

So 115-miles-per-hour winds, 115-miles-per-hour (inaudible) moving to the northwest at 12. And it is starting to get itself back together again. It is going to strengthen a little bit more as it heads to the north and west. And so we could see a category four storm off the coast of Miami Dade, Broward County by Thursday afternoon 2:00 p.m. We'll start to feel the effects several hours before and then by the time we are just off the coast of say Cape Canaveral, the space coast Friday afternoon, category four. Now this could track farther to the west and that's going to have much bigger impacts than if it tracks a little bit farther to the east.

Beyond that it's going to curve back to the north and east and then a lot of uncertainty lies in what's going to happen in the beginning part of the week. We have a lot of time to watch it, so let's just take this one step at a time because this is a monster.

We talk about the models, the forecast models and a lot of times they don't like to agree. They're agreeing on this one. A lot of agreement in where this is going to be central coastal Florida, that space coast, there's the European model. There's the American model almost the exact same spot. So this afternoon, we finally had a lot of agreement and there's the forecast models. But like I said, Anderson, in the last hour, it's going to make a lot of difference.

And let's go to the floor and show you. It's going to make a lot of difference where exactly this is. Even the smallest shifts to the west or to the east is going to make a huge impact because hurricane- force winds extend about 45 miles from the center. And so if this storm tracks a little bit farther to the west, you are going to have those dangerous category four winds onshore. If this tracks a little bit farther to the east, then those winds are going to be offshore and so you will have most likely tropical storm-force winds along the coast but those 120-plus-miles-per-hour winds will most likely stay offshore.

So that's why it is so important that if you are ordered to evacuate, you do so, because with the smallest little shift to the west, it could mean that now you are in that danger zone and you are going to experience those winds 130-plus-miles-per-hour where before you didn't quite think so. And so that's why it's so important to evacuate if you are told to and definitely be on alert. Anderson?

COOPER: Yeah, a lot to watch for. Jennifer Gray, appreciate the update. Now as Jennifer mentioned evacuations are already underway in Florida, in Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina.

Our Sara Sidner joins us from Florida's Daytona Beach with the latest. So are you already starting to feel the effects of Matthew?

SARA SIDNER, CNN CORRESPONDENT: We can definitely feel the winds. We can hear the surf. We know that the surf is up. It is expected to go up to eight to 12 feet when this thing gets closer and closer and closer by sometime Friday.

We already see the effects when it comes to the population here. A lot of people have left. They have gone. We also checked into some of the stores and a lot of things are missing from the stores like gas canisters. We can't find those anywhere. Folks worried that the gas is going to run out and so they're going not only filling up their SUVs, their cars, they're also filling up canisters. We also know a lot of the water, the big pallets of water, can't find that anywhere. Generators gone, a lot of people though have evacuated. They are heading these warnings. There is not a mandatory evacuation yet here. But we know that the barrier highlands here that have about 150,000 people, Anderson, they have voluntary evacuations and they are heeding those.

Tomorrow those will be come mandatory and they are warning people again, just as you heard Jennifer Gray say, this is a monster storm. This is no joke. People are not being dramatic.

[21:55:00] Officials are concerned that if people stay behind when they're told to evacuate you are putting people who rescue other like firefighters and the police in danger and they do not want to do that. So they are telling everyone pay attention because obviously these storms can move and shift. But certainly there is a lot of concern here and we can see it in the streets because we're not really seeing anybody in them and normally, you know, it's a spring break town. There usually a lot of tourist here. It's pretty dead tonight. Anderson.

COOPER: All right, Sara Sidner, thanks very much, appreciate that. We'll continue checking with you. We'll be right back.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

COOPER: Well, we began tonight with new reporting on how Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton are preparing for the next presidential debate. Trump's going to be holding a town hall tomorrow in New Hampshire. It's kind of a dry run for the main event. Clinton said to be prepping much the same way she did for the first one. We'll all of course unfold Sunday in St. Louis. I'll be one of the moderators along with Martha Raddatz from ABC. Our coverage gets underway at 4:00 p.m. Eastern Time with barely a month to go to Election Day. The stakes, well, they cannot be higher.

[22:00:00] That does it for us. "CNN TONIGHT WITH DON LEMON" starts now. See you tomorrow.

**NEW\_DOCUMENT\_HERE**

Anderson Cooper, Jason Carroll, Jeff Zeleny, Tom Foreman, Jeffrey Lord, Paul Begala, Randi Kaye, Van Jones, Drew Griffin, Brett O'Donnell, David Gergen, Sunlen Serfaty

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[21:00:33] ANDERSON COOPER, CNN ANCHOR: Thanks for joining us tonight on "360".

Donald Trump just wrapping up a large rally tonight in swing state, Colorado. He spoke for about an hour, covering a broad range of topics, touching briefly on that "New York Times" story and how little he might have paid in taxes over a span of 18 years. There's that, as well as breaking news on a batch of new polling and more.

Our Jason Carroll is at the rally site in Loveland, just north of Denver. He joins us now.

So Trump addressing a really huge crowd. They're very enthusiastic to be addressed to -- or what did he say specifically about taxes?

JASON CARROLL, CNN NATIONAL CORRESPONDENT: Well, you know, once again, Donald Trump, as he did in his rally a little earlier in Pueblo, trying to turn the tables on this whole tax controversy, Anderson, basically saying that he used the tax laws that are in place to beat the system. He said, basically, quote, he said, "My job was to minimize the tax burden, not only on himself, but also on his family."

And when he addressed the crowd here, Anderson, he freely admitted that he benefited from the system that's in place.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

DONALD TRUMP, (R) PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE: The unfairness of the tax laws is unbelievable. It's something that I've been talking about for a long time. You've heard me talking about it. Despite being a very big beneficiary, I must admit. I am. I am. I'm a big beneficiary. But you're more important than my being a beneficiary, so we're going to straighten it out and make it fair for everybody.

I understand the tax laws better than almost anyone, which is why I am the one who can fix them, and that is what I commit to you. I will do it. As a businessperson, I've legally used the tax laws to benefit, really, I mean, it's to my benefit, and to the benefit of my company, my investors, my employees, my family.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

CARROLL: He also had, Anderson, Trump surrogates like former New York City mayor, Rudy Giuliani, Chris Christie, some of his surrogates out there, basically saying, look, Donald Trump is a financial genius for what he did. But going forward, what the GOP is going to have to sort of grapple with is, if it's OK for someone who's rich to beat the system, is it then OK for someone who's poor, possibly, on public assistance, to be able to legally beat the system as well? Maybe that will be a discussion going forward. We'll see.

But as for what happens right here, in this room tonight, the crowd really seemed to buy into Donald Trump's explanation.

COOPER: Turning to his -- I understand he also spoke about Clinton as well as Sanders?

CARROLL: He did. He did. We heard a lot of criticism about Hillary Clinton, basically, saying that she is the candidate of distraction. And something that we've heard before in reference to Bernie Sanders, he said that Bernie Sanders essentially signed a deal, what he said, signed a deal with the devil. It was interesting to hear him call Hillary Clinton a candidate of distraction. He said also that she likes to focus on small, petty things.

That's interesting, because, as you know, Donald Trump's own supporters some within the GOP have accused Trump as being basically the candidate of distraction. They wanted him to get off criticizing like a former Miss Universe and get on to addressing the issues heading into the debate.

COOPER: Jason Carroll, Loveland, Colorado. Jason, thanks.

From here on out, you can pretty much map out the days of the candidates in a correspondent swing state by swing state. New polling tonight in a number of those battlegrounds, including Ohio, where Hillary Clinton certainly joined the battle. More from Jeff Zeleny tonight.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

JEFF ZELENY, CNN SENIOR WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT: Hillary Clinton returning to Ohio for the first time in more than a month.

HILLARY CLINTON, (D) PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE: Hello, Toledo.

ZELENY: Just on time to seize on Donald Trump's taxes, or as she said, his lack of paying them.

CLINTON: In other words, Trump was taking from America with both hands and leaving the rest of us with the bill. ZELENY: Clinton is touting a "New York Times" report that says Trump may have avoided 18 years of federal taxes, after declaring a $916 million loss on his 1995 returns. She used it to raise more questions about one of his biggest selling points, his success as a businessman.

CLINTON: Yesterday his campaign was bragging, it makes him a genius. What kind of genius loses $1 billion in a single year?

[21:05:00] ZELENY: She's trying to erode Trump's Ohio advantage, and win over voters without a college degree, who are overwhelmingly siding with him.

A new Quinnipiac Poll today shows Trump up by five points in Ohio. She's made such infrequent visits to this key battleground state, the "Toledo Blade" wrote last week, where is Hillary? In two stops across Ohio today, Clinton pushed back hard, saying her policies would benefit working class voters far more than Trump's.

CLINTON: And you know, he has been dissing America in this whole campaign, right? He talks us down. He makes disparaging comments about our country.

ZELENY: She's hoping a new superstar endorsement will also help.

CLINTON: I hope to be elected president, but I know here in Ohio, LeBron will always be the king.

ZELENY: Cleveland Cavaliers' basketball great, LeBron James, said the children of his native Akron, and all cities, need Clinton in the White House. He wrote, "Hillary is running on the message of hope and unity that we need."

(END VIDEO CLIP)

As Hillary Clinton tries to build momentum for the second debate on Sunday, her campaign believes there may be a new opening for those white working class voters here in Ohio and elsewhere that they have struggled to win over. They believe that tax returns and the questions raised by them could give some of these voters a chance to give Hillary Clinton a second look. Anderson?

COOPER: Jeff Zeleny. Jeff thanks.

As we said, new polling from more than just Ohio, where Donald Trump has managed to increase his lead from last month by 8 percentage points. Plus, new CNN/ORC national number showing Hillary Clinton taking a 5-point lead among likely voters since the first debate, 47 to 42. Her gains coming largely from men where she's shrunk a 22- point gap to just five points now.

As for the new state by state polling, let's bring in our Tom Foreman who's been doing the heavy lifting all day. What's the breakdown, Tom?

TOM FOREMAN, CNN CORRESPONDENT: Hi, Anderson. Let's start with the big electoral prize down here. Quinnipiac looked at Florida, the Sunshine State, where Clinton came from a deadlock a month ago to now have a lead, 46 percent to Trump's 41 percent. People there thought she won the debate and they're rewarding her. Johnson at 5 percent, Stein at 2 percent, by the way.

If you move a little bit north up here to the light blue state, Virginia, same sort of story. People thought she won there. She's now at 42 percent, Trump is at 35 percent. Importantly, she made gains with millennials and with independent voters there, both groups, she said, she really needs.

But let's move up towards that Rust Belt, where Jeff was just a minute ago. In Pennsylvania, different story. They still think she won the debate, but not nearly the kind of balance she wants up there. She's at 45 percent, Trump was still at 41 percent in Pennsylvania, where he's been pushing that message that the entire Rust Belt has been hurt by her policies, particularly on trade, and I'll tell you, Anderson, across the line in Pennsylvania, LeBron James doesn't have as much influence.

COOPER: What about the western battleground battlegrounds, any movement there?

FOREMAN: Yeah. It's very different out in the west and different issues to consider. For example, Nevada over here, in yellow, this is a place that Democrats count on, having a strong showing, and Trump gave them a little bit of a scare. So they rallied their union folks out there and said, you need to come out and support this Democrat. That seems to be paying off. She's now 44 percent compared to 38 percent for Trump in a Suffolk Poll out there.

And then if you move to Colorado, light blue over here, same situation. Trump made a run at it, had them a little bit nervous, but big surge by Clinton. She is now very comfortably at 49 percent to 38 percent. Remember, Colorado voted for Barack Obama, the Democrat, in 2008, and 2012. It looks like Coloradans may be ready to go that way again. Anderson?

COOPER: All right, Tom Foreman. Tom thanks for breaking it down.

After weeks of warning viewers that polls really start mattering now, here we are, back with the panel, Maria Cardona, Van Jones, Paul Begala, Kayleigh McEnany, Jeffrey Lord and Andre Bauer.

Jeff, let me start with you. I mean, with these polls clearly not moving in a direction that's great for Trump, critically in Florida, Pennsylvania, and Nevada, without those three states, can he win, in your opinion?

JEFFREY LORD, TRUMP SUPPORTER: No. He certainly need some of these states, no question. I think he needs them. In my personal opinion, as an unbiased Pennsylvanian, he needs Pennsylvania. He was just there on Saturday. Huge crowds. I mean the Harrisburg "Patriot-News" ran a whole story saying that Democrats are making a huge mistake underestimating him, because these people, I mean, not only as he's done, and I've been to two of these things myself, not only are these huge arenas filled, there's thousands outside who can't get in. Hillary Clinton will be in Harrisburg in the next day or so, we'll see what kind of crowd she gets.

COOPER: Paul, what about -- because I mean I remember, I don't know, six weeks ago, John King sort of showing the electoral map, saying Trump only had a very slim window of how to get to 270. Then all of a sudden within a matter of weeks, it seems like there were multiple paths, and now here we are saying, oh, these latest polls show it's closing down for Trump.

PAUL BEGALA, PRO HILLARY SUPER PAC ADVISER: There was still only the path through Florida, Ohio, Pennsylvania. And Jeffrey's from Pennsylvania. This will shock you, but neither of us have a life. And so this weekend he was e-mailing me from, saying (ph) that Trump was out there campaigning. He went to Manheim, P.A., Lancaster County, a population of less than 6,000, and drew more than 6,000.

[21:10:02] A guy like me says that's pretty impressive. Now, but what we see in the polls is that his command of high school-educated white people is beginning to erode. Our last CCN poll, he was winning them by 44.

COOPER: Right.

BEGALA: President Obama lost them by 31.

COOPER: But she -- he's still winning by 22.

BEGALA: By 22. But President Obama was re-elected comfortably losing them by 31. College-educated white people, which no Democrat has ever won ...

COOPER: But you've always focused on that group.

BEGALA: Just disaggregated my fellow white people. I don't know if people with color can see, but I am white. But we divide by education. And Hillary is now in our poll, 13 points ahead among college-educated white people. I don't know if she can sustain that. But again, the president lost them by 12 and still won re-election.

It's a very difficult thing for both candidates, obviously, but for Trump it's much harder. His path is much more narrow.

COOPER: Van?

VAN JONES, FORMER OBAMA ADMINISTRATOR OFFICIAL: You know, and all this stuff makes me very happy. And I was very happy a couple of weeks ago. And then I was very sad, then I was very happy, then I was very sad. So ...

BEGALA: I'm here to make you sad. ObamaCare covers that now.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: It's the only thing it covers.

JONES: But look, what I think is obvious to me, when Donald Trump does dumb stuff, he just bleeds off support. UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Yeah.

VAN: I mean, you've got people out there who want to support this guy, but he gives them, you know, nausea, when he does crazy stuff. And so Hillary Clinton has done a brilliant job. She looks great. She's loose. She's giving us a lot of confidence. But I think a lot of what's going on here is, when he jumps on the pogo stick and acts crazy, people notice.

COOPER: Kayleigh, I mean do you think this is sign A that he lost the debate which he keeps saying online polls say he won. Certainly, he publicly says that he won. Is this a sign that most people thought badly?

KAYLEIGH MCENANY, TRUMP'S SUPPORTER: I think that's part of it. I think he didn't prosecute the case against Hillary Clinton as strongly as he could have. But it is worth mentioning. I was by Van seven days ago during one of his sad periods, when John King was up there saying, there are now multiple paths to 270. I think we're seeing a lot ...

COOPER: It made you a little happy to see Van sad.

MCENANY: But I think, you know, we've had two historically unfavorable candidates, and we're seeing like a volleyball back and forth momentum.

COOPER: Right.

MCENANY: And it just shows that anything can change on a dime in seven days. These debates are crucial, they're important, and they probably ...

COOPER: Do you agree with that, Andre? That's it -- I mean, it is this back and forth, which is ...

ANDRE BAUER, TRUMP SUPPORTER: Absolutely. It is -- for political wonks, it's actually, you know, it's competitive.

COOPER: Right.

BAUER: It's impressive that many people are paying attention. I do think we're missing a little bit of almost a Brexit situation. When you look at these rallies, the people that are coming out that never get involved in politics that are coming out in droves for Donald Trump, that will be an impact ...

COOPER: And you don't think it shows ...

BAUER: And then the other thing is, is the minority vote. Everybody, well, most media pundits have said, he's going to get 1 percent. Every poll now is showing much greater than 1 percent and he has made inroads there.

MARIA CARDONA, DEMOCRATIC STRATEGIST: Yeah.

COOPER: Maria?

CARDONA: That I'm not so sure of. But I will say that a day is a lifetime in politics, right? Anything can happen. And so what I would say to Democrats is what I've said from the very beginning. Let's pretend she's 10 points behind, because we still need to mobilize all of our people. Clearly, she needs to get millennials. She needs to get all of the voters of color.

But I do want to point to one thing that I think is happening, and that is starting to sink in and to become part of the trend that is very dangerous for Donald Trump. He started after the debate, with the Alicia Machado debacle, right? He could not get out of that. We were talking about that just yesterday. That is starting to sink in. To who? To critical demographics that he needs. Latinas, women, and even men who have daughters, who have sisters, who have mothers, who understand what it is to have this language that is so demeaning to women, that is sinking in. This tax issue is going to sink in, about how this is somebody who might talk a nice populist game, but at the end of the day, he doesn't give an "S" about the working people.

COOPER: She -- Clinton though is five points behind in Ohio still ...

JONES: Yeah. I mean, listen, I mean, the trade issues there, she's not been able to recover from. Sanders does well on those issues a lot better than she does. You know, what's so interesting though is you watch Donald Trump, when he's giving that speech, there's an endearing quality there. When he goes, you know what, I am a beneficiary. So you see that's the sort of the billionaire, blue collar billionaire kind of guy that people like. That's very different than that makes me smart, the Gordon Gekko of, you know, the campaign.

And so, he goes back and forth between being the Gordon Gekko, I'm, you know, good, you know, I'm a smart capitalist and, you know, (inaudible) like maybe, you know, you should benefit too. And I think what happened to him in that debate stage, there was a moment when you saw that side of him and that's going to stick.

CARDONA: Yes.

BEGALA: And Hillary today changed her style a little bit. Her speech in Toledo was much more populist than the more wonky Hillary that we usually get. This is why it's good to go to Ohio. I'm glad the "Toledo Blade" was attacking her for not coming there. She needs to be out there with blue collar white folks. They are not lost to her. She has cut Trump's lead in half nationally, but she still has work to do in Ohio.

[21:15:02] But by the way, having LeBron James does not hurt at all with any voters ...

COOPER: In terms of the upcoming presidential debate, I mean, do you think Donald Trump is going to practice?

MCENANY: He has to. Look, he has to, because you have to prosecute the case against Hillary Clinton. That means ... COOPER: Which I think -- and you raised this that he did a good job of that early on ...

MCENANY: Yes.

COOPER: ... in the debate, particularly on trade issues.

MCENANY: You are not going to have a softball given to you. You're not going to have a moderator say, tell me about Hillary Clinton's e- mail server. And what Hillary ...

LORD: Wait, who's the moderator?

COOPER: If only we knew.

MCENANY: But you're not going to get that softball. What Hillary Clinton did effectively was she was given a question, let's say, about finances and she turned it around, she's talked about Donald Trump's taxes.

COOPER: Right. To make a case against Trump.

MCENANY: Yes. So, we have to practice that skill set.

COOPER: All right. We're going to take a quick break. More with our panel ahead.

Also, we'll dig deeper into precisely how Donald Trump and other real estate developers in the past could use the law to pay far less in taxes than most Americans and maybe even today.

Speaking of most Americans, do you know these two individuals? And which one is which? See how many voters are stumped by the vice presidential candidates, Governor Mike Pence and Senator Tim Kaine.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

COOPER: Well, Donald Trump said he brilliantly used the tax code to his own advantage, but now promises he'll be working for all Americans to change it. Hillary Clinton is questioning his head for business after declaring nearly $1 billion in corporate losses from 1995. How this ultimately plays out, of course, remains to be seen. He spoke about it again late tonight in Colorado, touting his business survival skills and what he painted as some very tough times.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

[21:20:01] TRUMP: The news media is now obsessed with an alleged filings from the 1990s -- a along time ago -- at the end of one of the most brutal economic downturns in our country's history. The conditions facing real estate developers of the early '90s were almost as bad as the Great Depression in 1929 and far worse than the Great Recession in 2008, which was nothing compared to the early '90s. These tough times were when I performed my best and enjoyed it in certain way the most. The economy and the banks collapsing, the government was a mess, but I enjoyed waking up every single morning to go to battle and it was battle.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

COOPER: And back with the panel. Paul, you talked about this in the last hour, but I find it really fascinating as someone who is involved with a pro-Clinton super PAC, you're actually putting money on this. That you believe this resonates so deeply with voters that it's worth running commercials.

BEGALA: Right, it's a couple of things. There's the fundamental argument and there's four words that almost everybody in America agrees with, and they are, the system is rigged. The system is rigged. Now, nobody argues that Trump rigged the system, right? He didn't cause it. He isn't running the tax code. But when he exploits it like that, I think it really undermines his populist appeal. And then when he says, it makes me smart, that kind of arrogance that Van was talking about a little while ago, that really **alienates** voters.

You know, 61 percent -- it's a Gallup poll earlier this year, 61 percent of Americans say yeah, the rich should pay more. So the next step on this, you want my prediction of where this is going, is it Democrats like me are going to come out and say, well, now let's look at what Trump's plan is on taxes. Here's what it is. It cuts the estate tax to zero. A guy who inherited a vast fortune now thinks other heirs should pay nada, zip. It has a multitude of other tax codes and they're all for the rich.

And in fact, there's a net increase for the middle class. So I think when you start plowing through what would he do as president -- we know what he did as a businessman, right? He really exploited a rigged system in a shocking way, but as a president, he would actually make a bad system worse.

COOPER: Do you agree with that, Kayleigh?

MCENANY: No. I mean I think that -- I would love to talk about financial corruption. And then this is why I don't think it will work because there's ample material for Hillary Clinton. You know, we can talk about her taking millions of dollars in speaking fees at college campuses, feeding off of a student loans that are paid by students who now have a ton of debt or millions from foreign governments, foreign governments, by the way, that aren't that friendly to females or the homosexual community, like we could go into all of this. There's so much material with Clinton. So an effective Donald Trump in a debate will lob back with this information.

COOPER: Jeff?

LORD: Yeah, yeah. I mean he is going to go after this entire -- Hillary's paying taxes, taking advantage of the same thing that Donald Trump took advantage of. And the point is she's saying elect me because I'm experienced. Part of that service comes as a United States senator. If the system's rigged, she had a chance to change it. And she didn't do it and she's benefited from not changing it.

COOPER: Van, is that an argument that you think is going to resonate? JONES: Well I mean that -- I mean, well, it will for some people. But there's a real big false equivalence there, and it's -- between this. I'm not great at math, but zero versus 30 percent. Zero taxes, which is Donald Trump, 30 percent which is Hillary Clinton. And, you know, she did take a deduction on $770,000, which made her very rich -- no, actually, it got her $3,000.

So I just don't think that, you know, if we go back and forth enough times I think of the ...

LORD: You know, she can double her own taxes, you know that. I mean she wants to tax the rich, the IRS takes your money. Anybody could raise their own taxes. I don't understand if she feels so passionately about this, why she doesn't do that.

JONES: I'm so glad you actually raised that, because she actually did not take advantage of all of her deductions.

CARDONA: That's right.

JONES: And I think that's a very good point.

LORD: Well she did -- she could have paid even more than that. I don't understand why she doesn't.

JONES: I think a couple things here. I think if you're just a normal person, you're watching this situation, and you're trying to figure out who understands me. Not who understands the system. I'm sure they both understand the system. But who understands me. The fact that Donald Trump can't figure out that ordinary people are going to have a lot of heartburn and rug burn about this, creates distance.

The brilliant thing about this guy is he's the most unlike any other human on earth but he has somehow convinced a big section of the country that he is just like them. That is an act of pure political genius, that is genius, but it's getting eroded over these last few days.

CARDONA: Yes. It's getting eroded because I think Americans are starting to see the reality of the kind of life that he led and the arguments that he is making for why they should hire him to be commander in chief. And they are crumbling before our eyes, the fact that he was a good businessman. He's complaining about things being tough business wise in 1995? The economy is going gangbusters. Everybody was doing well. So, he lost almost $1 billion -- I'm sorry, not a good businessman. He declared bankruptcy six times. I'm sorry, not a good businessman in most people's eyes.

[21:25:00] And two things I think are critical in the poll that just came out. Hillary Clinton is beating him heads and shoulders above where he is in terms of the candidate who understands middle class voters. That is a critical piece. She has led so far and she is like up 13 points even from where she was before.

In addition, majorities of Donald Trump's supporters believe that paying your taxes is a civic duty. LORD: Maria, the counter to this argument is, if Hillary Clinton were such an experienced politician and such a great secretary of state, why is the world in this mess? Why do we have all these -- why is the tax code a mess? She -- her on-the-job performance has left a disaster.

(CROSSTALK)

JONES: Listen, I admire Hillary Clinton greatly.

CARDONA: Talk about Colin Powell ...

JONES: One second. I admire Hillary Clinton greatly, but at no point was she god, emperor of earth. At no point was she even president ...

BAUER: But she could propose legislation ...

CARDONA: And she did plenty of that.

COOPER: Andre?

BAUER: She has no real accomplishments as a United States senator other than naming a courthouse. That is her signature. Only piece ...

JONES: That's not true. 9/11?

CARDONA: That's a 9/11 ...

BAUER: ... of legislation she passed.

JONES: That's not true.

BAUER: She talked about creating tens of thousands of jobs in upstate New York, but how many did she create, Van? None, they lost jobs.

BEGALA: On the tax -- first off, on the substance, she also extended benefits for soldiers who were in the National Guard ...

CARDONA: Yes.

BEGALA: ... not just in the U.S. Army. She did a lot on homeland security and national security in the Senate. But on the tax question, she opposed the Bush tax cuts. Which rolled back her husband had this radical idea that the rich should pay more and the poor should pay less. And the economy boomed. Bush reversed that and cut taxes for the rich and the debts squander, we went into a massive recession. Thank God President Obama came in and went back to the policies ...

(CROSSTALK)

BAUER: ... But 20 percent of the people of this country pay 85 percent of the income tax. So I know Democrats love to ...

BEGALA: They have the most income. (CROSSTALK)

BAUER: How much do you make them pay?

COOPER: We've got to end it there.

Just ahead, the cork in the tax code that may explain how nearly $1 billion loss recorded by Donald Trump in 1995 may have been a write- off of money actually borrowed from others. We'll explain that, ahead.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

[21:31:12] COOPER: Welcome back. Donald Trump often says he knows how to win. It's a line he uses over and over in his speeches. But just five weeks from Election Day, the spotlight is on the report by "The New York Times" and Trump's loss of nearly $1 billion in his 1995 tax returns.

Now, Trump has said he knows the tax code better than anyone and has used the tax laws brilliantly. Tonight, senior investigative correspondent, Drew Griffin, drills down on how a loss that huge may not have been a loss at all, at least not in the way that most of us would think.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

DREW GRIFFIN, CNN SENIOR INVESTIGATIVE CORRESPONDENT: They are just three pages of what appears to be Donald Trump's state tax returns from 21 years ago. It's hardly enough to know the real picture of Donald Trump's wealth in taxes, but it is this stunning figure that has led to massive speculation, an almost $916 million loss. For what? Trump isn't saying.

But in the backwards logic of real estate developers, complex tax laws and the lawyers who exploit them, it could be that Trump has become wealthy, that he wins by losing.

STEVE ROSENTHAL, TAX EXPERT: Mr. Trump was a spectacular loser. He lost a lot of money from the casinos. He lost a lot of money from Trump Shuttle, the airline shuttle. And he lost a lot of money from the Plaza Hotel in New York, across the board, losing money, apparently.

Now, some of those losses may have been inflated by the generous tax sheltering that is afforded real estate developers of active managers of businesses.

GRIFFIN: We can't see Donald Trump's tax records, but experts speculate the $960 million loss may not exactly be a loss at all, at least not a loss of Trump's money.

Richard Lipton, a real estate tax expert in Chicago, says a quirk in an old law since changed in 2002, so favorably benefited real estate developers, that it is highly likely Donald Trump's 1995 write-off was actually a write-off of borrowed money. RICHARD LIPTON, TAX ATTORNEY: There was basically a real estate depression at that time. And the way the law worked at that point in time, if the losses were funded by debt, the losses would flow through to the developers, so you could easily see big numbers. I had one client who had a loss over $950 million during that time frame, individual, just like Mr. Trump.

GRIFFIN: How did it work? Take this simple example. A real estate developer wants to build a $100 million building. He puts up just $1 million of his own money and then borrows $99 million from a bank. If the entire project goes belly up, the bank loses its $99 million. The developer loses his $1 million, but on his tax return, that real estate developer can write-off the entire $100 million loss if the bank writes-off his debt, which happened a lot. Lipton, interviewed by speakerphone from Chicago, says it was an unintended gift from a poorly written tax code.

LIPTON: That was the quirk in the law, Drew. The tax payer did not have to pick up the cancellation of debt income, he just got the loss.

GRIFFIN: I'm gasping.

LIPTON: I understand why you're gasping, but it is just what the law said.

GRIFFIN: Taxpayer groups who keep an eye on Congress and the bills passed here say none of this is surprising.

RYAN ALEXANDER, TAXPAYERS FOR COMMON SENSE: That's exactly why we need to really look at the whole tax code and do a comprehensive reform and make decisions based on math, you know, kind of how much money do we need to raise to pay for the government that we collectively want?

(END VIDEO CLIP)

COOPER: Drew, I'm so glad you did that explainer, because it really sort of helps me understand and I think a lot of people. It sounds as if Trump may well have been taking those big write-offs based in large part on other people's money or the bank's money. Is there any way to know for sure?

[21:34:58] GRIFFIN: Well, there is certainly a way to know, if Donald Trump would just release his taxes. Show us what a genius he is and show us this tax strategy works.

But right now, we just have these three pages from a state tax form, 21 years old, and the rest of all of this is just all speculation on what it means.

COOPER: And Drew, there was some news today as well about the Trump Foundation.

GRIFFIN: Yes, the Democratic attorney general from New York over the weekend sent the Trump Foundation a letter saying, listen, you need to cease and desist any solicitation of money, because you are not properly registered with the State of New York. It turns out that the Trump Foundation hadn't filed the proper paperwork to be a legitimate charity in the eyes of the State of New York. So the attorney general there says, look, you can't raise anymore money until you do. He continues to investigate the Trump Foundation.

And I say Democratic attorney general of New York because part of the response from the Trump campaign was to raise an allegation that this may be more politics than substance, although the Trump campaign says, listen, we are going to comply with the State of New York and we are going to comply with the attorney general's investigation. We will get the paperwork filed.

COOPER: All right, Drew Griffin, appreciate the update. Thank you.

Just ahead, on the eve of the vice presidential debate, a revealing pop quiz in Central Park, how many people knew Tim Kaine and Mike Pence's names and what they actually looked like?

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

[21:40:18] COOPER: Well, at this time tomorrow night, Governor Mike Pence and Senator Tim Kaine will be facing-off in the first and only vice presidential debate of this election. Neither certainly is new to politics. They both have a lot of experience behind them. So, of course, they'll be familiar faces to everyone who watches tomorrow night's debate, right? Maybe not. Here's Randi Kaye.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

RANDI KAYE, CNN CORRESPONDENT: It appears the vice presidential candidate has some work to do.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Honey, what's the other guy's name Mike Pence and who else?

KAYE: In New York City Central Park, we showed people voters' pictures of the vice presidential picks and more often than not got a blank stare. Watch what happened when we revealed a picture of Hillary Clinton's running mate, Tim Kaine.

Who is this? Long Pause.

SERENA FALION, VOTER: I have no idea.

KAYE: Who's that?

MARK SELVAGGI, VOTER: I have no idea.

KAYE: You're not starting out well.

SELVAGGI: I know. I have no idea who that is.

KAYE: These women were so confused by Kaine's picture. They asked strangers passing by for an assist.

You know who this is? UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Yes.

KAYE: Oh, you're getting help from strangers.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Can you help us out?

KAYE: Give a shout out.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: He's somebody's running mate.

KAYE: They even struggled to name Mike Pence after I offered up his initials.

M.P.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: No.

KAYE: Nothing?

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: No.

KAYE: No? Pence. Does that sound familiar? Mike Pence?

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: No.

KAYE: And they still weren't clear he was even running. Is he running?

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Definitely not.

KAYE: Definitely not running?

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: No.

KAYE: They had to guess on which ticket.

Is he Republican or Democrat? You have no idea?

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: He looks Republican.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Looks pretty Republican to me.

KAYE: So that would mean he's running with Donald Trump?

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: I think so.

KAYE: This guy wasn't clear on Tim Kaine's party affiliation.

Is he Republican or Democrat?

SELVAGGI: He looks Republican.

KAYE: He's a Democrat. You only have two choices there.

SELVAGGI: Yeah, I know, right. OK.

KAYE: His initials are T.K.

SELVAGGI: T.K., Tim Kaine?

KAYE: Yes.

SELVAGGI: Oh, so that's Tim Kaine? OK.

KAYE: Yeah. So you've never seen him before?

SELVAGGI: I have not.

KAYE: Not only had he never seen Tim Kaine, but he had no idea what Pence's first name was.

Who is this guy?

SELVAGGI: That's Tim Pence, or John Pence. It's Pence.

KAYE: Billy Pence, whatever you want to say. Are you asking me or are you telling me.

SELVAGGI: That's Pence.

KAYE: He knew which ticket he was on, but struggled with Mike Pence's home state?

Do you know where he was governor?

SELVAGGI: Arkansas? Alabama?

KAYE: No. Starts with an "I."

SELVAGGI: Indiana.

KAYE: There you go. Nicely done, Mark. Thanks for playing.

These guys failed the Tim Kaine geography trivia.

Do you know where he's from?

SEAN RILEY, VOTER: Indiana.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Ohio.

RILEY: Ohio.

KAYE: Two strikes.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: One of the states that matters.

KAYE: That's good.

RILEY: Virginia, Virginia.

KAYE: Yes. Nicely done.

Just to mix things up, I threw in this picture of New Jersey Governor Chris Christie.

Is he running?

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: No. But he kind of looks like he's running, though. He stands behind Trump a lot.

KAYE: Perhaps Mike Pence and Tim Kaine could use a little more face time standing by their candidates.

Randi Kaye, CNN, New York.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

COOPER: Well, 24 hours from now, Tim Kaine and Mike Pence will have their chance to make a lasting impression on voters.

Joining me now is Senior Political Analyst and former Presidential Adviser David Gergen, also debate coach, Brett O'Donnell who served as Director of Messaging for the McCain presidential campaign.

Brett, so, you know, clearly Pence and Kaine suffer from, maybe some facial recognition issues. Is that a priority for them tomorrow night just getting their name and face out there, or is it more about sort of getting the message of their running mate out?

BRETT O'DONNELL, DEBATE COACH: Well, it's both. I mean, any goal for any debate is for voters to get to know you. And for these two, the big question mark is, should something happen, God forbid, to either one of their running mates, are they fit to be president of the United States? So they have to pass that competency test and one thing for sure is voters have to get to know who they are, because by and large, we don't know them.

COOPER: And David, I mean, there's definitely daylight between Pence and Trump on a lot of issues while he hasn't joined the call for the top of the ticket to release his taxes. Pence personally did release his taxes. Do you expect that to come up tomorrow night? And, I mean, it clearly will on the Democratic side. I don't know if the debate moderators will bring it up, but certainly Kaine will.

DAVID GERGEN, FORMER PRESIDENTIAL ADVISER TO REAGAN, FORD, CLINTON & NIXON: Tim Kaine is going to raise it more than once. You know, Anderson, usually ...

COOPER: He's going to wear it on his t-shirt, I imagine.

GERGEN: You know, usually these are inconsequential affairs. People wake up the day after not knowing anymore about the candidates than they just did in Central Park today.

But I think this is one of the few that you really have to say, this matters. It's not only the fact that we have two candidates at the top of the ticket who are going into their 70s, among the oldest, ever to be in the presidency, and therefore, you know, the vice presidents have to be ready to go. [21:45:09] But it's also that this campaign is breaking open now toward Hillary Clinton. And Mike Pence's role is to try to reverse the momentum of the campaign that was talking about something two or three days from now there is not the Donald Trump's taxes or is not as a foundation, but is about some of the issues that the Trump team cares about, the **immigration**, the economy, job creation. They've got to change the subject and change the momentum.

COOPER: Brett, what do you think Kaine's biggest vulnerability is?

O'DONNELL: Well, I think that one of the things that Mike Pence will go after is the difference between the two on a couple of essential core issues, like trade and even abortion and also on the use of military force. Those are three big things that Secretary Clinton and Senator Kaine differ on.

So he could try to drive a wedge there to expose those differences and talk about the position. You know, Trump was fairly effective talking out trade in the last debate. If Governor Pence can change the conversation back to a trade debate, then the campaign's back on offense.

COOPER: David, I want to look ahead to the next presidential debate. What do both candidates you think need to accomplish? And do you think Donald Trump is going to be able to change things out from the last debate?

GERGEN: That's a really good question, Anderson, because I think if he does lose two in a row, it doesn't make much difference what happens on the third debate, unless there's some extraordinary event. So I think this one is one that Trump needs to win.

And we haven't seen any evidence so far that he's settling down and really trying to bone up and trying to prepare himself in a different way. And he got swept last time because she was so much better prepared than he was.

COOPER: Brett, I mean, we've seen a lot -- Trump's had a lot, you know, kind of rough go of it since the last day, a lot of ups and downs in the campaign. Do you see the next debate as make or break for him?

O'DONNELL: Well, it's certainly a big debate. You know, in 2004, George W. Bush had a poor first debate and made a come back in the second debate. Last cycle, Barack Obama had the same problem, made a big come back in the second debate.

Town hall debates are different from the regular podium debates. It offers Trump an opportunity, but I do think that the pressure is on him.

GERGEN: Yeah. Anderson, it's also been true that the only times we've seen when someone lost the first debate and came back and won the second debate and move on into victory was when incumbents did that. An incumbent would lose the first debate then win that second one. We've never seen a challenger lose the first one, come back and win a second and won the victory.

COOPER: Why do you think that is? And why is it easier for an incumbents to sort of have a come back, because we know them more?

GERGEN: Yes. We know them more and they are given a little bit of, you know, they can always say, "Oh, God, they were rusty and they weren't quite ready." But the pressure has been on them in that second debate and both Reagan and Obama came back very strongly in that second debate.

But challengers, you know, we make -- we judge people quickly and a lot of people made up their minds in that first debate is for Donald Trump to change people's minds and to say he's really a better debater and more ready for the office, big hill to climb and that's why I'm amazed he is not bunkering down and getting -- really getting ready for it.

COOPER: And Brett, the question is not just on issues, but will Donald Trump continue to take the bait if Secretary Clinton go, you know, sort of dangles it in front of him like she did the last time?

O'DONNELL: Well, that's the big question. He's got to stay on offense the entire debate. I mean, winning or losing these things is based straight on offense. Who is the more aggressive in the debate, able to prosecute their attacks better? That's what these are about. If Donald Trump can do that, then he could turn the tide.

He had plenty of opportunities in the last debate and just missed so many wide open opportunities for himself. It wasn't that Secretary Clinton was fantastic, it was that Donald Trump took the bait and stayed on defense.

COOPER: Brett O'Donnell and David Gergen, good discussion. Thank you, guys. Appreciate it.

GERGEN: Thank you.

COOPER: Up next, with less than 24 hours to go until the vice presidential debate here one CNN, we'll take a look back at some of the best and worst moments from previous vice presidential face-offs, including this moment from the 2008 campaign.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

SARAH PALIN, (R) VICE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE: Nice to meet you. Can I call you Joe?

(END VIDEO CLIP)

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

[21:53:00] COOPER: Record 84 million people watched the first presidential debate. Tomorrow night is the vice presidential candidates turn to face off, the only chance for that number two is on the ticket to take center stage, it's an opportunity for them to come out of their running mate's shadows and make their own moment. Sunlen Serfaty reports tonight.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

SUNLEN SERFATY, CNN CORRESPONDENT: Now in the national spotlight it's high stakes for the vice presidential contenders to soar or stumble.

VICE PRES. JOE BIDEN, (D) UNITED STATES: With all due respect, that's a bunch of malarkey.

SERFATY: There have been the one-line zingers.

WALTER MONDALE, (D) VICE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE: I think Senator Dole has richly earned his reputation as a hatchet man tonight.

SERFATY: Which go on to become the breakout moment of the debates.

LLOYD BENTSEN, (D) VICE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE: Senator, I served with Jack Kennedy. I knew Jack Kennedy. Jack Kennedy was a friend of mine. Senator, you're no Jack Kennedy.

SERFATY: And miscalculations like Admiral Stockdale in 1992 trying to poke a little fun at his own experience.

ADMIRAL JAMES STOCKDALE, (I) VICE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE: Who am I? Why am I here? I'm not a politician.

SERFATY: That fell flat and opened up their ticket to late night jokes instead.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Who am I? Why am I here?

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Well, you're the admiral and you're taking a joy ride.

SERFATY: In 2008 the relatively unknown first-term governor from Alaska was facing questions over her experience, going up against a well-established U.S. Senator Joe Biden.

PALIN: Hey, can I call you Joe?

SERFATY: Those six words within the first few seconds of the debate created her big moment, seen as a successful move to disarm her competitor.

PALIN: Say it ain't so, Joe. There you go again.

SERFATY: The first woman who took the V.P. stage in 1984 capitalized quickly on her opponent's first misstep.

GEORGE H.W. BUSH: Let me help you with the difference Ms. Ferraro between Iran and the embassy in Lebanon.

SERFATY: Geraldine Ferraro calling George H.W. Bush out for that on stage

GERALDINE FERRARO, (D) VICE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE: I almost resent, Vice President Bush, your patronizing attitude that you have to teach me about foreign policy.

[21:55:04] SERFATY: The vice presidential debates provide a key test for the person who could be a heartbeat away from the presidency, answering the question on voters' minds, are they capable to assume the job as president.

TRUMP: She doesn't have the stamina, and I don't believe she does have the stamina. To be president of this country, you need tremendous stamina.

CLINTON: As soon as he travels to 112 countries and negotiates a peace deal ...

SERFATY: Another key question that could factor in more this year as issues of health and age for both Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton swirl.

TRUMP: The main quality that you want is somebody that can be a great president if something happens to you, that's got to be -- don't you think that's got to be number one?

SERFATY: A duty both candidates seem to be taking seriously.

CLINTON: I want to be sure that whoever I pick could be president immediately if something were to happen.

SERFATY: Sunlen Serfaty, CNN, Farmville, Virginia.

COOPER: Well, tomorrow night's vice presidential debate 9:00 p.m. Eastern right here on CNN. We'll be right back.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

COOPER: Quick reminder, we got two big debates coming up this week. The first tomorrow night between vice presidential candidates, Republican Mike Pence and Democratic Tim Kaine, coverage begins tomorrow afternoon 4:00 Eastern Time, debate starts at 9:00 p.m. Then Sunday, Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump in Saint Louis. ABC's Martha Raddatz and I will be moderating. A lot on the line, a campaign in the balance right now.

[22:00:05] "CNN TONIGHT" with Don Lemon.

**NEW\_DOCUMENT\_HERE**

Anderson Cooper, Sara Murray, Gloria Borger, Kayleigh McEnany, Scottie Nell Hughes, Van Jones, Jeff Zeleny, Rick Lazio, Brian Todd, Maria Cardona, Randi Kaye

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[20:00:13] ANDERSON COOPER, CNN ANCHOR: Good evening. Thanks for joining us.

Both Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump were right back on the campaign trail today after a debate that was historic on a number of fronts. It was the most watched debate in American history, an estimated 84 million people tuning in.

It was the first time a woman took the debate stage as a presidential nomine from a major political party. And although this is something we haven't bothered the fact checkers with, I think it's fairly safe to say was the only time a hypothetical 400-pound bedridden cyber attacker, a former Miss Universe, and Rosie O'Donnell came up in a presidential debate. We're going to get to all of that over the next two hours.

In a CNN/ORC poll, a clear majority says Clinton won the debate. Trump meanwhile is claiming victory, but also suggesting someone might have given him a bad microphone.

Now, as I mentioned, his back on the campaign trail, holding his first post-debate rally tonight in Florida.

Our political reporter Sara Murray is there. She joins me now.

So, what did Trump have to say about his debate performance last night?

SARA MURRAY, CNN POLITICAL REPORTER: Well, Anderson, Donald Trump is still insisting he won the debate. Even though some of his supporters at his rally say they believe he may have missed some opportunities to go after Clinton. And right here, he said that he was holding back against Clinton, that he didn't want to embarrass her, even as he hammered her performance last night, saying it was over-rehearsed, saying it was scripted.

And it's been an interesting rally, Anderson, because we're really seeing sort of a flashback to the Republican primary Donald Trump. He each keeps interrupting his own voice to tout battleground states polls where he's leading and to bash the media that's obviously a valuable line of attack coming out of his campaign, to go after the dishonest press as he put it and says they are essentially misrepresenting his debate performance and his position -- Anderson.

COOPER: He seems to be reattempting to sort of reset the narrative. How is that going? Or how is he trying to do that?

MURRAY: I think he's absolutely attempting to reset the narrative. If there were missed opportunities for him last night, he's certainly not leaving any of those on the table tonight. He's going after Hillary Clinton right now behind me about her e-mails. He's brought that up multiple times tonight.

And the framework he's trying to do, he's trying to essentially paint her as the candidate of the past and to say she's had decades in politics and all she's done is delete her e-mails or set up the State Department and the Clinton Foundation and essentially use it as a corporation for pay to play, as if this is really something that they believe is the big picture that could be effective for them going forward, is casting Donald Trump the candidate of change and casting Hillary Clinton as a typical politician.

COOPER: All right. Sara Murray, Sara, thanks.

Our Randi Kaye was also at the Trump rally in Florida tonight. She spoke with Trump supporters about how he did in debate. Here is a little bit of that went.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: They're saying less about his taxes. I would care less about Hillary's taxes. We're not going to vote more him for his taxes. We're voting for him to clean up this country, get rid of the dirty politician and whatever they can do to make this America great again.

RANDI KAYE, CNN CORRESPONDENT: Do you think he was prepared?

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: I do think he was prepared. He's prepared for everything.

KAYE: Do you think he made any mistakes?

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: I don't think he made mistakes.

KAYE: Do you believe he respects women?

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: I believe yes he does.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

COOPER: I have more reaction from Trump supporters later in the program. Right now, we got a lot to talk about with the panel.

Joining me, Clinton supporter and former Sanders surrogate Jonathan Tasini, former Obama administration official Van Jones, CNN chief political analyst Gloria Borger. Trump supporters Kayleigh McEnany and Scottie Nell Hughes. Gloria, I mean, Trump is saying he won all the online polls. We obviously don't use online polls because usually it's something anybody can click on as many times as they want or call in or whatever. And it's not an actual legitimate poll. But he says he won nevertheless.

What happens now?

GLORIA BORGER, CNN CHIEF POLITICAL ANALYST: Well, I think we have to wait four or five days to see what this does to the polls in the campaign. It could be a stasis where it just sort of settles. The Clinton people I spoke with today were kind of downplaying it, spinning it lower saying, we don't expect the polls to go up.

But in fact, if she doesn't get a couple of points bump out of this, it won't be good for her. I think what we're seeing is Hillary Clinton taking a little bit of a victory tour today. You saw that in her tone today.

And what Sara Murray is talking about I think is really significantly, because we see Donald Trump emerging from this debate unfiltered to a great degree, swinging, taking swings at targets like we used to see during the primaries.

COOPER: And still this morning talking about Miss Universe when asked about it on FOX News and kind of rehashing that.

BORGER: And complaining about the mic.

COOPER: Right. We'll also -- well, we'll talk to her actually, Ms. Machado, later on in the broadcast.

But, Kayleigh, Donald Trump talked afterwards in the spin room about this threat about bringing up Bill Clinton's infidelities down the road. I want to play what we said to Dana Bash.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

DANA BASH, CNN CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT: Anything that you wish you did differently?

DONALD TRUMP (R), PRESIDENTIAL NOMINEE: No, I'm very happy I was able to hold back on the -- you know, on the indiscretions with respect to Bill Clinton, because I have a lot of respect for Chelsea Clinton.

[20:05:09] And I just didn't want to say what I was going to say --

BASH: Which is?

TRUMP: Which is I'll tell you maybe at the next debate. We'll see.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

COOPER: I also want to play what Mayor Giuliani said about the same topic.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

RUDY GIULIANI (R), FORMER NYC MAYOR: I sure would have talked about what she did to Monica Lewinsky, what that woman standing there did to Monica Lewinsky, trying to paint her as an insane young women, when in fact, Monica Lewinsky was an intern. And the president of the United States, her husband, disgraced this country what he did in the Oval Office. And she -- she didn't just stand by him, she attacked Monica Lewinsky. And after being married to Bill Clinton for 20 years, you didn't know the moment Monica Lewinsky said that Bill Clinton violated her and she was telling the truth, then you're too stupid to be president.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

COOPER: As a Trump supporter, do you wish he would have gone down that road last night or do you think it could backfire?

KAYLEIGH MCENANY, CNN POLITICAL COMMENTATOR: No, I agree with Mr. Trump that he shouldn't have brought it up and it's good that he didn't. However, logically, I understand the point that Rudy Giuliani is making, because there are a lot of woman who step back and said, you know, there's sexual assault accusers who say they weren't heard and listened to as Ms. Clinton herself said every sexual assault survivor should be heard and listened to. There were several who were not when it came to her personal circumstances.

So, logically, I understand the point and I think Rudy Giuliani is making the point clearly. But I don't think that Donald Trump should have brought it up on the debate stage. He did what he did and he did it expertly.

COOPER: Scottie, do you wish Donald Trump would have done better own the birther issue, on the questions of his tax returns? Both questions which were probably kind of pretty obvious that they might come up?

SCOTTIE NELL HUGHES, CNN POLITICAL COMMENTATOR: I'm glad they come up. I hope that is the end of it. You know, that has been the question today. Did he miss opportunities? I think so. But I think he purposely missed opportunities because we have two more debates to go. If this is all Hillary Clinton can do, if this is all she has to show and last night was it, we still have a few more weeks until the election.

COOPER: You think he purposely didn't pivot in order to hit Hillary Clinton on topics which --

(CROSSTALK)

HUGHES: We will find out in the next debate. I guarantee he will learn the art of pivoting when it comes to debate because he had never done that before. He'd never been on a stage with someone like here.

And possibly, why sit there and reveal all of your cards right now? Why not hold some of them back --

COOPER: Because this debate will have the largest audience in human history and the other ones probably won't.

HUGHES: Except with the some of the teases that we've seen. I guarantee the next time people will come -- I say, if this is the best Hillary Clinton can show, if this is her best fire that she had against Donald Trump, she's done. We don't even know if this is going to get that much of a debate and all the online polls said Donald Trump did win.

COOPER: But, you know, online polls mean nothing.

HUGHES: But we're also talking "TIME", CNBC, "The Hill", "Fortune" --

COOPER: Right. Those are online polls.

HUGHES: But you also get the CNN poll which David Chalian last night admitted that it was actually a poll that was skewed more towards the Democrats than the Republicans and the numbers reflected that.

COOPER: You do admit that online polls are --

HUGHES: Absolutely, but you know what this is all she had, she's been an overwhelming victory and they can't claim it.

COOPER: So, Van, the idea that he could have pivoted or that they did practice it. It seems hard to imagine that wasn't something they had suggested to him or gone over in whatever debate prep they did.

VAN JONES, CNN POLITICAL COMMENTATOR: Look, you are starting to see something that should be troubling to everybody. Donald Trump has been very, very good the past couple of weeks, frighteningly good from my point view. He's been disciplined. He's listened to his advisors and he's been rising in the polls.

He walked up there last night. He got rattled. Somebody said some mean things and now he's on a tear and he's just tearing up the playbook and doing whatever he wants. That is dangerous in a leader. Sometimes, guess what, when you are a leader, bad things happen to you. It doesn't mean you abandon your strategy and start doing crazy stuff and that's what's happening now.

COOPER: Jonathan, I mean, were you surprised -- I mean, you're obviously not a Trump supporter. But were you surprise perhaps pleasantly that Donald Trump did not find a way to bring up the wall, to brick up **immigration**, to bring you will Mexico, national security. Any of the things that he talks about all the time, that there were certainly opportunities where he could have instead of talking about going down the rabbit hole and Sean Hannity and call Sean Hannity and things like that.

JONATHAN TASINI, HILLARY CLINTON SUPPORTER: No, but I think what we saw was the Donald Trump that I think is the real Donald Trump which he's unhinged and he's deranged. And when he was knocked off stride, he couldn't collect himself. And so, you saw somebody, I found it curious and interesting to watch the undeclared voters, the ones that Pamela Brown was talking to. And one of them when Donald Trump said, you know, I have the best temperament of anybody. I think there was a laugh across the whole country when he stayed that because nobody believes he has the best temperament and I think that showed and therefore, I don't think you get to those things you talk about whether it be the wall or other issues. He was thrown off stride. It was very difficult for him to come back to that.

COOPER: Did it concern you all that -- I mean, it seems so obvious some of the things that Hillary Clinton was bringing up in order to kind of goad him. Your dad gave you $14 million. That's what you started off your business life with. I mean, that's an obvious, you know, poke at Donald Trump and he went for it.

[20:10:03] It seemed like every time she would bring up something, like jingling shining object, he would go and reach for it and waste valuable time. No?

MCENANY: Well, he would explain it and I think that -- I agree with Scottie that he did need to explain his birther point of view and he did need to get those explanations and he did that not because Hillary goaded him to do so, but because he was responding to the questions asked and responding to her.

I do think he should have talked about her email scandal more. But I do also think that what he saw last night was brilliant when he said, looked at Hillary Clinton, and said, this is all politician. It's all talk. No action. Sounds good. Doesn't work.

COOPER: That was early on.

MCENANY: That defines his candidacy.

COOPER: Without a doubt, he was very effective, I thought early on in prosecuting a case against Hillary Clinton and making a case for himself.

BORGER: These were predictable, as you say. And the fact that he didn't pivot to talk about transparency, to talk about the Clinton Foundation. When she attacked him on not policing his taxes, it was kind of stunning to me.

And I think -- you know, I ran into somebody who knows Donald Trump very well after the debate. Who said he just can't help himself. When you poke him, he has to respond personally about it.

JONES: And part of the danger of this if you're going to be commander in chief is that people figure that out, and they start gaming you, and that's very dangerous.

COOPER: We got a lot more to talk about ahead, including Hillary Clinton's day. As we said, she was deemed the winner in a CNN/ORC poll and today, she came out swinging, celebrating. Will her performance last night change anything in the race? That, of course, is a big question. Plus, the former beauty queen who became part of last night's debate, as we mentioned. Donald Trump is keeping up his comments about Alicia Machado. We'll dig into how she became part of the presidential race and we'll talk to her coming up as well.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

[20:15:21] COOPER: With the dust still settling from their first face off, both candidates back on the campaign trail. According to a CNN/ORC poll, 62 percent of registered voters who watched last night's debate thought Clinton win, 27 percent said Trump did better.

I want to point out what Scottie mentioned last segment that the survey suggested debate watchers more apt to describe themselves a as Democrats than the overall pool of voters. Even among independents who watched, 54 percent thought Clinton won, versus 33 percent who said Trump won.

It's clear how Hillary Clinton and her team think last night win.

Jeff Zeleny tonight takes a look.

(BEGIN VIDEOTAPE)

HILLARY CLINTON (D), PRESIDENTIAL NOMINEE: Did anybody see that debate last night?

(CHEERS)

JEFF ZELENY, CNN SENIOR WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT (voice-over): There is a new spring in her step tonight.

CLINTON: Oh yes. One down, two to go.

ZELENY: Flying to a rally in North Carolina, Hillary Clinton reveling in the strong reviews from her first face-to-face meeting with Donald Trump.

CLINTON: You should know when I set my minding something, I keep going. I don't quit, whatever the static, whatever the incoming is and that is what I'll do for the American people.

ZELENY: The most watched debate in history, more than 80 million viewers on television alone came just in time for Clinton. She's locked in a tight race with Trump, nationally and in critical battlegrounds.

On the campaign trail today, Clinton picked up where she left off on stage. After hitting Trump for not releasing his tax returns --

CLINTON: Maybe because you haven't paid any federal income tax for a lot of years.

ZELENY: She pressed the point even harder today.

CLINTON: And I got to that point where maybe he's paid zero. He said that makes him smart. Now, if not paying taxes makes him smart, what does that make all the rest of us.

ZELENY: For preparing for debate and presidency.

CLINTON: He made it very clear that he didn't prepare for that debate. I did prepare and I tell you something else I prepared for. I prepared to be president of the United States and I think that's good.

ZELENY: To her charge that he's built his business by stiffing the little guy.

CLINTON: Stiffing people -- dish watchers, painters, plumbers, architects, glass installers, marble installers, drapery installers across America.

ZELENY: Democrats fanned out across the country to file on Trump.

BILL CLINTON, FORMER PRESIDENT: Did she have a good debate or what?

ZELENY: From former President Bill Clinton in Ohio to running mate Tim Kaine in Florida.

SEN. TIM KAINE (D), VICE PRESIDENTIAL NOMINEE: Boy, it really shows just how rattle he was.

ZELENY: But with 42 days to go, and the second debate less than two weeks ago, Clinton made clear the fight was just beginning.

CLINTON: This election is going to be close. They are all are these days.

(END VIDEOTAPE)

COOPER: And, Jeff, you've been talking to the Clinton campaign. I understand they think thinker debate performance might actually move the needle with certain voters. What did they say?

ZELENY: Anderson, they certainly hope it will. And they point to these two demographic groups. First of all, college-educated women. Think of a Republican or an independent in the suburbs of any battleground state, like Philadelphia for example. Their focus groups believe and their research shows that they were offended by Donald Trump and more open to supporting Hillary Clinton.

This is the kind of voter who doesn't necessarily love Hillary Clinton but now they believe Donald Trump is unacceptable. And the second is young voters.

Anderson, one of the challenges of the Clinton campaign has been these millennial voters. Why she was on a college campus tonight, will be there again tomorrow. But these young voters are also considering a third party candidate. The Clinton folks believe the performance last night shows them why this election is actually important, why their vote is needed. And that's why Bernie Sanders will be on the campaign trail tomorrow on a college campus in New Hampshire at Hillary Clinton's side -- Anderson. COOPER: All right. Jeff Zeleny -- Jeff, thanks.

Back with the panel. Joining the conversation as well, CNN political commentator and former New York congressman, Rick Lazio, who ran against Clinton in 2000 Senate race.

Congressman, you actually have been on a debate stage going against Hillary Clinton.

RICK LAZIO, CNN POLITICAL COMMENTATOR: Yes.

COOPER: I'm wondering, the Clinton you remember from your debate versus the Clinton you saw last night. How do you think she did last night? What did jump out at you?

LAZIO: I think she was more impressive last night. She was more measured. She had her facts together. She does her homework. She did back when she debated against me.

She doesn't make a lot of unforced errors. I think people may have been expecting that. That wasn't going to happen. The case really was whether Trump was able to make the case for him as president.

And I think it's really interesting that last night I was coming up my elevator at my apartment building. And I talked to millennial couple, speaking with millennials who at the debate party, with 20 other millennials and I asked them, too, what do you think, what was your reaction? They said, we laughed through the 30 minutes and then they were depressed afterwards.

[20:20:00] And I said, well, who did you vote for last time I said? They said, we voted for Obama but we don't just -- we don't know what we're going to do.

So, in terms of moving groups, I'm not sure there were that many people. I do think that Trump missed a lot of opportunity by being so defensive and going so off message. He didn't really prosecute the case properly on the economy. He had so much to say in terms of --

COOPER: And as far as you're concerned, is that just lack of debate preparation?

LAZIO: I think it's a combination of a lack of debate preparation, maybe a lack of discipline, and really in your mind sort of organizing it so that you can put somebody else on defense.

COOPER: Having a strategy.

LAZIO: Yes, it really took him, Syria, Somalia, Egypt, Libya, I mean, around the world when she was secretary of state. If I was him I would have said is there one place that is better now than it was when you took office? What about that server when they called you extremely reckless? The FBI, the director, what were you doing? What were you thinking?

What about -- and in terms of just calling her, when she's challenging him on his credibility, I would have said let me just remind you about the situation you claim that snipers were shooting at you in Bosnia and then you repeated it? What were you thinking when you're doing that?

So, I think he missed some really fundamental opportunities to make the case about who she was on character and who he'd be on economy and things like charter schools.

COOPER: Scottie, do you think Donald Trump reached any voters he didn't already have last night?

HUGHES: No, but why he was successful, and what Hillary Clinton lost this morning, when people woke up, the women were not excited. You did not hear this great brouhaha, this great celebration of the first female president, she did great last night, let's go vote for her.

She needed to motivate females to be in support of her. She did not do that last night.

BORGER: We don't know.

HUGHES: You didn't. You didn't see it over -- that was not the narrative.

Plus, her goal was to paint last night Mr. Trump to be a sexist, bully, and guess what? That didn't work. That's not what we were talking about.

COOPER: But Donald Trump this morning was talking on television about, you know, Ms. Machado and continuing to say, she gained too much weight. He previously had said she was somebody who liked to eat. I mean, is that something he should be talking about still today?

MCENANY: No, I don't think he should have gone there to propel the story.

COOPER: It makes it a story again even more --

MCENANY: Sure. But that being said, and to the point last night, his campaign denies these accusation. It has a he said/she said. There is a host of characters we could bring on this show.

COOPER: He did say on television she likes to eat and she gained too much weight and sent media to watch her workout.

MCENANY: But what Clinton said on the stage, he said was false. We can Secret Service agents on here who have a lot of things to say about Hillary Clinton, like when she was in upstate New York and she allegedly said, according to Ronald Kessler of "The Washington Post" -- "The Washington Post" and "The Wall Street Journal" when she was there, she said, let's get the bleep out of her, there's no money here.

That's investigative reporting from "The Wall Street Journal". So if we want to get into third party hearsay, we can do that because I have a list of a dozen Secret Service officers who all have similar quotes like that.

COOPER: Go ahead, Jon.

TASINI: Go first, I'll follow.

JONES: I mean, I'm sure that people say bad things about people. I think that that might miss the point though. The point is that Donald Trump has tremendous problem with a section of women. And I don't think he did himself any favors today by doubling down and tripling down on this fat-shaming, this weight issue stuff.

And I don't think it shows -- it's one thing to be not disciplined, preparing for the biggest debate in the history of humanity and have no strategy. It's something else to realize you fell on your face and get up in the morning and say I want do more of that. That doesn't make sense and it doesn't -- I think get people convince him as commander in chief.

COOPER: Jon?

TASINI: The one thing I want to talk about is what Jeff mentioned in terms of demographics. He mentioned Hillary Clinton needing to do much better with the young voters. And we talked about this a week ago right here on the show. It struck me, one omission from Hillary Clinton's standpoint, that she never mentioned Bernie Sanders in the debate last night.

And there were two opportunities she could have done that. And Bernie Sanders people, our people want to hear an affirmation of what that campaign did. And there was one opportunity for example when climate change came up, when she correctly showed and pointed out that Donald Trump thinks climate change is a hoax. She could have said, folks, in the Democratic platform, we have the most far-reaching approach to climate change we have in our history. And that's thanks to Bernie Sanders and movement, and it commits me after I'm inaugurated, 100 days later to hold a summit on climate change, to actually implement it.

That would mean a lot to young voters and when she talked about inequality, let's face it. Bernie Sanders is the person who brought inequality into this debate. She should have at least found a subtle way of saying, I want to thank my friends Bernie Sanders who I will work with in the Senate to move --

COOPER: Gloria, I mean, it is to Jonathan's point, for her, it's critical to get millennials who are going in a lot of states to Gary Johnson.

BORGER: Yes, particularly if you look at the polling in the state like Colorado. She's bleeding millennials. She really needs them. She and Bernie Sanders are going to have to do more and I think they will.

TASINI: And he's campaigning with her tomorrow --

BORGER: That's right. But millennials include young women of color. [20:25:04] And just young white women who also might object to the Machado story, who might also why did he raise, you know, the best thing about the debate was I didn't raise Monica Lewinsky and Hillary Clinton's husband's infidelities. I don't see what that gets him either.

HUGHES: There is a reason he's doing so well with married women. And these women are the ones that are engaged in this election. I mean, he's 17 points up, according to the latest CNN poll, 17 points. It's a large -- and these women are the ones that are showing up at rallies and going to things. Barack Obama made history because he was the first African American president. Hillary Clinton staked her entire campaign on being the first female president and she's not winning with all of the female --

BORGER: But suburban Republican women are very persuadable right now and that's a problem for Donald Trump.

JONES: And Democrats haven't done well with married women for a while.

COOPER: Yes, let's take quick break.

Coming up, as we just talked about, the winner of one of Trump's beauty pageant says Donald Trump called her "Miss Piggy" and that he publicly humiliated her. Some point he said on television that she likes to eat. Trump continued this morning, saying this woman, quote, "gain a massive amount of weight", and it was a real problem.

I'll be speaking with Alicia Machado in the next hour of 360. More of the back story, next.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

[20:30:13] COOPER: Well Donald Trump is not letting up on his criticism of a former Miss Universe, the way he treated Alicia Machado came up in last nights debate. She says when she won the pageant, the way bullied her after she gain weight let to eating disorders and depression.

Today Trump now kept the story going but kind of -- it's another comments about her. Again I'll speak with Alicia Machado in the next hour.

Right now Brian Todd has more. And the former beauty pageant winner who's now a part of the presidential campaign.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

TRUMP: She doesn't have the stamina.

BRIAN TODD, CNN CORRESPONDENT: When Donald Trump questioned Hillary Clinton stamina she was ready taking on Donald Trump with his own alleged words about a Miss Universe contestant.

CLINTON: He called this woman miss piggy. Then he called her miss housekeeping, because she was Latina. Donald she has a name ...

TRUMP: Where did you find ...

CLINTON: ... her name is Alicia Machado ...

TRUMP: ... where did you find this?

CLINTON: ... and she has become a U.S. citizen and you can bet ...

TRUMP: Oh really?

CLINTON: ... she's going to vote this November.

TRUMP: OK.

TODD: Alicia Machado from Venezuela, winner of Trump's Miss Universe contest in 1996. With all the stressors after the event, Machado says she gained about least 20 pounds. Trump claim it was at least 40, that's when she says Trump publicly shamed her. The Clinton campaign had a highly produce ad ready to hit Trump.

ALICIA MACHADO, MISS UNIVERSE 1996 (Through Translation): He was overwhelming. I was very scared of him.

TODD: This summer, Machado spoke of the names Trump called her. Which Hillary Clinton had mentioned.

MACHADO: Miss house keeping. Miss piggy. Miss eating machine.

TODD: Machado claims that not long after the 1996 pageant, Trump pressed her into working out in front of a crush of reporters and cameras. She says she felt like a lab rat.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: One of the things she will do in between, she's go back and forth OK, it's called an active rest.

TODD: At that event, Trump spoke to "Inside Edition".

TRUMP: She weighed 118 pounds or 117 pounds and went up to 160 or 70. So this is somebody that likes to eat.

TODD: Machado recently told the network Fusion, she protested that display.

MACHADO: When I talk to him like I don't want do this. I feel so bad with these reporters in front of me. And he tell me, you know something, I don't care.

TODD: Machado says she suffered from anorexia and bulimia for five years. Today on Fox News, Trump defended his treatment of Machado.

TRUMP: She was the worst we ever had. The worst, the absolute worst. She was impossible. She was the winner and, you know, she gained a massive amount of weight. And it was -- it was real problem. We had a real problem not only that, her attitude. And we had real problem with her. TODD: Analyst say the Clinton campaign likely believe Alicia Machado gave them the same kind of opportunity as Khizr and Ghazala Khan, the gold star parent who blistered Trump at the Democratic convention.

DAVID GERGEN, CNN SENIOR POLITICAL ANALYST: The Clinton campaign clearly planned this out in advance and it was going be a rat a that that. Last night it was kind of the opening sell-off from Hillary. And here comes Ms. Machado, you know, appearing on television shows. She's all over the news and they made it a big story. It's very clever. It's an after debate story that keeps the issue alive.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

TODD: We reached out to the Trump campaign about the specific allegations made by Alicia Machado. The campaign in the statement called her claims "totally baseless and unsubstantiated" and said Machado had lobbed a public smear campaign to gain a notoriety at Donald Trump expense. Anderson?

COOPER: Brian Todd, thanks very much.

With me again Trump supporter Kayleigh McEnany and CNN chief political analyst Gloria Borger. And joining the conversation, Clinton supporter and CNN political commentator, Maria Cardona.

Maria, I mean how effective on clearly this is something the Clinton campaign had planned out. Secretary Clinton almost didn't get this in. She found a way right at the end of the debate to get this in. You wonder what else their -- that they had planned, that she would have liked to have a gotten in.

But it is interesting because it does phrase a second day, it keeps the story going. And Donald Trump has played into that. I'm not sure he was ask about it on Fox News, but his comments continued the narrative.

MARIA CARDONA, CNN POLITICAL COMMENTATOR: There's no question about that, Anderson. And I think what was so brilliant about what Hillary did and how she did it is that she brought it up at the end and he had started to take the debate the whole debate after the first 30 minutes.

And so, I think she knew that this was going to be something that he was going to lament to it exactly what happened. But I think more than that, and why I believed it so damning, it's because it does a couple of things. It reminds Latinos of the vicious comments he has said about Latinos, Mexican **immigrants**, Muslims women in general.

Frankly it reminds the American public that this is a man who has demeaned so many people in America. And what kind of example is that going set for our children. I have a young son and a young daughter at home.

[20:34:58] So what example are we going to set if we give this man the Oval Office, somebody who thinks nothing of dehumanizing women, dehumanizing **immigrants** and what is that teach our son in terms of how -- is that OK in terms of treating women? So I think that was a very clear message and a brilliant contrast between his character and her character.

MCENANY: Well I wish that there was a fact checker at the debate, to fact check Clinton and point out what our reporter pointed out Brian Todd, that this was an allegation. And when you fact check this lady Alicia Machado, what she find is an AP story I have collaborated in front of me from 1998 ex-Universe accused of threat. Judge Fuenmayor has actually got on air saying this woman called him and set threatened to end his career and life. AP story as I have an economist story from the same month in February of 1998. So this is a he said, she said.

CARDONA: I think it's actually not.

MCENANY: I think to just notice to the American voter ...

CARDONA: No, no.

MCENANY: You have a recording? I don't think you ...

CARDONA: Howard Stern, there is a recording on Howard Stern where he goes on there and calls her an eating machine. So from eating machine to what we just saw in terms of him fat shaming her in front of reporters to him calling her miss piggy is not ...

(CROSSTALK)

CARDONA: It is not a junk.

(CROSSTALK)

CARDONA: But it's not a junk.

MCENANY: But as an allegation, irresponsible to report the fact.

COOPER: But keep calling her an eating machine and somebody who likes to eat. I mean that's ...

(CROSSTALK)

MCENANY: I got people said about me, I like to eat. I like to eat. That is not ...

COOPER: An eating machine while she's standing there being forced to work out in front of reporters?

MCENANY: She wasn't force to do, she didn't have do that if she didn't want to ...

(CROSSTALK)

CARDONA: She worked for him.

MCENANY: No ...

CARDONA: Yes she did.

(CROSSTALK)

BORGER: How do you know that? You don't know that. She worked for him. He was her employer. She said she was afraid of him, we could take her at her word or not.

(CROSSTALK)

BORGER: The point here though is that the Clinton campaign knew that he would take this debate because they saw what happened with the Khan family and the gold star parents and they saw that the day after that he went on television and he talked about his own sacrifice and he asked the question about why the mother didn't speak. And I think that he fell into this just the way they thought because he can't help himself.

COOPER: Right, I mean does he give you any pause that somebody is so easily riled and discombobulated by, you know, slights that happen in the world of politics all the time?

MCENANY: Well, I didn't see it as discombobulated and I really think outside is the main stream media and outside of the political class, there were a lot of undecided voters who watched Donald Trump last night and thought he did a good job. I don't know if it's majority, I don't know if that remove the polls. I happen to agree to Bob Schieffer, that, you know, Donald Trump didn't move any votes and Hillary Clinton didn't gain any. But I don't think everyone saw it the way we saw it. I don't think he seemed rattled. I think he seemed like a real person on that stage. Like he was speaking for the American people.

CARDONA: He definitely same rattle than he seems rattle today. He's completely been taken off his game and I think this story was Alicia Machado was a big part of it. And look, I know Alicia Machado. I work with her on a couple of projects, she's a huge community activist. So for her to be going out there and talking about how Donald Trump does not have the character that we would want as somebody in commander and chief is going to be incredibly powerful for women and for Latinos. And just one last thing on the story that you brought up, the accusations against her ...

(CROSSTALK)

CARONA: She just became a U.S. citizen. Do you have how tough the background check is being becoming a U.S. citizen? If any of that was true she wouldn't have be a U.S. citizen.

COOPER: Right.

MCENANY: It's not very tough that we have two **refugees** that went setting out bombs here in New York City. So it can't be that rigorous.

COOPER: But again your story she was never actually charge with anything. (CROSSTALK)

MCENANY: And I'm going take the record of Judge Fuenmayor and ...

(CROSSTALLK)

COOPER: But which accusation he said ...

CARONA: That's right.

COOPER: ... and open investigation. There was ISIS on no new reporting from back from 1999 or whatever that was.

MCENANY: He is on record saying that she called me and threatened my life. And during a case that she was involves where she ...

COOPER: Right. But as a law student, you know, you can be accused of something but if she's never charged and never put on trial and found guilty.

MCENANY: Right, and a law student I know what we're talking about right now, third party hearsay, because that's her worried against his. We don't know if Donald Trump ...

CARDONA: It's not hearsay actually.

(CROSSTALK)

BORGER: But we're talking about is fat shaming, which is completely different. From I mean this apple, orange.

CARDONA: Really calling her an eating machine in public on the radio.

MCENANY: I'm an eating machine. I don't take offense to that.

CARDONA: She -- he did it to demean her.

(CROSSTALK)

COOPER: So let me ask -- let me ask this. If you gain 60 pounds and your employer said to you or said about you in front of a room full of reporters this one likes to eat, she's an eating machine, you're telling me that would feel OK to you?

MCENANY: She was not force to this ...

COOPER: No, no ...

MCENANY: But none ...

(CROSSTALK)

COOPER: She's standing in the room in front of a room full of reporters. She's gained -- you've gained weight. You're in a room full of reporters. Your employer says to the media, this one likes to eat a lot. She's an eating machine. You're telling me you would be OK with that?

MCENANY: I'm an eating machine ...

(CROSSTALK)

CARDONA: Oh come on Kayleigh.

BORGER: Stop deflecting.

MCENANY: You know, what I'm not OK ...

(CROSSTALK)

CARDONA: Don't deflect.

BORGER: Stop deflecting.

[20:40:02] MCENANY: I'm not deflecting ...

(CROSSTALK)

MCENANY: ... allegations to Trump, we got to talk about allegation salary putting like this ...

BORGER: But we're not talking ...

(CROSSTALK)

COOPER: But, you know, what -- but it is interesting. Donald Trump should have brought any of those allegations ...

MCENANY: And he should off, he should off, right?

COOPER: Right. Your candidate didn't do anything of that. So, I get that, you know, your incredibly smart person and your able to bring this up. I guess it just surprise the that the candidate himself didn't think of his feet to bring up anything that would go against ...

MCENANY: And brought up her e-mail scandal more.

COOPER: Right.

MCENANY: I agree with you the comments this morning continue the story and he shouldn't have made those comments. But what I think is this is the case of hearsay the voters ...

(CROSSTALK)

MCENANY: ... issues.

CARDONA: And he has the reason why though this is damning, it's because any man who has a wife, a daughter, a mother, a lot of women go through this, right in terms of self-image. And so this is going to be incredibly relevant and compelling to anybody who think the story. COOPER: We'll see if (inaudible) anywhere down the road. Kayleigh McEnany, thank you. Gloria Borger, Maria Cardona.

Despite many saying Hillary Clinton won. And by the way we're going to talk Ms. Machado in the next hour. Despite of a number of people saying Hillary Clinton won the debate last night, Donald Trump is saying he did the best job and top "verbally" every poll about it, and even loyal supporters agree with him. Randi Kaye caught up with some of them today in Melbourne, Florida and ask them why, that is next.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

[20:45:10] COOPER: Donald Trump has wrap his first rally since last nights debate, thousands of his supporters gather at the airport in Melbourne, Florida. Tonight Randi Kaye, caught up with some of them to see how they thought he did in the debate.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

RANDI KAYE, CNN CORRESPONDENT: Among the Trump faithful at this Florida rally there was little doubt about who won the night.

CARMA SZIOZEK, TRUMP SUPPORTER: He held his composure very strong last night. She tried to gave her all, but I don't think he bought it. He did not fall into that trap.

KAYE: Do you think that he was prepared?

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: I do believed he was prepared. He's prepared for everything.

C. KAYE: Do you think he made mistakes?

LES CHELSEY, TRUMP SUPPORTER: I don't think he made mistakes.

KAYE: No stakes but some interesting admissions. When Hillary Clinton suggested Donald Trump may not have released his tax returns because he hadn't paid federal taxes. Trump seemed to admit it calling that smart. Some supporters jump to his defense.

CHELSEY: His pay his taxes. It just so won't ...

KAYE: How did you know that?

CHELSEY: Well wouldn't I. Why wouldn't he pay his taxes? People taxes don't know if he hasn't.

KAYE: And if he didn't pay?

JACKIE GIBSON, TRUMP SUPPORTER: I think that's awesome. I try pay as little as I have to. Don't you.

KAYE: At some point a handful of supporters got tired of our debate questions and insisted we talk to a military mom. That's when things turned ugly with this woman calling us the media, vultures and cowards. UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Get your butt down there and you interview him. If here not here to interview military go leave. Leave.

KAYE: It's not a question.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Leave. You're here about Hillary Clinton. We're here about Trump and our military. Leave.

KAYE: I'm here about Trump as well.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Leave. No, you're here about ...

KAYE: I'm not leaving.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: You don't have a heart.

KAYE: Police stepped in after that. But tensions remained high. We pushed ahead with the issue of birtherism. When Trump was asked about it in the debate. He said he had nothing more to say about why he pushed that narrative.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: What's your question, I think it was answered. And I think he answer the question.

KAYE: But to some here the conspiracy theory still lives.

GIBSON: I want to hear an explanation from President Obama. And we never got one from him, did we?

KAYE: What does he have to explain.

GIBSON: Where he was born. To show his birth certificate. I have mine in home ...

KAYE: He did show it.

GIBSON: No.

KAYE: And what about when Mrs. Clinton try to Trump for referring to a former Miss Universe pageant contestant as miss piggy, and then later apparently because she was Latina as miss housekeeping.

As a woman does that language bother you?

GIBSON: No, silly.

KAYE: Silly?

GIBSON: It's silly? I mean what -- I mean has nothing do with the election. There are so many important issues in our country right now.

KAYE: This woman wasn't effected either.

Do you believe he respects women?

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: I believe yes he does.

KAYE: Clinton also hit Trump for once voicing support for invading Iraq and calling climate change a hoax started by China. He denied doing either despite the fact that he said both. This supporter was forgiving especially on the issue of climate change.

And that China was behind it?

KENNETH SZIOZEK, TRUMP SUPPORTER: I believe Al Gore is behind it making money. He's gotten rich out of it.

KAYE: He have admitted that he had said better no it doesn't bother you?

K. SZIOZEK: No, bother me a bit. Because I am telling same thing, I'd said that is, that's a hoax and a half right there.

KAYE: And despite CNN's polls showing Clinton had the stronger night we couldn't find anyone here now voting for her.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Hell no. I'm voting for him. He's my man.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

COOPER: Randi joins us now from Melbourne, Florida. So how did it end with the supporter who was yelling at you?

KAYE: Well Anderson, the police did step in and they basically told her to get out of my face. Stop yelling at me, that we were the media and we had every right to be there as well. So eventually she calm down but the trouble was Anderson that she already gotten that whole crowd worked out.

So we actually had to stop doing some of our interviews wait for that crowd to clear out, wait for some new people to come in who didn't see that altercation. So we could continue with the interviews. But we've seen this before. Donald Trump supporters are fiercely loyal and even those who haven't been Republicans very long, we've spoke today to lifelong Democrats, lifelong Independents who are now voting Republican just so they can help elect Donald Trump they say.

And I will also tell you that the all believe what Donald Trump said on the stage last night at the debate that he has the right temperament to be president. They don't think he's too thinned skin. They don't think he's going press that nuclear button. They think he's the man for the job, Anderson.

COOPER: Are you going to have a glass of wine tonight, Randi?

KAYE: Oh, I am. For sure, maybe two.

COOPER: I might too as well. Randi thanks very much.

Up next, more moments from the debate and those sniffles heard around the world.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

TRUMP: But he's are doing this, we cannot let it happen under ...

(END VIDEO CLIP)

COOPER: What was going on with Donald Trump, or most people assume he had a cold or allergies, Mr. Trump has a different explanation, but sometimes pictures speak louder than words.

A body language expert weighs in on this and how both candidates did in the eyes of viewers, next.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

[20:53:40] COOPER: If you were one of the more than 80 million people watching last night's debate, you probably noticed something about Donald Trump.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

TRUMP: Is that OK? Good. I want you to be very happy. It's very important to me. But in all fairness to Secretary Clinton the NAFTA agreement is defective, talking about that later.

We cannot let it happen by Mayor Bloomberg.

Is our country's in deep trouble. What they're doing to us is a very, very sad thing.

And Lester, they're taking our jobs. And let me give you the example of Mexico. They have a VAT tax.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

COOPER: Mr. Trump's sniffling became a viral sensation, but the reason behind this is still up for debate. People on social media speculating he was suffering from anything, from allergies, or cold or something else. This morning on Fox & Friends, Republican nominee denied that he was even sniffling at all.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

TRUMP: No, no sniffles, no. You know, the mic was very bad, but maybe it was good enough to hear breathing. But there no sniffles, I don't have -- I have no allergy.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: So you don't have a cold?

TRUMP: No, no cold.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: OK.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: OK ...

TRUMP: Every once in awhile but no cold.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

COOPER: A Body Language Expert and Physician Dr. Jack Brown, joins us now. First of all, what do you make of the -- what appeared to the sniffling?

JACK BROWN, BODY LANGUAGE EXPERT: Most likely, it's due to anxiety. People will sniff like that when they have a high level of anxiety, although, sometimes, you will see a deep sniff intake, a deep respiration like that when people are in the middle of contempt, like this, or when they tell -- when they tell a deception. Sometimes, you'll see that. But he did it at least 40 times, deeply, I counted, and a bunch of other times, less deeply.

[20:55:14] COOPER: It was the first time that Clinton and Trump had interacted, in person as candidates. I think a lot of people wondering how that would go. I want to take a look how they each greeted each other off the top and let's talk about what you think their body language said. So, what do you make of this?

BROWN: If I was counseling Mrs. Clinton, I would tell her she should have turned a little more towards Mr. Trump. Mr. Trump shook hands like he often does, he pulls the other person in towards his torso. And so I would say, he could have done that for intimidation purposes, but that's his normal MO.

He also patted her on the back, and I would have recommended against that. And by her -- by him going in her personal space like that, that was a lot of off-putting to a lot of people.

COOPER: You know, it seemed almost immediately, Donald Trump was drinking a lot of water, which is something he had kind of made fun of Marco Rubio for in the past and he continued to do it throughout the debate, and I don't think Secretary Clinton, that I saw, drank any water at all.

BROWN: I agree. I counted 11 for Mr. Trump, and Secretary Clinton, zero. Which, you know, it's a normal physiological response when you get nervous that your throat gets dry. So the fact that she didn't need it means that she was very much in her game.

COOPER: I want to look at Hillary Clinton when the issue that's really dogged her, this entire debate or campaign came up, her e- mails, what stood out to you about her body language during her answer?

BROWN: I think that's when she got most nervous, she displayed most anxiety. She -- her rate of blinking went way up. And when you are anxious, when you're nervous, your blink rate goes way up. And hers did. And she had more extended blinking, too, so for longer durations. Her -- she also tilted her head back. So that was the -- those were signals that she was getting most anxious about that section of the debate, more than any other.

COOPER: When Donald Trump's taxes was brought up, what did his body language tell you then?

BROWN: He had a definite, his mouth went into a fear expression, and that was one part that ...

COOPER: A fear expression?

BROWN: His corners of the mouth went back and down. He also rocked back and forth on his feet laterally, several times, pretty quick. So, and if you watch it, it's quite noticeable. And that really got to him, that section.

COOPER: Also, as far as how good the two candidates were standing during the debate, what stood out to you?

BROWN: Mrs. Clinton, she stood with her shoulders square most of the time. Donald Trump, if you notice, he bent down to that microphone a lot. And -- which you shouldn't do, that microphone is good enough to pick him from there, of course. He was also tilting forward at his waist, even when he wasn't bending down. His torso was also turning towards her.

So all of these things make him look like he's subordinating himself to her alpha. He's looking like a bait to her alpha. He shouldn't have done any of that. So it's -- she stood though with her shoulders square. And when she looked over towards him, it was just her head turning, not her whole torso. That -- and by doing that, she maintains her alpha status.

COOPER: How would you grade both of them?

BROWN: I would give Donald Trump a "C" and I'd say, Secretary Clinton, an "A minus."

COOPER: You're not talking content, just body language?

(CROSSTALK)

BROWN: Just with the nonverbal, yeah.

COOPER: Right.

BROWN: It's just with the nonverbal nothing else.

COOPER: Yeah, it's so fascinating to look at this body language stuff. Jack Brown, thank you so much, I appreciate it.

BROWN: Thank you, Anderson.

COOPER: Well, still ahead in our next hour, Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump hitting the campaign trail running just hours after the most watched debate in American history, both claiming victory either one backing down, the latest from both campaigns when we continue.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

**NEW\_DOCUMENT\_HERE**

Anderson Cooper, Sara Murray, Jeff Zeleny, Dana Bash, John King, Nia-Malika Henderson, Gloria Borger, David Axelrod, Kayleigh McEnany, Paul Begala, Tony Schwartz, Jeffrey Lord

9360 speakers\_end

[20:00:05] ANDERSON COOPER, CNN HOST: Good evening. Thanks for joining us for this live special Sunday night edition of "360." We are just 25 hours away from what sure to be a debate like no other.

For the first time, the first female presidential nominee for a major party goes head-to-head with a man who against all odds and with no political experience, took down every Republican in his path.

The first presidential debate of this rollercoaster of an election season is at 9:00 p.m. tomorrow live from New York's Hofstra University .

Over the next hour, we're going to take a look at each candidate's debate style, their preparations. We're going to also hear from both Clinton and Trump campaigns and from our expert panel about what to be watching for tomorrow night.

We begin, though, with how the candidates are getting ready to go head to head on that debate stage.

Our political reporter Sara Murray joins me from outside Trump Tower here in New York.

So how is Donald Trump getting ready for tomorrow? What do we have?

SARA MURRAY, CNN POLITICAL REPORTER: Well, Anderson, he spent most of the day today here in Trump Tower with a number of folks who really have been pivotal in helping him get prepared for these debates.

We saw New Jersey Governor Chris Christie leaving just a couple of hours ago as well as Rudy Giuliani . General Michael Flynn, who's been helping Donald Trump on the foreign policy and national security side. And RNC Chairman Reince Priebus was also here today. He's recently been pitching in on these debate prep efforts.

And this is a candidate who really did not have sort of a deep bench of advisers. He's obviously a first time politician. But we're really starting to see that shape now around these debate preparations.

Anderson?

COOPER: During the primary debates, unpredictability, which certainly one of Donald Trump 's biggest assets.

Do you think we expect to see more of that from him tomorrow night? Do we know kind of what version of Trump was going to show up?

MURRAY: Well, I think that's absolutely a huge asset for him. Because it forces Hillary Clinton to prepare for multiple Donald Trumps, for multiple scenarios. And we'll keep -- I think, both candidates on their feet.

Now I don't think this is going to be the same kind of rough and tumble setting that we saw during the Republican primary debates. It's just going to be the two of them on stage. They're going to be forced to go deeper into policy issues that we saw on the Republican primary.

But it's certainly possible, and I think saw that today with Donald Trump tweeting about Gennifer Flowers, who of course had this affair with Bill Clinton back in Arkansas. We saw that Donald Trump can throw things out there to try to get under Hillary Clinton 's skin, to try to put her off her game. We'll see how much that actually carries over to the debate stage.

Anderson?

COOPER: And Trump talks a lot about how he is a counter puncher.

Is he going to hit back if attacked tomorrow, or sort of even if not attacked?

MURRAY: Well, this is a difficult balance for him. Because he has managed to turn every attack he lobs into some version of a counter punch, right? But he also know that there are a lot of voters, particularly female voters, particularly in some pivotal suburbs, who have problems with Donald Trump 's temperament.

So even if he is going to counter punch against Clinton, I think he and his team are working on into a way to do that effectively. A way to go up against her and paint her as a crooked politician, as someone that you can't trust without making it seem like Donald Trump is sort of dragging everyone into the gutter. And that's a risk for Hillary Clinton , too.

Not a lot of Republicans came off of that debate stage in the primaries looking well after they had traded insults for Donald Trump . So that's something for both of them to think about as we head into tomorrow night.

Anderson?

COOPER: Yes, Sara Murray. Sara, thank you.

Now to how Hillary Clinton is getting ready.

CNN 's senior Washington correspondent Jeff Zeleny is in Chappaqua, New York.

Jeff, what are you learning?

JEFF ZELENY, CNN SENIOR WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT: Anderson, we are learning that Hillary Clinton has been preparing for this debate and she is making no apology for that. She's been doing it for weeks and weeks with really extensive debate preparations.

What are the questions sort of hanging over all this is who is playing the role of Donald Trump ? Well, this weekend we actually learned the answer to that. It is a long-time aide of hers, Philippe Reines. He was an aide in her Senate office and as secretary of state as well.

She described him in her 2014 memoir as someone who is passionate, shrewd and loyal. And the reporters who know him and have work with him over the years, Anderson, I can tell you, he also has a sharp tongue, a temper, and he knows exactly how to push people's buttons, including Secretary Clinton here.

So he was picked by design to get under her skin a little bit, so the aides could watch this happening.

And, Anderson, this has all been underway in practice sessions throughout the weekend, until almost midnight last night at a resort not far from here in Chappaqua but only a few advisers. Her closest inner circle is actually watching this play out.

The rest of her campaign staff back in Brooklyn really is watching from afar. But this is really just her top aides here, helping her for that big night tomorrow.

COOPER: And certainly, the focus on e-mails has dogged her campaign all year. Is she preparing for how to deal with that if it comes up at the debate, if you know?

ZELENY: It almost certainly will come up. This has been hanging over her campaign for so long. And as you know, Anderson, from talking to her so many times, her answer has sometimes been a lawyerly, not necessarily all that plain spoken.

[20:05:05] They want her to -- her advisers believe that she will, you know, give some contrition again tomorrow, but then try and move on beyond that and try not get mired down in the details and the lawyerly facts that she sometimes says when she talks about this. But she also will pivot to transparency. And of course, remind everyone that Donald Trump has not been as transparent, certainly in releasing tax returns, which he simply has not done.

COOPER: What about the whole birther conspiracy? Is she planning on using that against Donald Trump tomorrow night?

ZELENY: Her aides say she will use the birther controversy. And if it's not brought up, she may bring it up herself. That is one of the things that perhaps fires up Democrats, her base, and members of the Obama coalition.

We talked about so often that she is trying to rally them to her side here. The birth certificate is an issue that her campaign and she believes defines Donald Trump . Defines his candidacy. So she will try and use that to amplify this, of course.

And we haven't heard him talk much about this. He's not answered any questions about this since that short statement in Washington a couple weeks ago here. So it would be hard to imagine this not coming up tomorrow night on that stage when they're debating one-on-one for 90 minutes.

COOPER: Yes. And it's going to be incredible and fascinating to watch.

Jeff Zeleny. Jeff, thanks very much.

Coming up, Donald Trump sticks to his primary debate style. The question is how his insults and interruptions would play in a one-on- one contest with Hillary Clinton , who is all about meticulous preparation and talking about her experience.

We'll take a look at two widely different debate styles -- next.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

[20:10:10] COOPER: Donald Trump 's style carried him through those debates, but this certainly is not Hillary Clinton 's first rodeo.

She has years of debate experience, but tomorrow she faces an opponent unlike any she has faced before.

CNN chief political correspondent Dana Bash tonight, reports.

(BEGIN VIDEOTAPE)

DANA BASH, CNN CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT (voice-over): Hillary Clinton in a debate is all about what she's done.

HILLARY CLINTON , U.S. DEMOCRATIC PRESIDENTIAL NOMINEE: Look at what I accomplished in the Senate as Secretary of State.

BASH: Donald Trump , simple sweeping promises.

DONALD TRUMP , U.S. REPUBLICAN PRESIDENTIAL NOMINEE: We will make this country greater than ever before.

BASH: Their primary debate performances helped each get the nomination. But their upcoming face-off is quite different.

BRETT O'DONNELL, REPUBLICAN DEBATE COACH: He tugs at the heart, she tugs at the mind. And the question is whether or not both of them can cross over.

BASH: Brett O'Donnell a long time debate coach for GOP candidates sat down with us to break down their contrasting styles.

TRUMP: I say not in a braggadocios way, I've made billions and billions of dollars dealing with people all over the world.

CLINTON: I was part of a very small group that had to advise the President about whether or not to go after Bin Laden.

O'DONNELL: He talks in these big giant terms. She doesn't tend to do that. And I think that that puts him at an advantage. You know? Because he's -- understands well the dynamic of television.

BASH: The same goes for discussions of policy.

TRUMP: I will build a wall. It will be a great wall. People will not come in unless they come in legally.

CLINTON: There is no need for this rhetoric and demagoguery that still is carried out in the Republican side. You have run out of excuses. Let's move to comprehensive **immigration** reform with a path to citizenship.

O'DONNELL: He goes for the heart, talks in very big terms, doesn't demonstrate a deep knowledge of policy. So she has got to up her game on talking to the heart. He has to up his game in talking to the head.

(CHEERING)

BASH (voice-over): Then there was the alpha candidate tactic Trump used to belittle his GOP primary opponents.

TRUMP: Rand Paul shouldn't even be on this stage.

Don't even worry about it, Little Marco.

(CROSSTALK)

First of all, this guy is a choke artist and this guy is a liar.

BASH: He's moniker for Clinton --

TRUMP: Crooked Hillary Clinton .

BASH: -- may not go over so well.

O'DONNELL: He should explain why she is crooked and not just call her a name. If he just calls her a name the entire time, I think that's going to look bad to the public.

BASH: Clinton's quicksand getting her back up.

BASH: It is your Democratic opponent and many Democratic voters who want to see those transcripts. It's not about Republicans --

(CHEERING)

CLINTON: And, you know --

(CHEERING)

CLINTON: Let's set the same standard for everybody. When everybody does it, OK, I will do it. But let's set and expect the same standard on tax returns.

(BOOING)

O'DONNELL: She is very defensive. And that's a problem.

BASH (on camera): What about if that Hillary Clinton shows up?

O'DONNELL: Yes, yes. If that Hillary Clinton shows up, it's going to be a long night.

(END VIDEOTAPE)

COOPER: And Dana joins me now.

The thing is, I mean, one-on-one debate is so much different than a one-on-17 debate.

How much of a challenge, do you think, that poses for Donald Trump ?

BASH: It's completely different. He has never done that before. I think the fewest number of opponents that he's had was four. And it is different for lots of reasons, but primarily because part of his M.O. during the primaries was to kind of just be quiet at times where he didn't want to engage in policy. And then he could kind of pick his moments.

He was really brilliant at that. Every moment is going to be his moment during this debate. And so I think what is going to be key, and just in talking to sources who are working with both camps, is the two of them, one-on-one, how each of them is going to avoid taking the others bait.

I mean, sure, there's going to be a lot of policy discussion, a lot of questions about what they would do as president. But so much of it is about temperament and how each of them appears with the other. Even more so for Donald Trump , of course.

But that is going to be something that they're practicing, and it's going to be one of the many fascinating things to watch.

COOPER: Grab the popcorn. Dana Bash, thanks very much.

A lot to discuss with our political panel.

On this table, we've got John King, host of "Inside Politics;" Nia- Malika Henderson, CNN 's senior political reporter; Gloria Borger, CNN 's chief political analyst; David Axelrod, a former senior adviser to President Obama and CNN senior political commentator.

Over at this table, Trump supporter Kayleigh McEnany; Paul Begala, a senior adviser to a pro-Clinton Super PAC; Tony Schwartz, co-author of Trump's "The Art of the Deal." He's a Trump critic who has advice the Clinton campaign on debate prep. And Trump supporter Jeffrey Lord.

John, let's start out with you. Expectations for tomorrow night. I mean, again, the difference of styles and even the question of kind of what style Donald Trump is going to adapt for this debate is an open one.

JOHN KING, CNN CHIEF NATIONAL CORRESPONDENT: Right. I don't think we know, which Donald Trump is going to show up or how many Donald Trumps will show up. And for that matter, how many Hillary Clinton will show up.

A, the race is very tight. If you look nationally at the race, she is up now two to half three points. That's the same place Romney and Obama were. President Obama was up by two or three points going in to their first debate. But if you go state by state, Trump is in better shape than Mitt Romney was four years ago.

[20:15:07] If you look in Florida, Ohio. If you look at North Carolina. If you look at some of the other battleground states, Trump is either ahead or in better shape than Mitt Romney was when you go state by state even though the race maps up.

As Dana just explained, for Donald Trump , the challenge is professional. You can see it in any poll and the Trump campaign can see this. A lot of voters look at him as temperamental. They're not sure he has the temperament to be commander-in-chief. That they want him in the Oval Office, in the Situation Room on that big night and that he gets the big chance.

He has to look and act like a president. Her challenge is much more personal. The structural part of the race is in her favor, but especially now, if you look especially in key battleground states, Gary Johnson is bleeding Millennials from her. Younger voters and independents, she has a problem. And the candidate not on the stage tomorrow night is actually having the biggest impact on this race when you go state by state.

COOPER: Interesting. Nia, what are you expecting?

NIA-MALIKA HENDERSON, CNN SENIOR POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT: You know, I think if you're Hillary Clinton , you're going in with a lot of people thinking that you're going to win, right? If you look at that "Washington Post " poll, 44 percent think she's going to win. 34 percent think that Donald Trump will win.

This debate -- her argument all along has been there's just one Donald Trump . There are not many Donald Trump . There's just one Donald Trump , and he singularly unfit to be president because of his temperament and because of his judgment.

I think her challenge is she's got to figure out a way to bring that out of him. She can't just expect that he's going to show up and show that he doesn't have the right temperament. She's got to figure out a way to prosecute a case that not only is an argument for her candidacy, but also, you know, sort of advances the argument that she's been making all along. And I think if you're Donald Trump , you've got to surprise people, right?

I mean, his problem --

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: He does. HENDERSON: He does, but you've got to surprise people on a way that makes him likable. Essentially, says listen, I am fit to be president and I am a professional.

COOPER: But how hard is it, David -- I mean, to prep for a debate when you're not sure of the style of the person you're going to be going up against?

DAVID AXELROD, CNN SENIOR POLITICAL COMMENTATOR: It's our first on set and you're thinking, I wonder what it would be like if she were debating Jeb Bush or Marco Rubio , would we all be around here?

COOPER: On a Sunday night?

(LAUGHTER)

AXELROD: Asked and answered. But I think it's difficult, because I think the worst result for Hillary Clinton out of this debate would be if Trump answered those questions that John King mentioned.

If people left there saying, you know, I think he is a plausible president. I could see him in that office, that would be a real problem for her. Because this is what's keeping those college- educated voters, white, college-educated voters who generally vote more heavily Republican from going Trump's way.

But on the other hand, he could get, you know -- Donald Trump is Donald Trump . He could get right in her grill in a way that he did with his primary opponents and try and unsettle her and make her, you know, integrity and some of these other issues that have been raised front and center. So you have to prepare for both.

COOPER: Well, Gloria, to David's point, if Hillary Clinton needs Donald Trump to be, you know, blustery or whatever or seem unappealing to college educated voters, then it's going to be incumbent on her to kind of get that out of him if he's not automatically there.

GLORIA BORGER, CNN CHIEF POLITICAL ANALYST: I would not be surprised if Hillary Clinton would start and continue to challenge him on specifics and draw it out and say, OK, you want to build a wall? What's it going to cost? What's it -- I mean, I wouldn't be surprised if she tried to let the American public know that he has a lot of interesting policies that he offers, but he hasn't thought them out. He hasn't thought them out.

AXELROD: One of the questions, though, was will she turn to Donald Trump and make those challenges, or will she talk to the American people?

One of the things, if you look at the primary debates, the people who tangled with him --

BORGER: Didn't do well.

AXELROD: Didn't do particularly well.

BORGER: Right. But she's different.

AXELROD: She may take a different, different path.

BORGER: But she's different in a way, too. Because there's a gender dynamic going on here. And so it will be interesting to see whether he attacks her the way he attacked little Marco or, you know, whatever. Right?

COOPER: We've got to take a quick break. Stick around. A lot more to discuss, especially with our other panelists, including talk to Bill Clinton 's former mistress Gennifer Flowers could have a front row seat tomorrow night -- at tomorrow night's debate, invited by the Trump campaign.

How that all started, and what the Trump campaign is now saying about the possibility, when we continue.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

[20:23:18] COOPER: The Clinton-Trump face-off is now just over 24 hours away. While the two candidates preparing for their first debate, Monday night, Trump is still busy on Twitter after the Clinton campaign announced it was inviting Trump critic Mark Cuban to sit in the front row of the debate.

On Saturday, Trump went on the attack posting this, quote, "If dopey Mark Cuban of failed Benefactor fame wants to sit in the front row, perhaps I will put Gennifer Flowers right alongside of him."

That would be Gennifer Flowers, who had an affair with Bill Clinton back in the 70s.

This all started when the Clinton campaign announced that Cuban, a Trump critic, also a businessman, a former reality TV star, NBA owner would be at the debate.

Tonight, the Trump campaign is backing down somewhat saying they haven't formally invited Flowers to the debate and they don't expect her to be there as a guest of the campaign.

Back with the panel.

Paul, was it a mistake for the Clinton campaign to even bring up this whole Mark Cuban thing?

PAUL BEGALA, CNN POLITICAL COMMENTATOR: No, it's fine. He's a celebrity businessman who is for Hillary. That's fine. I think the mistake was Trump reaching so far back in the past.

You know, every election is about the future. And the answer that should be, if you want to make it about my family's past, I want to make it about your family's future, America. Tell the American middle-class. He can do whatever he wants, make these personal attacks, and go back to the past.

COOPER: Do these lines just pop into your head? BEGALA: It's what I do for a living. This is my job. It's a pathetic job that's why I'm trying to do it well.

COOPER: You're sitting up at night, the family and the past.

(CROSSTALK)

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: It was what came up when Gennifer Flowers first pop --

(LAUGHTER)

COOPER: You've obviously been very critical of Donald Trump . The man you worked very closely with on an "Art of the Deal." So you've studied him. You've seen how he prepared. You've seen how he reads and writes or doesn't.

What do you make of -- of how he -- I mean, I've heard you say he is essentially not capable of preparing for a debate. Is that true?

TONY SCHWARTZ, CO-AUTHOR OF TRUMP'S "THE ART OF THE DEAL." And he's been very clear that he hasn't really prepared for this debate.

COOPER: So you think that's true?

(CROSSTALK)

[20:25:00] SCHWARTZ: I think it's true. I think he's incapable of preparing in any serious way. And I think that it's an insult of pretty staggering proportions to the American people that he wouldn't prepare. And especially disturbing that he couldn't prepare -- repair or prepare.

COOPER: When you say he couldn't, I mean -- what just based on what you saw when you were writing, that he just doesn't want to focus on things that don't interest him?

SCHWARTZ: Look, I'm the person on this particular panel tonight who knows Donald Trump . I'm the only one, including the two Trump supporters, who has actually spent significant time with him.

I believe that either one of these two folks would not be for Donald Trump if they knew what I know about him. I believe the problem is, he's an extraordinary effective conman at a particular moment in history. And I feel as if I'm watching a tsunami come toward me. And that tsunami is Donald Trump .

But his supporters -- or potential supporters are standing on the shore, thinking that's just a normal wave. No, it's not. The world will never be the same if Donald Trump is elected president. I've said it before. I'll say it right now.

There is a deep risk that the world as we know it will not survive Donald Trump . That's a very serious concern.

COOPER: Kayleigh? KAYLEIGH MCENANY, CNN POLITICAL COMMENTATOR: If we could, you know, rewind back to 1980, we'd hear some of the same things Tony is saying about Ronald Reagan.

In fact, "Esquire" magazine said anyone who showed up to vote for Ronald Reagan was like a good German voting in Hitler's Germany. You had Carter out there saying that he was engaging in stirrings of hatred and you had --

(CROSSTALK)

SCHWARTZ: You don't even know this man.

(CROSSTALK)

MCENANY: I know that your only talking point is you don't know this man and I do. But that's not a winning talking point.

SCHWARTZ: I don't have many talking points.

MCENANY: This man has broken through to the American people, and the American people trust him. And a lot of the people like him are enthused about him.

COOPER: So in terms of, Kayleigh, what do you want to hear tomorrow night from Donald Trump ? How do you want him to be during this debate? Ideally, how do you think he needs to be?

MCENANY: I think he needs to do exactly what he's been doing on the campaign trail. He's been out there giving policy speech after policy speech. He has attacked Clinton on some things when she deserves being attacked of.

COOPER: But more recently, there kind of more recent iteration of him.

MCENANY: Absolutely. And in fact, the first speech that he gave after he came out with Kellyanne Conway, the campaign manager, when he had that real moment of connection, where he just said, look, I don't say things the right way all the time.

You know, if I hurt someone, I regret that. I think that very -- you know, Donald Trump with humility and Donald Trump measured is the Donald Trump we're going to see. And I think it's the one that will win over the American people, much like Carter -- what Reagan did against Carter.

(CROSSTALK)

COOPER: Jeffrey, can Donald Trump do that? I mean, those are teleprompter speeches. Can he do that in an impromptu debate, when he has a candidate who is potentially going to go after him?

JEFFREY LORD, CNN POLITICAL COMMENTATOR: Sure, he can.

Look, what you're going to see tomorrow night on that stage, aside from all the talk that we're having here about specifics, this, that and the other thing, you're going to see a candidate that represents the political establishment of America. The political class.

And you're going to see somebody over here who is the candidate put forward by people in this country, who are in open rebellion.

In essence, she is Jeb Bush, as it were. She is every candidate on the Republican side who decided that they were going to represent the establishment. He is the rebellion against that.

(CROSSTALK)

COOPER: But he's never been up against another candidate where he's had to give two minute answers and had to go, or be expected to go pretty deep on specific policy issues back and forth.

(CROSSTALK)

LORD: But I would suggest that that is the political class obsession. I mean, when we think about that --

(CROSSTALK)

SCHWARTZ: The political class obsession --

(CROSSTALK)

LORD: Wait, wait, wait. When we think about that Reagan, the two Reagan-Mondale debates and everybody here knows the story, he was so terrible in the first one that those of us who worked for him winced.

And when he got to the second one, it was Roger Ailes who said to him, Mr. President, you're not in all these details. He says you're into themes. That's what got you elected. Relate every single answer to your themes. That's what Donald Trump has to do.

(CROSSTALK)

COOPER: Tony, what do you think?

SCHWARTZ: I think the key here is that knowing things actually does matter. And the idea that it will be difficult for Donald Trump to fill two minutes ought to be a source of great concern to people.

I think Hillary's most powerful move is to make Donald Trump defend the indefensible. There are a series of things he said during this campaign, which are fully representative of who he is. The Curiel -- the Judge Curiel, McCain, Putin, knowing more than the generals --

COOPER: The birther issue, I imagine.

SCHWARTZ: The birther issue. She needs to stay relentlessly focused on that so she can pull him out of the capacity to deflect and to move the attention after 16 points to something else.

(CROSSTALK) COOPER: But, Paul, do you think she also needs to kind of -- I mean, I've heard some people talk about her needing to kind of have a broader vision, as well. To not just be against Trump, but also offer something.

BEGALA: Absolutely. That's more important, actually. Trump doesn't need debate prep, Tony. He needs Xanax. He needs horse tranquilizer and they'll give him that. And so he'll go out there.

He went 24 whole minutes with the president of Mexico and didn't say anything racist. Oh, that's impressive. So he'll do that for 90 minutes. He will.

That's not the real challenge. I'm not -- I'm really not as interested in when Trump explodes. If he doesn't during the debate, he will by morning.

SCHWARTZ: Correct.

BEGALA: He can't help himself. I'm really interested in what you raised.

[20:30:00] Hillary has 112,000 words of policy that she has published. Mr. Trump has about 3,000 according to journalistic count. But she needs to connect and do unifying theme. And even more important than that is motive.

The reason people don't trust her is they worry about her motive. Maybe it's a women thing. Maybe it's a Hillary thing. But she needs to show a sense of mission, not ambition, right? That she is in this for the middle-class, and here's why.

If I was working for her, so I can talk to her -- Hillary, here's what I would do. They have a pad, but it's blank. I'd write the word, "Dorothy" and the word, "Charlotte." Dorothy was her mother. Charlotte is her granddaughter. That is the arch of her life.

Her mother had this Dickensian, her childhood. And now she has this golden grandchild who is the most purplish person on earth. I mean, in one human lifetime that arch has worked perfectly for Hillary and her family. She must make it work for your family the same way. That humanizes her. That shows the motive.

(CROSSTALK)

AXELROD: On Jeffrey's point, I think he's got the vote of those people who are aching for a political revolution. The question is, whether or not he can get the votes of those normally Republican voters who are troubled by the fact that he doesn't seem to have the temperament or the deep base of knowledge that they expect from a president of the United States.

So I think if he goes in with the attitude that you're suggesting, there is some danger associated with that.

KING: But Jeffrey makes an important point about the climate. Forget the names of the candidates. Forget their history in this campaign. The climate of the country is for change. And Hillary is a Washington insider. She is a known brand. He is a businessman. He's not from Washington. She needs to make him unacceptable, risky, dangerous change.

And she also needs to make the case that I will change things. I will change the pulse point. I will change your life. We'll get better. That's hard for someone who's, A, the same party. Has very rarely keeps the White House after a two-term president. And the country is looking for change. Just like Jeb Bush, she's a known brand.

HENDERSON: Yes. And one of the things, I think, Chris Christie did so well in those debates, he would look at the camera -- look into the camera and talk about real people.

Talk about people he met on the trail. Talk about the Average Joe or Jane, and that's what something, I think, that Donald Trump can do.

I do think -- I was saying that he has to surprise folks. I think if he shows up like he showed up in Mexico, I think that will be a surprise to a lot of people because Hillary Clinton has set Donald Trump up to be this wild man in a debate. And if he doesn't show up that way, I think that's going to be surprising.

BORGER: But, you know, we keep talking about the authentic Hillary Clinton . We don't talk about what's the authentic Donald Trump .

Because if Donald Trump comes out and doesn't lose it and acts like he did with the president of Mexico, is that the real Donald Trump ?

SCHWARTZ: No.

COOPER: I think Tony has been pretty --

(LAUGHTER)

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Let's go over that again.

(CROSSTALK)

BORGER: But the burden is somehow more on her to prove that she is actually authentic and real, even though people have watched her for the last how many decades, 30 years at least.

COOPER: Where do the expectations game play to all this? Because those who say, well, look, if Donald Trump , you know, that the expectations are so low --

(CROSSTALK)

AXELROD: Yes. When a bear dances, no one says, gee, he doesn't pirouette well. They just say, man, the bear can dance. So he comes under the dancing bear rule. If he is reasonably composed and can answer a few questions, he'll get some points for that.

But I have to tell you. I've been through this a number of times. These are the most pressure-ful events one can experience. And the reason that prep is important is because if you are a candidate, you want to kind of know what to expect. And you want to be exposed to all kinds of (INAUDIBLE) so that you can plot out how you're going to deal with it.

He may be the, sui generis, the one guy who has gone through this process who can do it without any of that. But if what Tony says is right, he could be in for a very long night.

BORGER: And we don't know which Donald Trump is going to show up, and Hillary Clinton has to prepare for both Donald Trumps.

LORD: It's the small moments in these debates. The al-Gore size, the Michael Dukakis --

(CROSSTALK)

COOPER: What David says is true. I mean, just having been on a couple debate stages, there are few experiences as a reporter that you can have that are as full of tension and pressure. It's like the molecules of the air are charged on that stage. I mean, it's amazing. And when it goes well, it's incredible. But it's a lot of pressure.

MCENANY: But over preparing can also add to that challenge. So if you're trying to be someone you're not -- for instance if Hillary Clinton is trying to present this likable image that breaks through on that metric, then that pressure is added, to be someone you're not. And Donald Trump , being who he is, I think could be the perfect antidote.

LORD: That's a good point. When Tony says he is incapable of doing things because this is who he is, he is who he is and that will come out.

(CROSSTALK)

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: (INAUDIBLE)

SCHWARTZ: I hope to God it comes out, because --

LORD: I think it has.

SCHWARTZ: What it is, it's a man whose self-interest has been so clear and consistent throughout his career. The one thing we know about Donald Trump is when push comes to shove, if you have $20 in your wallet, he'll go for those $20 to add to his billions.

So the point about Donald Trump is that he is not going to bring to this debate a new Donald Trump . That, I guarantee you. And the absence of the new Donald Trump , Jeff, means we're left with somebody who is clearly ill-prepared to be president of the United States.

[20:35:15] COOPER: We'll see tomorrow tonight.

I want to thank everybody on the panel, especially for coming in on a Sunday. Just ahead, I'll talk to insiders from the Clinton and Trump campaigns about how the candidates may be spending these final hours before the debate.

Also coming up at the top of the hour, the season premier of Anthony Bourdain's "Parts Unknown." It's an excellent one. It's a great show.

President Obama pulls up a plastic chair and shares a beer with Anthony in Vietnam. That's coming up at 9:00 p.m.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

COOPER: By all accounts, Hillary Clinton has been prepping intensely for her first face-off with Donald Trump . It's been pretty much her sole focus for the past four days.

Just more than 24 hours from now, it is game on.

Joining me now is Clinton press secretary Brian Fallon.

So, Brian, I know your campaign has been prepping for a debate, couple different versions of Donald Trump , with kind of a subdued version as well as a more combative one.

How much more difficult does that make Secretary Clinton's job tomorrow night, if she's not sure which kind of version she's going to be facing against?

[20:40:04] BRIAN FALLON, HILLARY CLINTON PRESS SECRETARY: Well, look, Anderson, I think by Donald Trump 's own telling, he won every primary debate that he was involved in. I think there was a simple reason for that.

He has a history of being a successful television performer. And he sort of charted his moves during those primaries. Picked his spot on a very crowded debate stage. And the entertainment factor is what carried him.

I think in a presidential debate, the stakes are much higher. Much more should be expected of him.

I think his team recognized that. And so I wouldn't be surprised at all if we saw a more subdued Trump, that tries to play, act the role of somebody who can seem presidential.

COOPER: So how does Hillary Clinton deal with that? Because it seems, I mean, clearly, one of her themes is her belief that he does not have the judgment to be president, that he can be thrown off and become irate by a tweet.

So how does she kind of knock him off that?

FALLON: Well, I think that there are two tests that both candidates should be graded by tomorrow. And so when the assessments happen after the debate, I think Donald Trump needs to have done two things in order to qualify for a passing grade. Number one, you have to be clear and detailed about what you want to do as president. Hillary Clinton has put forward policies about how she's going to grow an economy that works for everyone, not just those at the top. She has detailed plans. She talks about them all the time.

Donald Trump has been in a rush to catch up and tried to issue some policy to seem like a serious candidate. I think there will be exchanges tomorrow night, where there will be an opportunity. He'll be tested about explaining the details of what he wants to do as president.

Secondly, you've got to be straight forward and honest with the American people. We've seen in Donald Trump somebody that lies 70 percent of the time, according to "PolitiFact."

They dubbed him "The Liar of the Year" last year. And just this past weekend, multiple newspaper outlets have published stories documenting lies that he has told over the course of this campaign.

"Politico " said that he lied every three minutes that he was on the stump last week. So I think that it will be on Lester Holt, the moderator, tomorrow night as well as all the commentators that judge the debate in the hours afterwards, to really grade him and put the pressure on him to be accountable for the lies that he's been telling if he repeats them tomorrow night at the debate stage.

COOPER: Do you think -- is it incumbent on Hillary Clinton to also play a role as a fact checker, essentially?

FALLON: I think she'll certainly do that, when he tries to distort her record.

You know, he likes to go around saying that she supports open borders and wants to get rid of the Second Amendment. That has been debunked multiples times.

About himself, he likes to say that he was against the intervention in Iraq. He was against the intervention in Libya. Both those things are false. If any of those things come up in the debate tomorrow night, Hillary Clinton will do her part.

When you have somebody that is lying every three minutes according to "Politico ," if she only fact checked tomorrow, she wouldn't be able to make the affirmative case, which his very important.

So that's why it's also the role of the moderator to make sure that there is an adherence to the truth from both candidates, and that's why that needs to be factored into any grading of Donald Trump 's performance.

COOPER: Brian Fallon, appreciate you being on tonight. Thank you.

Donald Trump has said he believes you can over prep for debates. Mock debates, complete with podiums, are not his thing. We're told he's been preparing his way with the help of formal and informal advisers. Joining me now is Senator Jeff Sessions. Chairman of Donald Trump 's National Security Advisory Committee.

Senator, thanks for being with us.

SEN. JEFF SESSIONS (R-AL), CHAIRMAN, DONALD TRUMP 'S NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE: Thank you.

COOPER: Can you give us any insight to how Donald Trump is prepping for this -- on the eve of this first debate?

SESSIONS: Well, one thing he does is he's thinking about it. And he's been thinking about it for some time. He knows the key issues. He's able to focus on what's important to the American people. And I believe he's been formulating in his own mind how he's going to handle a lot of these questions for weeks now.

COOPER: What about in terms of mock debates, you know, stand ins. Anything like that. Do you know? Has he actually been doing it?

SESSIONS: I don't believe he is doing any mock debates. I hated those myself. I've never like to do that. But he -- I think he's going to focus on what the key issues are. And he's going to endeavour to -- to show to the American people that, you are right, American people. We are on the wrong track as a nation by 3-1 margin. Polls show that.

Hillary Clinton will continue in that fashion. I'm going to bring change. You are right, American people. This trade policy had not worked for us. You're right, the **immigration** flow is excessive. It's pulling down wages and hurting our country. You're right, we've got to do better about terrorism.

When he stays on those issues, he's going to win the hearts and minds of the American people, I think.

COOPER: Are you concerned about, though, the level of specificity which he can get into? I mean, that's been one of the frequent criticisms of him, certainly by those who do not like him.

SESSIONS: Well, look, Hillary Clinton is really good at this. She is one of the most effective spinners. She's got an answer to every question that will come up. That's what she does. She is a wordsmith, a talker, a speech maker.

Donald Trump is a builder, a doer, a person who wants to achieve things for America.

(CROSSTALK)

COOPER: But can he really get -- I guess the question is --

SESSIONS: She will be good at that.

COOPER: Can he get into specifics of, you know, how much the wall will cost, how long it will take? I mean, some of the specifics to which he hasn't really gotten into up till now?

[20:45:05] SESSIONS: Well, he knows a lot more about building things than Hillary Clinton , that's for sure.

And, yes, I think you'll have an answer for that. But nobody expects him to know all the details of every policy agency in this government. And she will probably attempt to show that he does not know some of those things.

But I don't think it'll bother the American people any more than it did with Ronald Reagan.

If his heart is right and if his vision for America is correct, his vision for the future that will make their wages go up instead of down, I think that'll make -- that's the thing they're going to be looking for.

COOPER: Senator Sessions, I appreciate you being on. Thank you very much.

SESSIONS: Thank you.

COOPER: Just ahead, why chimpanzees could hold clues about how tomorrow's debate might go. It's just one of the fascinating insights that experts share with veteran journalist James Fallows in his cover story for "The Atlantic."

We'll talk to Mr. Salas, coming up.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

COOPER: In a little more than 24 hours, Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump will take their places behind identical podiums, just a couple of arm's lengths apart.

The debate will last 90 minutes. It's what they say, how they say it will, of course, be scrutinized so will their body language from the moment they greet each other.

Presumably, they will shake hands, though, who knows given the surprises we have seen in this election.

James Fallows , former presidential speech writer for Jimmy Carter and long time national correspondent for "The Atlantic," has written a really fascinating cover story in the October issue.

Who will win the debates and the election? He talked to politicians, operatives, experts on persuasion about what we might see tomorrow night.

I spoke to him recently.

(BEGIN VIDEOTAPE)

COOPER: Your article is so fascinating. I urge anyone who has not read it to read it. JAMES FALLOWS , NATIONAL CORRESPONDENT, THE ATLANTIC: Thank you.

COOPER: Essentially, I mean, you say you are looking at past debates. Really the best way to watch debate is with the sound off.

As a future moderator, I'm not going to take that as an offense. But Why?

FALLOWS: And I'll listen to the sound when you're doing it.

It is because it's a really strange surreal situation almost because the questions as you will see are about content and the answers are about NATO and tax policy and all that.

But if we think back at the debates, the once that made a difference, it never has anything to do with policy. It's how people carry themselves. Do they already taken aback? Do they seem confident or they seem tense or whatever. So --

COOPER: You use the example in your article of Lloyd Bentsen and Dan Quayle.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

LLOYD BENTSEN: Senator, I served with Jack Kennedy. I knew Jack Kennedy. Jack Kennedy was a friend of mine. Senator, you are no Jack Kennedy.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

COOPER: Bentsen used the line, "You are no Jack Kennedy." And the image of Quayle sort of looking kind of stunned and small permeated his future, really.

FALLOWS: Yes, that's stuck with him. Even now, he was a much more capable guy than that image suggested but that was an image that stuck with him.

Another case during the primaries was when Rick Perry --

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

RICK PERRY: And what's the third one there?

(END VIDEO CLIP)

FALLOWS: When he forgot which was the third department who's going to eliminate it. It wasn't so much that he forgot. It's that he showed that he forgot. He looked stricken in that way.

COOPER: And it sort of impacts them throughout the rest of the debate. Whereas, you used the example, I think, of Ronald Reagan going to -- against Jimmy Carter just sort of casually, jokingly saying there you go again.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP) RONALD REAGAN: There you go again.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

COOPER: And the image of Reagan was just kind of happy-go-lucky, he brushed right by and Jimmy Carter kind of looked, I think, just peevish in your article.

FALLOWS: Yes. And sort of beset. And I was working for Jimmy Carter until relatively soon before that. I've read him on the first debate when he won against Gerald Ford , but not the time in Reagan. And the image about Carter was that he was sort of too small for the mounting up tensions at that time. And so you had this at ease Reagan and this tense looking Carter.

Some political scientist will say that's not what turned the election, but it certainly felt like that.

COOPER: How do you think this idea of how you respond to something almost as being more important than what you are saying for a lot of viewers?

How do you think that plays to Donald Trump and to Hillary Clinton ?

FALLOWS: I think it has the potential to be more important now than ever before just because this is unprecedented in every way. There's never been a figure like Trump in this position in our history.

And so you have every contrast in just a more stark way than for a man versus woman. Somebody with a lot of experience. Somebody with no experience in public life. Somebody who is very controlled even to a fault and somebody who is not controlled. And somebody -- in Trump's case who sort of thrives on the attack and how that will work out when it's a woman of his same generation, the first woman ever there face- to-face with him. That's going to be very dramatic.

COOPER: You also in your article you talked to Jane Goodall, who, you know, best known for her work with chimpanzees in Tanzania.

What does Jane Goodall have to reflect on presidential politics?

FALLOWS: Well, the joy of the magazine life is all in the reporting as opposed to writing. So via my wife who had met Jane Goodall, it's that this might be a way to understand the dominance ritual.

Donald Trump exhibited to the whole --

COOPER: Chimpanzees are male dominating in size.

FALLOWS: Yes, exactly. So Jane Goodall is among the chimps for a long time. He's famous that way. She said that his rituals of intimidating his -- not just arguing, but intimidating his colleagues. They were like these dominant chimps.

She saw -- they made a lot of noise. They made their opponents cower. And when you start looking at the Republican primaries to that light against, you know, little Marco and low-energy Jeb, she said it was just like the chimps.

COOPER: That's really fascinating.

Also in your article, you write about that at the first Republican debate, what Donald Trump said, his language was run through a reading difficulty analyzer which match a fourth grade level, but that's really not it. But it was actually very effective for him. That's not an insult and that it was actually kind of powerful.

FALLOWS: So the language, sort of high end persuasion and communication, presidential speeches, advertisement is usually the 6th or 7th grade level. You know, clear and simple. The Bible is very clear and simple. You know, in the beginning and it was good and things like that.

Donald Trump takes us to an extreme. And I think during the primary debates, he just -- would say over and over again, we don't win anymore, we just lose. We're going to win with Trump. We're going to build a wall. It will be great.

And the next step up, nobody with this simple discourse has even been on this sort of general election stage before. And we will see if he can pull it off for two minutes.

(END VIDEOTAPE)

COOPER: James Fallow's article is the cover story of "The Atlantic," this month. It's a great read. I recommend it.

A reminder the debate starts at 9:00 p.m. on Monday night. You can watch it right here, of course, on CNN .

We'll have complete coverage running up to the debate and a lot of analysis afterwards.

Tonight, of course, the big night here on CNN . A reminder at the top of the hour, just minutes away, don't miss the season premier of Anthony Bourdain, "Parts Unknown."

In this new episode, President Obama joins Anthony in Hanoi for a crash course in Vietnamese dining.

We'll be right back.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

COOPER: Let's stay tuned to CNN throughout the evening.

The first presidential debate of this tumultuous election season now just 24 hours away. All day tomorrow. We'll be live from Hofstra University . The site of that debate.

Clinton and Trump, of course, going head-to-head for the first time. Well, it could be an explosive evening. Stay with us for that.

How the candidates are getting ready. And, of course, the debate itself 9:00 p.m. Eastern is when it starts tomorrow night, right here on CNN .

Right now, stay tuned for the season premier of Anthony Bourdain, "PARTS UNKNOWN."

**NEW\_DOCUMENT\_HERE**

Anderson Cooper, Deborah Feyerick, Drew Griffin, Randi Kaye, Phillip Mudd, Robert Baer, Paul Cruickshank, Alex Burns, Angela Rye, Jeffrey Lord, Maria Cardona, Jamie Gangel, Phil Mattingly, Gary Tuchman

7911 speakers\_end

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

[21:03:05] ANDERSON COOPER, CNN ANCHOR: Hey, thanks for joining us for this hour of "360".

"The sounds of the bombs will be heard in the streets, gunshots to your police, death to your oppression." This was among the writings found in the New York and New Jersey bomb suspect's journal, according to a criminal complaint.

Four federal charges have now been filed against him. We're also learning some disturbing new information tonight about the suspect's somewhat violent past and his family members. We'll have more on that in a moment.

But first, Deborah Feyerick has the latest on the investigation. Deborah?

DEBORAH FEYERICK, CNN NATIONAL CORRESPONDENT: Well, Anderson, the terror suspect has now been charged with four counts. They include use of a weapon of mass destruction, bombing a public place, also, destruction of public property, and use of explosives in commission of a criminal act.

Now, Rahami took cell phone video, just two days before he launched this attack on New York City and New Jersey. He actually lit some bomb material in or around his backyard. That was filmed on a relative's cell phone. That now in the possession of the FBI.

And we can tell you, Anderson, that bomb that was detonated here on West 23rd Street, it was so powerful that it propelled a 100-pound dumpster clear across the street, 120 feet to where I'm standing, scattering debris basically in all directions.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

FEYERICK: Two years before allegedly denoting a bomb in Manhattan, Ahmad Khan Rahami came to the attention of the FBI in New Jersey. In 2014, agents interviewed Rahami's father, Mohammad, following a domestic dispute in which he allegedly called his son a terrorist. UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Why did you call the FBI two years ago? What happened?

MOHAMMAD RAHAMI, SUSPECT'S FATHER: Because he's doing bad.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: He's doing bad. Why would he do bad?

MOHAMMAD RAHAMI: He's not my son. He hit my wife. And I put him to jail four years ago.

FEYERICK: At the time, Rahami had just returned from a year-long trip to Pakistan and Afghanistan.

[21:04:59] Officials tell CNN that FBI agents did not interview Rahami, yet after conducting internal database reviews, interagency checks and multiple interviews, the FBI ultimately concluded it was a family dispute.

WILLIAM SWEENEY JR. ASST. DIRECTOR IN CHARGE, FBI NEW YORK: We had a report of a domestic incident some time ago. That was the allegations were recanted and I don't have any other information. We'll keep digging.

FEYERICK: However, because of his repeated trips to areas associated with terrorists, when Rahami returned to the U.S. in 2014, Customs and Border Patrol agents pulled him aside for extra screening. A law enforcement official telling CNN, that information was sent to the FBI before the family dispute.

While the FBI, so far, does not believe Rahami was part of a terror cell in the New York/New Jersey area, investigators are digging on Rahami's connections in the U.S. and overseas, to determine if he had any help.

COMMISSIONER JAMES O'NEILL, NEW YORK POLICE: Moving forward, we have to identify everybody involved, and see what their backgrounds are, see where they've been, see what they've been up to.

FEYERICK: Rahami allegedly built at least 10 bombs, eight pipe bombs and two pressure cooker bombs. A federal law enforcement source tells CNN, Rahami used a highly volatile chemical explosive, easy to make at home. The material is so powerful, it could create an even bigger blast than the one caused by the Boston bombers.

Tonight, investigators are learning more about what could have inspired Rahami. After a shootout with police, investigators discovered he had a notebook on him with a bullet hole. According to a law enforcement official, it referenced to Boston marathon bombers and American-born al-Qaeda cleric, Anwar al-Awlaki, killed in Yemen by a U.S. drone strike.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

COOPER: And Deborah, he also got some components for the bomb or bombs on eBay. Is that right? FEYERICK: Yeah, that's what's so surprising. I mean, investigators really put this case together very, very quickly. And apparently, they allege that the components were bought on eBay. They include citric acid, detonation systems, as well as ball bearings. All of these are known bomb components.

And, you know, this suspect really wanted to die a martyr. And he writes that in his journal. And it was a multi-pronged attack. He had two pressure cooker bombs. But he also planned to engage police in a shootout if it came down to that. So, he was ready, he was prepared, and it looks like he built these devices over the summer, Anderson.

COOPER: All right, Deborah Feyerick. Deborah, thanks.

As details emerge about the suspect's family life, it's a story of a lot of trauma and tumultuous, sometimes violent scenes. Drew Griffin tonight has more.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

DREW GRIFFIN, CNN SENIOR INVESTIGATIVE CORRESPONDENT: Friends of Ahmad Khan Rahami point to a lifelong feud between the elder son and his strict father. He brought his family here seeking asylum, but also try to hold on to his strict family tradition of their home country, Afghanistan.

EHSAN, FAMILY FRIEND: For him, it was his father. And it was just -- it was just tension. It was his part, too. He should have listened more to his father. Maybe, you know, stayed in school.

GRIFFIN: This longtime friend of the accused bomber says in his teens, Rahami was outgoing, funny, and looking forward to a future in law enforcement, but in high school, he got his girlfriend pregnant and Ahmad struggled to make child support payments.

There was more stress, and this family friend says it led to one of the most dramatic events in Ahmad Rahami's life, the time his father literally abandoned him in Pakistan.

It was your impression that he thought his father, I assume, wanted him to stay in Pakistan, wanted to abandon him in Pakistan, so he would not come back to the U.S.

EHSAN: He told me, himself, that he was basically left there. And then that he had to find his own way back. Which I'm sure traumatized him for life. That, I'm sure, scarred him.

GRIFFI: The friend, who doesn't want to be identified, says it was a shock when Ahmad actually came back.

EHSAN: He was left and he had -- they took away his way of coming back, and that was about it. And he had to go -- and it hurt him a lot. And that night, like, when he told me, he -- he said it in a very devastated way. GRIFFIN: During multiple trips back and forth to Afghanistan and Pakistan, Ahmad and his brother married Pakistani cousins. He asked a congressman to step in when his wife had visa issues.

REP. ALBIO SIRES, (D) NEW JERSEY: ... a new passport. Then after they got a new passport, they found out that she was 35-week pregnant and they would not give her the entry visa and they said that they would give her the visa once she had the baby.

GRIFFIN: After she was allowed into the U.S., Rahami and his wife tried to get away from the troubled family life, moving into this apartment, but a friend says they couldn't afford it, were evicted, and ended up back in the family apartment above the chicken shop.

EHSAN: It was not good what happened. That was just a violent night. There was blood.

GRIFFIN: Court documents show a family in turmoil, lawsuits over big debts incurred by the father, and allegation of child abuse by the mother. The tight quarters led to family fights. In 2014, the violence escalated.

[21:10:00] Ahmad pulled a knife, and according to this arrest warrant, attacked his brother, stabbing him in his left leg. Today, Rahami's father briefly told reporters, he is the one who called police.

EHSAN: It was a very bad situation for Ahmad. Because, he was trying to live with his parents and his wife and kids, but just -- I guess drama just unfolded that night between them.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

COOPER: And Drew joins me now. That arrest in 2014 and the claims by the father that he told the FBI his son was a terrorist or had radical leanings, which I guess the FBI says was later retracted, do we know how much of an investigation there actually was on this guy?

GRIFFIN: He spent three months in jail. So there was an investigation ensuing, along police lines to see if this case was going to move forward in a domestic violence case. The family dropped the charges, the grand jury refused to indict. So after three months, he was basically let go. It was during that time that the father said, "My son is a terrorist." The FBI apparently came in and believed this was all the result of a dysfunctional family. We're just going to let it go. There doesn't seem to be any terrorism here.

COOPER: The bomber's brother or the alleged bomber's brother, who also traveled to Pakistan with him and I guess married a cousin of his wife, apparently was also posting radical Islamic material on Facebook, is that true?

GRIFFIN: Yeah, on his Facebook. Now, this is Mohammad, he is the brother who did go to Pakistan, he has a Pakistani wife as well. Many benign posts on his Facebook, but among them were links to Anwar al- Awlaki's preachings and also to a link that is a conspiracy video about 9/11 being an actual hoax. So this brother as well as we believed now Ahmad Rahami both shared this kind of literature.

COOPER: And do we know where the brother is now?

GRIFFIN: The brother is here. The brother is in the United States. We're not sure if he's cooperating or not.

COOPER: All right. Drew is going to stay with us. I want to bring in CNN terrorism analyst, Paul Cruickshank, also CNN contributor and Daily Beast senior editor Michael Weiss, and CNN intelligence and security analyst, former CIA officer, Robert Baer.

Phil, the more we learn about these charges -- well, actually, Michael, I mean the -- what stands out to you about this? I mean it sounds in many ways like so many of these other cases that we've heard of, somebody who actually grew up here, I guess he was here from the time he was 6 or 7 years old. You know, we've seen this before.

MICHAEL WEISS, CNN CONTRIBUTOR: Yeah, and it's almost out of central casting, right? He was charming, he was funny, he did well in school, and then something changes. You know, this dissent into dysfunctional and this dissent into financial difficulties, violent crime, not Islamist related or terrorist related.

But, you know, whatever was the radicalizing agents here, you know. The analog that strikes me is Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab, a guy who became -- was enrolled in University College London, was the president of the Islamic society, started posting very much provocative things about 9/11, al-Awlaki videos, may have even attended sermons by Anwar al-Awlaki that were beamed into East London mosque. His father was a Nigerian minister, dropped a dime on the kid and said, I think my son is becoming a terrorist, very much like this incident here. Well, that guy, we now know, tried to blow up an airliner above the skies of Detroit in Christmas of 2009.

So, you know, it's often a kind of a misconception that nobody sees this process unfolding in real time. Now, the father retracted or recanted his statement, but he did say at one point that my son traveled to the AfPak region and was congregating with some, "bad people."

Well, I'm keen as to hear about that. I mean, this is sort of similar, also, to Tamerlan Tsarnaev ...

COOPER: Right.

WEISS: ... who spent months in Dagestan. And the position is, well, who is he hanging out with in Dagestan? This is one of the sort of hornets' nest of an Islamist insurgency that's been fighting the Russian government for years.

COOPER: Yeah. Bob, the more we learned, though, from these federal charges, the fact there's apparently video evidence of explosives, apparently being tested, what does it tell you about the suspects?

One of the things you have long talked about is, with these kind of bombs, you do have to test them out, or you have to have some sort of training or instruction?

ROBERT BAER, FORMER CIA OFFICER: Anderson, you do. I mean, I've been trained in these things by ATF, by London police, they showed me how to do it, but I always had somebody around me. I mean, this is not the kind of thing you just do on your own, especially, you know, with the peroxide, distilling it, and the rest of it, something you would need to practice and clearly he was doing it.

I don't think he's much of a chemist, so I think he probably learned this abroad. You know, if he went to the Taliban or another group in Quetta and picked this up and carried it back and knew the ingredients and the rest of it, it's undoubtedly what happened. He's not the type of person to be experimenting with stuff, learning on his own. Same way with the Boston bombers. They had some sort of guidance, maybe in Dagestan, when it first started, when they were in the caucuses.

So, no, I think this guy was prepared and he was radicalized and he is from central casting.

[21:15:02] You have a patriarchal family that falls apart, you have a father that, you know, barely speaks English, he calls him a terrorist, the word in Pashto is someone who scares the family. So I can see why the FBI didn't pursue this. It was just a family dispute. And he was, you know, he was going to end upon where he did. I think the lucky thing is that he decided not to become martyr and take this bomb into a restaurant or some place that or nightclub and he really would have killed a lot of people.

COOPER: Paul, I mean, you look even at his -- and we're talking about this last night, his tradecraft, his, you know -- besides the bomb making itself, ,everything else, I mean, he was caught on multiple surveillance cameras, you know, he sort of has random placement of the device. He's not the most highly trained -- if there was some sort of training, he's not the most highly trained -- you know, he's no Jason Bourne.

PAUL CRUICKSHANK, CNN TERRORISM ANALYST: Well, I mean, he's succeed in making powerful devices ...

COOPER: Right.

CRUICKSHANK: ... and exploding them, at least one of them, on the streets of Manhattan. So from that degree, he was successful. If he did get training, they tend not to train people in how to get away. I mean what they're interested in is getting the guy to the position where he can actually launch a bomb attack. He got to that position without any of the U.S. Intelligence or law enforcement ...

COOPER: Right, that's true.

CRUICKSHANK: ... agencies getting on to him. So from his point of view, you know, this was partially successful.

COOPER: Do you agree that he -- I mean, in the journal I talked about, wanting to be a martyr. You know, he was found asleep, you know, by a bar in Linden, New Jersey. If he had wanted to die in some way, that's ...

CRUICKSHANK: I mean, he may just have been weary and he had to sort of catch up with some rest before going into a sort of future phase of this operation. He may very clear in his notebook that he was yearning for martyrdom for paradise, that the thing he feared the most was that he would be discovered before he was able to perhaps become a suicide bomber or launch some kind of suicidal gun attack. Fortunately, there was this tip-off ...

COOPER: Right.

CRUICKSHANK: ... after a resident there actually saw his picture on CNN.

COOPER: The guy that has a shop across the away, outside his bar.

CRUICKSHANKL: And if that hadn't happened when happened, there could very well have been further bombings.

COOPER: Drew Griffin, Paul Cruickshank, thank you. Michael Weiss, Bob Baer, thanks.

Coming up, the suspect is a naturalized U.S. citizen, not the first citizen to be accused of an attack on his fellow Americans in the recent past. We'll take a look at what we have seen up to date.

And later, more breaking news. Multiple sources say George H.W. Bush says he is voting for Hillary Clinton. Details on that, ahead.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

[21:21:11] COOPER: Our breaking news tonight, federal authorities have filed four charges against the terror suspect in the New York and New Jersey bombs.

There has been some chatter about whether he should be tried as an enemy combatant rather than receive due process. The suspect is a naturalized U.S. citizen, meaning under current law, he's entitled to that due process.

He wouldn't be the first U.S. citizen involved in attack, not certainly by a long shot. Randi Kaye tonight reports.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

RANDI KAYE, CNN CORRESPONDENT: June, 2016, Orlando's Pulse Nightclub under attack. 49 people are killed. But the shooter isn't a foreigner connected to al-Qaeda or ISIS. He's an American citizen.

MIGUEL LEIVA, ORLANDO SHOOTING SURVIVOR: I just remember like you can smell like the blood. There was so much blood, that was a -- you could just smell it.

KAYE: The nightclub shooter's parents moved to the U.S. from Afghanistan. He was born in New York.

As a child, he went to slumber parties and basketball games. He was 29, married, and living in Ft. Pierce at the time of the attack.

After 9/11, U.S. Intelligence mainly focused on foreign-born threats, but it turns out in the last 15 years, every deadly terrorist attack in this country was carried out by an American citizen or a legal permanent resident. The terrorist was either a lone wolf or worked in pairs, but never part of a larger cell.

December, 2015, San Bernardino, California. 14 shot dead. Dozens more injured during a terrorist attack at the Inland Regional Center.

CHIEF JARROD BURGUAN, SAN BERNARDINO POLICE: The suspects, when they entered, fired somewhere between 65 and 75 rounds from their rifles, at the scene.

KAYE: The attackers were a husband and wife. He brought her to the U.S. in 2014 on a fiancee visa.

At the time of the attack, she had a temporary green card. The husband was born in Chicago, to Pakistani **immigrants**. He attended Cal State San Bernardino before taking a job with the county. Investigators believe the couple was self-radicalized.

April, 2013, bombs explode at the Boston Marathon, killing three, injuring more than 260. The attackers, in this case, two brothers, one a naturalized citizen, and his older brother had a green card.

The family **immigrated** to Boston in 2002, from a region of Russia. While the older brother grew up more troubled, his younger brother was a sophomore at U Mass Dartmouth, where he spent his time skateboarding, smoking Marijuana, and chasing girls, hardly the profile of a terrorist.

November, 2009, Ft. Hood, Texas, a shooting rampage kills 13. The gunman, an army psychiatrist, who was born and raised in Virginia earning a degree in biochemistry from Virginia Tech in 1995.

Despite the fact he exchanged messages with an American radical cleric in Yemen, the shooter was not officially linked to any terrorist group.

IMAM FAIZUL KHAN, FORMER IMAM OF THE MUSLIM COMMUNITY CENTER OF SILVER SPRING, MD: He was an ordinary, peace-loving American citizen.

KAYE: He, along with the Orlando shooter and one of the Boston bombers, had all been on the FBI's radar. But in the end, no action was taken against any of them.

Randi Kaye, CNN, New York.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

COOPER: And with me again, CNN counterterrorism analyst and former FBI and CIA senior official, Phillip Mudd.

It's always strikes me when someone says, oh no, he was a peace-loving person and then, obviously, it's something ... PHILLIP MUDD, CNN COUNTERTERRORISM ANALYST AND FORMER FBI AND CIA SENIOR OFFICIAL: I guess not.

COOPER: What is the FBI up against when the fact that so many of these individuals who have carried out attacks or plotted attacks in the United States are second generation, or people who came here as children, grew up here, spent most of their lives?

MUDD: You're up against a couple of things. Number one is a social issue and the second is an investigative issue.

[21:24:58] Socially, if you look at the parents emigrating here, any parent, they're connected into the home country. They have a connection culturally, food, religion, family. And they also have a dream that to live in America is to live the American dream.

You look at that second generation, they are not connected to the home country. They might be connected by internet, but they didn't grow up there. They don't have direct connections to the culture there. And they're not connected to culture in the United States. They might not fit in at a school. Somebody might make fun of them for being Muslim, so that disassociation, if you will, in some cases, drives people to say, what do I do to object to this?

The investigative piece is tougher. You've got to look for a vulnerability that is, talk to the wrong person. Talk to an FBI informant, e-mail somebody, follow an ISIS individual on Twitter. If you have somebody to close this conversation, Anderson, in New Jersey, who is not talking to anybody, not talking to somebody on Twitter, not radicalizing with somebody who is a preacher overseas, how do you find them? I don't see a vulnerability.

COOPER: Until they pop up at the radar somehow ...

MUDD: Correct, yeah.

COOPER: ... and even then, they have to pop up in a way that's significant enough to warrant an investigation.

MUDD: That's right. Radicalization is not significant enough. Our founding fathers were radicals. That is protected under the constitution. Typically, I'm looking for a trigger that suggests violence. You're talking about exploding a device, you're telling a family friend or telling a family member, I want to commit an act of violence. Then that person has to call the feds and say, I know somebody who might blow something up. You cannot look at internet activity, travel, that's all protected activity, Anderson.

COOPER: Phil Mudd, appreciate you being on. Thank you.

MUDD: Thank you.

COOPER: Just ahead, Donald Trump saying African-American communities are in the worst shape they have ever been before, ever, ever, ever, in a country that has a history of slavery. A bold statement to say the least. Is this any way to win the support of African-American voters? We started talking about this the last hour with our political panel. We'll continue that conversation, next.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

[21:30:45] COOPER: Donald Trump is still running in single digit support among African-American voters, but his outreach tactic hasn't changed if anything, it seems to have increased. Listen to what he said at a rally in North Carolina today.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

DONALD TRUMP, (R) PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE: We're going to rebuild our inner cities because our African-American communities are absolutely in the worst shape that they've ever been in before, ever, ever, ever.

You take a look at the inner cities, you get no education, you get no jobs, you get shot walking down the street. The worst -- I mean, honestly, places like Afghanistan are safer than some of our inner cities.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

COOPER: Well, we start a conversation on this with our panel the last hour. There were some statements made agreeing that this is the worst or the deadliest era in African-American communities. Detroit was brought up as an example. We just looked up the stats, according to data generator from the Detroit Police Department. Violent crime actually fell 7 percent from 2014 to 2015. It's actually down 11 percent since 2013. When it comes to Chicago that was also brought up. There were 468 murders there in 2015, a high number, but well below the 925 which were recorded in 1991, according to Wall Street Journal. FBI crime stats in general show the violent crime rate in the largest cities in 2014 significantly declined since 2006.

The panel is with me again. Joining the conversation is CNN political analyst, Alex Burns.

Donald Trump, I mean, received criticism or, you know, weeks ago for saying to African-Americans, what have you got to lose? He seems to be doubling down on that, if anything, saying, your communities are worse off than ever, ever, ever. I assume that means also in the time of slavery, segregation, boycotts, you know lunchroom sit-ins.

ALEX BURNS, NEW YORK TIMES NATIONAL POLITICAL REPORTER: It's pretty remarkable -- especially remarkable statement to make in a place like North Carolina, where so much of that history does hang over the politics of the state. And where the black community and the black voting electorate there actually bears very little resemblance to the just total picture of destitution that Trump is laying out here.

COOPER: Actually a large middle class among African-Americans in some communities.

BURNS: Right. I would say this is -- I think this is particularly striking as an -- a supposed outreach tactic to black voters, but it is similar actually to a lot of what Trump says to his core working class white supporters that I was in a rally in Pennsylvania, actually, Jeff was there last month, near Harrisburg, and Trump gets up at this rally and basically says, the place where you live is a disaster. I saw it on the way in from the airport. And the people -- he's not used to people taking exception to that kind of language. But when you go into, you know, try to speak to a community that is not among your core supporters, and where you really have not spent meaningful amounts of time in this campaign, I think it comes off very, very differently.

ANGELA RYE, POLITICAL STRATEGIST: I think, one of the challenges here is his rhetoric often comes across as very tone deaf. So just as an example, several hours ago today, also in North Carolina, where he held this rally, but in Charlotte, there was a black man by the name of Keith Lamont Scott, who was shot and killed by a police officer in his car, reading a book. A disabled map, waiting for his kid to come off the school bus.

So you have the challenges of -- there's real fear, too in black communities, but that fear is rooted in the fact that community policing tactics don't work or they're not in place. There are people who are literally broken and fragile. I, for one am broken and fragile about the constant onslaught of police violence in these communities and the fact that we just can't really solve for them.

He seems to be tone deaf because what happens is, when Donald Trump tells you that the black community can be more violent than Afghanistan, that puts on the mind-set for many people that black people are inherently violent and criminal, which only further exacerbates the problem. He's not solving for a problem, he's making it worse.

ANDRE BAUER, TRUMP SUPPORTER: Engaging in the discussion, whether the panel likes it or not, the numbers are moving. Los Angeles Times did a poll with Southern Cal where his numbers went from 3 percent to 19.6 percent in the last week.

RYE: What poll was that?

BAUER: Hillary Clinton's polls went from 90 percent to 71 percent. He is making inroads. They see hope. They see change.

RYE: What poll is that?

BAUER: That was the Los Angeles Times and Southern Cal did a poll together.

JEFFREY LORD, TRUMP SUPPORTER: But the point is -- the point is ...

RYE: What was the sample size?

LORD: It's time for Republicans -- I mean I used to work for Jack Kemp. You have got to go into this community and I understand ...

[21:35:03] COOPER: But Jack Kemp did it. I mean Jack Kemp did go into these communities.

LORD: Right, right, right. COOPER: Donald Trump, I mean has not, you know.

LORD: Well, he's been meeting with all kinds of black leaders. The problem is -- here's the problem, is that liberals are very good at this, they can play -- they play the identity politics, not just with blacks, with Hispanics ...

RYE: What does that mean, Jeff?

LORD: Well, I'll tell you, I'll tell you. What it mean -- they can flake (ph) identifying by race or gender with being liberal.

RYE: That's not what I'm doing.

(CROSSTALK)

COOPER: What we're focusing on here is Donald Trump who has said, I'm never going to lie to you, I'm never going to say anything that's not true, has said that life for African-Americans is worse than it has ever, ever, ever been.

BURNS: In his opinion it is. He's been ...

(CROSSTALK)

COOPER: I mean if I say, in my opinion, I can fly, it doesn't mean I can fly. Some things are actually true ...

(CROSSTALK)

COOPER: But some things are true and some things are not true. And if you say even its true and it's not ...

(CROSSTALK)

COOPER: But he's not saying a lot of people don't feel like they're better off. He is saying your life -- life for African-Americans -- African-American communities are worse off than they have ever, ever, ever ...

(CROSSTALK)

LORD: Anderson, all I'm asking you, if he is wrong, why is Al Sharpton in the streets, why did Ferguson explode, why did Baltimore ...

(CROSSTALK)

RYE: I can answer all of those questions.

(CROSSTALK)

COOPER: That's like a college political union argument. That what you're saying essentially, of course there are still problems, of course African-American people have a right to not be happy about as we all have a right to not be happy in our communities about how things are. But to say that your life is worse than it has ever been for African-Americans in this country ...

(CROSSTALK)

COOPER: It's because I actually -- I'm fixating because I think facts actually matter. And if a guy who's going to be president of the United States ...

(CROSSTALK)

LORD: Well, all facts matter, Anderson.

RYE: Yes.

COOPER: Right.

LORD: All facts, right?

RYE: Yes.

LORD: Who is responsible? How did we get here? What can we do to ...

RYE: Please answer that. No, no, no.

LORD: ... that matters.

RYE: Anderson, make him answer that question. How did we get here? Answer that.

LORD: Answer?

RYE: How did we get here? Answer that?

LORD: Because slaves were brought to this country in 16-something or other by white guys from the -- who were Dutch, I believe, in Virginia ...

RYE: OK.

LORD: OK, great.

RYE: This is -- we're breaking ground. This is perfect.

LORD: This is great. This is great.

RYE: Yes.

LORD: And when we morphed into the United States of America ...

RYE: OK.

LORD: ... and had political parties ...

RYE: No, Jeffrey, that's where you go wrong.

COOPER: Let him finish. LORD: The Democratic Party was founded by Thomas Jefferson, who made a political alliance with slave owners.

RYE: OK.

LORD: And after that, it went to segregation ...

RYE: OK.

RYE: ... and here we are today ...

(CROSSTALK)

MARIA CARDONA, 2008 SENIOR CLINTO CAMPAIGN ADVISER: You skipped over a hug piece of history which was it was then the Democrats who were actually the ones who were fighting for voting rights, after the whole slavery and Jim Crow who were fighting for people -- for these people to actually vote, who were fighting for fair housing.

LORD: They got 80 percent of the ...

(CROSSTALK)

COOPER: When you're talking over each other, no one's listening ...

CARDONA: We were talking about this in our earlier panel. This is what Donald Trump does. Let's be very clear. He doesn't go into these communities. By the way, he didn't go into these communities. Did you see the audience? It was a majorly white audience that he was talking to.

He is doing this to try to shore up support among his white voters. And to try to get college-educated whites who can then say, oh, look, he's talking about black people, maybe he's not so racist. Let's be very clear about that.

BURNS: Look, I think the (inaudible) of this campaign, the meaningful test right now is between Hillary Clinton and her just own ability to generate enthusiasm among black voters. Donald Trump is not really making a concerted play for the black vote day in, day out in black communities. The question is can she match the enthusiasm and the turnout that Barack Obama did in his two campaigns?

COOPER: And that is an open question right now.

Just ahead, we have more breaking news. According to sources close to former President George H.W. Bush, Hillary Clinton will get his vote in November. A new twist in the complicated history, the Bushes and Clintons certainly have shared in a high-profile review of his own party's nominee. The question is, does it really matter? We'll take a look at that.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

[21:42:59] COOPER: With more breaking news, the 41st president of the United States, George Herbert Walker Bush plans to vote for Hillary Clinton. That's according to sources close to him. Shakespearean is one word that comes to mind.

Joining me now with the details, CNN special correspondent, Jamie Gangel.

This all started, I guess, as a Facebook post, saying that George H.W. Bush will be voting for Clinton. That was in November. You reached out to sources. What are they telling you?

JAMIE GANGEL, CNN SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT: So what happened was, the Points of Life Foundation is now a bipartisan group.

COOPER: Right.

GANGEL: And Kathleen Kennedy Townsend is one of the people on that, and she was at the meeting yesterday. And all of a sudden, she post on Facebook that former President Bush has told me he is voting for Hillary. This came as quite a shock to everybody because they had thought it was a private conversation.

So, for the record, they have an official statement that I would say is a dodge or a deflection from their spokesman. He's saying, "The vote President Bush will cast as a private citizen in some 50 days will be just that a private vote cast in 50 days. He's not commenting on the presidential race in the interim." That said, our sources have told us, multiple sources that in fact, they confirm that he did say it to her and also that this is not a surprise to people who know him. He has told other people that he was going to vote for Hillary Clinton.

COOPER: You interviewed the former First Lady, and I mean, I remember, it was a very distinctive interview. And she didn't mince words in what she was saying about Donald Trump.

GANGEL: Right. That was the last interview she's done. That was the one where she so eloquently said when I asked her what she thought of Donald Trump, I'm sick of Donald Trump. And we're going to play a little bit more of it and we'll talk on the other side.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

BARBARA BUSH, FORMER FIRST LADY: He doesn't give many answers to how he would solve problems. He sort of makes faces and says insulting things. I mean he's said terrible things about women, terrible things about military.

[21:45:00] I don't understand why people are for him, for that reason. I'm a woman. I'm not crazy about what he says about women.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

GANGEL: So, vintage Barbara Bush. She has not publicly said who she's voting for.

COOPER: Right.

GANGEL: I guess it's not Donald Trump. COOPER: There is a photo that I remember seeing of President George W. Bush with Hillary Clinton at, I think, it was at Nancy Reagan's funeral.

GANGEL: Funeral. And this is all over social media. And this should not be taken as that former President Bush 43 is voting for Hillary Clinton. But, you can't miss that there is a warm relationship here that people might not expect. We reached out to him today.

He is sticking by he is saying he is staying out of this race. He is not going to do anything, except he's raising a lot of money to try to make sure Republicans get re-elected in Congress.

And we should say the Bushes are not a block on this. So we now know what 41 thinks, we know 43 is sitting out.

Jeb has told me, he is not voting for Trump or Hillary. His son, George P. says he is voting for Trump. So, all different sides.

COOPER: Jamie Gangel, thanks very much.

GANGER: Thank you.

COOPER: Appreciate it. It's always good to have you on. We're going to obviously have to wait to see how or even if this affects Donald Trump's campaign or Hillary Clinton's campaign for that matter.

In the meantime, one of Trump's top surrogates, New Jersey Governor Chris Christie, is facing another brush fire of sorts sparked by a fraud trial that got underway this week with a surprising allegation by prosecutors. Phil Mattingly has that.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

PHIL MATTINGLY, CNN NEW YORK-BASED CORRESPONDENT: As far as Chris Christie has fallen politically, there has always been one saving grace.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Hey, 2-11, Fort Lee traffic is a nightmare.

MATTINGLY: No evidence existed to tie to the deliberate September 2013 closure of lanes on the George Washington Bridge. Until now, prosecutors say.

GOV. CHRIS CHRISTIE, (R) NEW JERSEY: I've been investigated by three different entities. Two of them led by partisan Democrats, who, you know, have all found that I had no knowledge of this incident and no involvement in it.

MATTINGLY: During opening statements of the fraud trial involving top Christie administration officials, prosecutors told jurors they would prove Christie was aware of their activities as the closures were happening.

For Christie, it's the scandal that helped turn a leading presidential contender into an early primary dropout. CHRISTIE: It's both the magic and the mystery of politics that you never quite know when which is going to happen. Even when you think you do.

MATTINGLY: Even as he maintained from the very beginning that he had no knowledge of the alleged political retribution carried out by his aids.

CHRISTIE: Well, let me tell you everybody, I was blindsided yesterday morning. That was the first time I knew about this, it's the first time I had seen any of the documents that were revealed yesterday.

MATTINGLY: But questions about whether that's actually the case have long simmered, as charges against his allies had moved through the court, including the revelation uncovered in court documents in August of a December 2013 text from a campaign aide, saying Christie, "Flat- out lied about what he knew."

Yet even as his own presidential campaign fizzled and the trial loomed, Christie's role with the man he endorsed, Donald Trump, continued to grow.

CHRISTIE: There is no one who is better prepared to provide America with a strong leadership that it needs.

MATTINGLY: Even though Trump in December took the same position prosecutors are taking now.

TRUMP: Here's the story. The George Washington Bridge, he knew about it.

MATTINGLY: But even there, the scandal known as "Bridgegate" helped cost Christie what aides say he desperately wanted to be Trump's running mate.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: How much of a factor do you believe the trouble with the "Bridgegate" was a factor in you not getting picked for vice president?

CHRISTIE: I'm sure it was a factor.

MATTINGLY: Phil Mattingly, CNN, New York.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

COOPER: Well, coming out, Trump's core supporters, white working- class voters. Among other things, they are worried their Christian values are under threat. How that could play on Election Day, coming up next.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

[21:52:12] COOPER: Welcome back. The American white working-class makes up the core of Donald Trump's support. But what's driving their decision to support him over Hillary Clinton? We teamed up with the Kaiser Family Foundation for an in-depth survey. One issue that sharply divides Trump supporters from the rest of white working-class is whether they believe **immigrants** from Muslim countries increase the terror risk here at home. 82 percent said they do, 37 percent who aren't considering Trump said the same.

Many of the white working-class, especially evangelical voters also believed their religion is under attack. Gary Tuchman tonight takes a look at that.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

GARY TUCHMAN, CNN ATLANTA-BASED CORRESPONDENT: In Oklahoma Christian evangelical church, hundreds of congregants worshipping together at the Guts Church in Tulsa. Many of them telling us they believe their Christian values are under attack.

BRIAN LLOYD, GUTS CHURCH MEMBER: I think it's funny that we call ourselves a Christian nation, but actual evangelical Christians are the ones that have to explain ourselves a lot.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: How many of you guys have truly you could say, irrefutably, undoubtedly, that you've experienced the life of God? Is there anybody in here? Have you experienced the life of God?

TUCHMAN: Do you think there's an attack on Christian values and sculptures?

CARL KERSER, GUTS CHURCH MEMBER: There has been since the devil became the devil.

TUCHMAN: A polling indicates 65 percent of working class white people believe Christian values are under attack. But among working-class Christian evangelical white people, that number jumps to 89 percent.

Do you believe Christian values are under attack?

GEORGE GHESQUINE, GUTS CHURCH MEMBER: I think the objective morality is under attack.

TUCHMAN: Among the other reasons cited by those who feel that way is this.

Do you think **immigrants** from Muslim countries threaten Christian beliefs and values in this country?

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: I think they test them.

TUCHMAN: This is Jinkx, Oklahoma, where three Syrian **refugees** have resettled since the conflict began in their country. Three of only a total of 16 in the entire State of Oklahoma.

This woman lives in Jinkx. Do you think Christian values are under attack in America today?

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: I really do. TUCHMAN: So, do you think that Muslim **refugees** coming to this country, coming to this state and this town, have led to that?

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Yes, I do. I believe that we're supposed to be quiet because, you know, it offends other people and I think that that's not America.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: One, two, three.

TUCHMAN: Four year old Mona, (ph), and a Syrian **refugee**, along with his three brothers and his parents are now living in Oklahoma.

Are you at all concerned for the safety of your children, your family, because there are some people who would prefer that you'd not be here?

EBTESAM ALKOWAYFL, SYRIAN **REFUGEE** LIVING IN OKLAHOMA (Through Translation): No one bothers my children when they go to school. Nothing hurts us. They respect us and they don't bother us. They treat you as you treat them.

[21:55:07] TUCHMAN: And that answer gratifies the people at Catholic charities of Tulsa who have worked to resettle Syrians in Oklahoma.

The executive director disagreeing with the belief that Christian values are being threatened?

DEACON KEVIN SARTORIUS, CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF THE DIOCESE OF TULSA: This is a country that for its entire history has celebrated the diversity of religions. And we need to hold that value dear to our hearts and protect it.

TUCHMAN: Back at the evangelical church, the pastor does think there was an attack on Christian values, but he says it isn't necessarily a bad thing.

PASTOR BILL SCHEER, GUTS CHURCH PASTOR: Honestly, I love the whole idea that we're set apart.

I love the whole idea that it's like, wait a second, I've got to stand for something. And if you're going to stand for something that means there's going to be some, maybe, a little persecution, maybe there's going to be some resistance to it.

TUCHMAN: Gary Tuchman, CNN, Tulsa, Oklahoma.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

COOPER: We're going to have much more from our in-depth survey of white working-class voters in partnership with the Kaiser Family Foundation through out the week on "360". You can also find more details on the results at cnn.com. We'll have more ahead.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

**NEW\_DOCUMENT\_HERE**

Anderson Cooper, Jim Sciutto, Pamela Brown, Paul Cruickshank, Philip Mudd, Juliette Kayyem, Brianna Keilar, Kirsten Powers, John King, Maria Cardona, Angela Rye, Jeffrey Lord

9540 speakers\_end

[20:00:24] ANDERSON COOPER, CNN ANCHOR: Good evening.

We begin tonight with breaking news.

Federal prosecutors have just filed four criminal charges against a man suspected of planting bombs in New York and New Jersey, including a weapons mass destruction charge. And we're just starting to get more pieces of the puzzle, including how the suspect allegedly gathered the components for the bombs. The suspect is still in a hospital in Newark after yesterday's shootout with police.

We're also getting new details about who the suspect is, where he traveled and his turbulence, sometimes violence home life. More on that in a moment.

First, Jim Sciutto has the latest on the investigation.

The new details, what did you learn?

JIM SCIUTTO, CNN CHIEF NATIONAL SECURITY CORRESPONDENT: Anderson, really some remarkable details in this federal complaint. For one, he bought many of the components on eBay, shipping them to an address in New Jersey.

But as recently as two days before the attack, he was testing out these explosive devices, what looked like a cylindrical explosive device, filming it on a relatives cell phone and then another one-half buried in a backyard, laughing, himself seen in the frame of the video laughing as he made this test, raising reasonable questions as to whether someone should have seen or heard him do this.

This as the FBI revealing that he was indeed on their radar screen two years ago, at least questions of his terror involvement dismissed at the time.

(BEGIN VIDEOTAPE)

SCIUTTO (voice-over): Tonight, U.S. officials tell CNN the FBI interviewed the father of the suspect in 2014, after a violent domestic dispute led to a tip alleging the father was calling his son a terrorist. After the father then down played the accusation, the FBI ultimately concluded it was a domestic matter.

Today, the suspect's father told CNN more about the violent altercation.

MOHAMMAD RAHAMI, SUSPECT'S FATHER: Now, he's a -- he's a terrorist, I say OK.

REPORTER: Why did you call the FBI two years ago?

RAHAMI: He doing bad.

REPORTER: What is he doing bad?

RAHAMI: He stabbed my son. He hit my wife. And I put him to jail two years ago.

SCIUTTO: Investigators are now attempting to question the suspect, though police say he still isn't talking. One urgent question, did he have help in carrying out the alleged attacks?

(on camera): Do you still believe that he acted alone with these attacks and attempted attacks?

COMMISSIONER JAMES O'NEILL, NYPD: Well, Jim, it's very early on in the investigation. So, as we move through this we're going to determine who the acquaintances were, family, friends, go through the social media, see if he had any phones. We'll go through all that to make that determination.

SCIUTTO (voice-over): Pointing to possible inspirations for the attack, a notebook the suspect was carrying when captured, referenced American AQAP leader Anwar al-Awlaki, killed in 2011 by a U.S. drone strike. It also contained references to the Boston marathon bombers.

Investigators are now scrutinizing the suspect's travels to Afghanistan and Pakistan where he married and had a child and spent time in areas with a heavy Talibanpresence. This to determine if he was radicalize overseas. The Afghan Taliban has publicly denied any involvement in the bombings.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: The officials are trying to determine if he had help in this endeavor. It would have taken some time to get all of the materials to put these bombs together.

SCIUTTO: The explosive devices themselves hold clues a well. The devices were made with easy-to-obtain ingredients and with recipes that are accessible online. But those materials, considered by experts to be a high explosive could have created a blast even bigger than was seen at the deadly Boston marathon bombings.

(END VIDEOTAPE)

COOPER: Jim, what did the FBI have to say about the fact that the father called them years ago?

SCIUTTO: This is their answer. They said they made an assessment at the time. They conducted multiple interviews, they conferred with other law enforcement agencies. They checked their databases and made a conclusion that at the time two years ago, he had no established ties to terrorism groups.

These are judgment calls they have to make. They cannot predict what someone will do. They can only make decision as to who is an immediate threat. Two years ago, that was their decision. Of course, two years later, just behind me here, he did attempt to carry out a terror attack.

COOPER: All right. Jim Sciutto -- Jim, thanks for those details. The new details that we've been getting about the suspect, his relationships, his family life, they're painting certainly a troubling picture to say the least.

Our justice correspondent Pamela Brown joins me now.

So, what do you know about the suspect's wife?

PAMELA BROWN, CNN JUSTICE CORRESPONDENT: Well, we learned that the suspect met his wife when he was traveling overseas. Her name is Asia Rahami.

[20:05:02] And they married in 2011. He put in an application for her to come to the U.S. It was approved.

There were some issues they run into for her coming to the U.S. with her visa and passport. She became pregnant. But eventually, we're told by U.S. officials that she did come to the United States but she left sometime before the bombs were placed by her husband.

Now, we're being told by U.S. officials, there's no indication she fled this early stage in the investigation. In fact, we know U.S. officials and the United Arab Emirates have been speaking to her and she has been cooperating, giving critical information. She has not been accused of any wrongdoing. But, of course, she's someone that officials want to learn from about her husband, why he did something like this and what she may have known, Anderson.

COOPER: And when the suspect returned to the U.S. after traveling to Afghanistan, Pakistan, we know he was taken to secondary screening. Was any further action taken after that?

BROWN: So, we learned from U.S. officials that Customs and Border Protection actually enter the information they received in the secondary screening into a database that's shared by law enforcement agencies. And in addition, Anderson, were told that CBP notified law enforcement agencies, including the FBI, about Rahami, given where he traveled to these high risk areas and given the fact that he spent a year in Pakistan and had been there previously.

I'm told by law enforcement officials he was in a batch of people. So, there was a list of names. He was one of them. He wasn't singled out and that these notifications are pretty common.

But we're told, Anderson, that the FBI was notified about him just a few months before the inquiry was opened up in August of 2014. Yet he was never interviewed.

So, all of this is really under review right now -- Anderson.

COOPER: All right. Pamela, thanks for the details.

Joining me now, CNN counterterrorism analyst and former FBI and CIA senior official, Philip Mudd, CNN terrorism analyst Paul Cruickshank, and CNN national security analyst and former U.S. assistant secretary for Homeland Security, Juliette Kayyem.

Phil, you know, a layman looking at this says, wait a minute. The dad called the FBI, said my son's a terrorist. We know he traveled in Afghanistan, Pakistan. Spent a year or so in Pakistan. In Quetta no less, headquarters of Taliban, believed to where Mullah Omar was for all that time.

And yet -- you know, and was blowing up stuff in his backyard on video and yet they didn't put the pieces together.

Is it a mistake on their part? Or is -- what -- I mean, you know what is like to make this threat assessment. What happened?

PHIL MUDD, FORMER SENIOR OFFICIAL, FBI AND CIA: We're look at this in the wrong direction. We take one case and say, are there things that should have been suspicious? Of course, there are.

Let's go the other direction. The direction I lived in. You take a sea of information, a dad calls and says he's concerned about his kid. He claims he told the feds his kid was a terrorist. That's what he says. That's not what we know happened two years ago.

That kid travelled to Afghanistan, how would you know he traveled to Quetta, a hotbed of terrorist activity? He doesn't have to declare when he returns to country.

So, let's take those facts. A dad calls and says he's concerned about a kid and the kid travelled to Pakistan. Three hundred and thirty million people in this country, 2 million plus traveling overseas every month. You cannot take that information, Anderson, and say, this should leave me to develop a further investigation. Too many people, too many problems.

I think people are taking a case and saying we should have spent on it without thinking about how you boil down notion to get to a case.

COOPER: You are essentially doing triage with all the variety of cases --

MUDD: Correct.

COOPER: I mean, there are cases in every in this state in this country going on right now, or investigations going on. There's just -- you got to do triage here.

MUDD: That's right. If you were to take a physician and say there are 500 patients in the emergency room, and sure that if you succeed with 499, that the last one doesn't die, you would say that is a good success rate.

With the FBI you say take 500 suspects and ensure the last one doesn't succeed an attack. That is not a bar that you can meet. You are looking at this case saying, his dad says "I'm concerned", saying he traveled. You cannot investigate every one of those individuals.

One last point, Anderson. If you were to go court in the United States to look at that individual's e-mail, and to look at the email, you need a court order. You can't do this as a FBI alone. You know what the court would say? You have got to be kidding me.

COOPER: Not enough information.

MUDD: Not even close to enough information.

COOPER: Paul, the prosecutor is alleging this guy bought some of the components on eBay. I mean, that's --

PAUL CRUICKSHANK, CNN TERRORISM ANALYST: He bought some of the components on eBay, including citric acid, which is a component of HMTD, which is believed to be the detonator in this device. But stunning new details from this complaint, confirming our reporting on your show last night about the power of this device. Confirming --

COOPER: The kind of explosive was particularly powerful.

CRUICKSHANK: Powerful. It was high explosive and some details giving an idea of just how powerful 400 feet away, windows were shattering up to three stories, 650 meters of -- feet, of fragmentation. This was a very, very powerful device. It propelled a heavy duty metal dumpster it placed inside, 120 feet across the road.

[20:10:06] If it had not been placed inside that dumpster, it could have been a lot, lot, lot more deadly. Experts believe that contained some of the force of the blast. We don't know whether he decided to place it in the dumpster for some reason or perhaps a passerby thought it was some litter and put it in there, we don't know which is the case at this point.

But this was a very powerful device. HMTD, the detonating substance used, very, very tricky to make. Very few cases in the West of Islamist terrorists who managed to do that without getting some training overseas. Very worrying new details.

This device produced the most powerful blast in an Islamist terrorist plot on the United States since the World Trade Center attacks of 1993. This is very --

(CROSSTALK)

COOPER: The original World Trade Center attacks.

CRUICKSHANK: If this guy put it on subways or something, we could have seen dozens and dozens and dozens of people killed in New York.

COOPER: Juliette, I mean, you know, to Phil's point, the fact was the guy at some point had been on the FBI's radar. His father had called him a terrorist. The FBIapparently knew that, although we haven't heard that directly from them.

I mean, it apparently was tangled up in a domestic dispute.

JULIETTE KAYYEM, FORMER U.S. ASST. SECY. FOR HOMELAND SECURITY: Yes.

COOPER: Do you think -- I mean, do you agree with Phil? There's just so many cases and just one doesn't rise to the surface at the time?

KAYYEM: Yes, I think in some way the family dispute may have led the FBI to believe that they were -- the FBI was getting entangled with a very complicated family and you look at the family's interactions amongst themselves. This was a family under tremendous stress and a lot of hostility.

I think -- and so I agree with Phil. We also don't know what exactly was said. We're hearing this from the father. We know I all of these cases the father or the mother or someone else tries to sort of say, I tried do something. And often, that doesn't end up being true.

I think where there might have been a trigger moment, a moment in which something different could have happened, because remember that was two years ago, was in the purchases.

Now, Phil and I know there is a lot more monitoring of purchases around the country than people, might believe or think of materials that might be used for bombs or violence. Whether it's, you know, raw materials or instruments of violence or whatever else. And I'm curious whether and in the investigation will find out, to what extent anything might have been triggered by the eBay purchases or the fact they were through third party vendors, which is what eBay essentially is. There was no eBay store, whether they weren't track. And that might be a loophole we might begin to think about closing.

COOPER: You know, the fact that -- I mean, in this federal complaint we learned there is video showing the guy in the words of the federal complaint igniting incendiary material in a backyard. There's laughter in the background.

It does kind of raise questions about where and how the suspect was allegedly building this device and who else knew about it and/or helped him here or overseas with just the training of how do it.

MUDD: I think that's right. This is a snapshot of the evolution of terror.

In 2001, 2002 when I was at the CIA, I would have said it is the fed's responsibility to find these guys. We look at communications for example back then of al Qaeda. We look at human sources going into al Qaeda and Afghanistan or Pakistan, and we might be able to say in Los Angeles or New York or Washington, there is an al Qaeda plot moving into America.

Today, when we don't have a central group that is organized this stuff, when we have individual whose self radicalize, the evolution of terror means that a family member, a friend has too call the feds in contrast to 15 years ago and say, I saw something in the backyard. My kid is talking about something that is uncomfortable. He's talking about violence.

The game is really shifted from the fed's responsibility to identify these people to local folks who are family members saying, the guy's experimenting with explosive devices and I'm uncomfortable. That's the question I have. Who knew what, when?

COOPER: Yes. Phil Mudd, Paul Cruickshank, Juliette Kayyem, thanks.

Just ahead, more breaking news: sources close to former President George H.W. Bush say he told a roomful of people that he's voting for Hillary Clinton in the November. It's a new chapter in a complicated, long running political drama between the Bushes and the Clintons.

Plus, new reporting tonight on how Donald Trump used charity money to settle lawsuits against him, his own charity, the Donald Trump Foundation, more than a quarter of a million dollars. The question is, did he violate any laws? We'll look at that ahead.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

[20:18:13] COOPER: There's more breaking news.

CNN has confirmed that former President George H.W. Bush has said he's going vote for Hillary Clinton in November. He made the comment last night during what he believed was a private gathering apparently of board members of the bipartisan Points of Life Foundation. His remark went public, though.

Brianna Keilar joins me now with details.

What are you learning, Brianna?

BRIANNA KEILAR, CNN SENIOR POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT: It is really quite unprecedented, Anderson. We've learned about this event. There were about 40 people there, according to multiple sources. And George H.W. Bush at his foundation event talking to board members, was talking specifically to Kathleen Kennedy Townsend but there were other people around.

And he told her that he was planning to vote for Hillary Clinton, according to multiple people who heard. This came to light after Kathleen Kennedy Townsend, the daughter of Bobby Kennedy, the former lieutenant governor of Maryland, posted this on her Facebook page. Btu this is an extraordinary rebuke of Donald Trump as the Republican nominee.

(BEGIN VIDEOTAPE)

(CROWD CHANTING)

KEILAR (voice-over): Donald Trump out on the trail in North Carolina, slamming Hillary Clinton for quoting George W. Bush's former CIA director. Michael Hayden called Trump a recruiting sergeant for ISIS. DONALD TRUMP (R), PRESIDENTIAL NOMINEE: It demonstrates a level of ignorance about the terror threat that really is disqualifying for a person seeking the presidency. When she says my opposition to radical Islamic terror provides aid and comfort to the enemy, we know that Hillary Clinton has once again demonstrated that she's really unfit for office.

KEILAR: As Clinton takes a break from the campaign trail to get ready for the first presidential debate, Trump is taunting her about her health, saying on Twitter, "Hillary Clinton is taking the day off again. She needs to rest. Sleep well Hillary, see you at the debate."

[20:20:01] With less than a week to go until the nominees share the stage, we're getting a preview to Trump's approach.

TRUMP: I mean, I can talk about a record which is a disaster. I can talk about all she's done to help ISIS --

BILL O'REILLY, FOX NEWS ANCHOR: I expect you'll do that anyway, though, right?

TRUMP: -- become the terror that they become. And I will be doing that. So, I mean, we're going to go back and forth. And she's got a lot of baggage.

KEILAR: But what about personal attacks? He wouldn't rule them out.

TRUMP: If she treats me with respect. I will treat her with respect. It really depends.

KEILAR: Clinton is preparing for the debate to get contentious, telling "The Steve Harvey Show" she's not worried about it.

HILLARY CLINTON (D), PRESIDENTIAL NOMINE: I've been at this, and, you know, I understand it's a contact sport. But I'm not going to take what he says about everybody else, you know, his attacks on African- Americans and **immigrants** and Muslims and women and people with disabilities.

STEVE HARVEY, STEVE HARVEY MORNING SHOW: Yes, there you go. There you go.

CLINTON: It's just something we cannot tolerate.

KEILAR: As the candidates gear up for their showdown, Trump's son is having one of his own with a candy company. Donald Trump Jr. tweeting this image of a bowl of Skittles with the caption, "If I had a bowl of Skittles and I told you just three would kill you, would you take a handful? That's our Syrian **refugee** problem."

The comparison sparked outrage and a rebuke from Mars USA, the parent company of Skittles, which tweeted, "Skittles are candy. **Refugees** are people. We don't feel it's an appropriate analogy."

And there's more scrutiny today for Trump's foundation. "The Washington Post" reporting the charitable organization spent more than a quarter million dollars to settle lawsuits against Trump's business interests, a possible violation of the country's tax laws.

(END VIDEOTAPE)

CUOMO: Brianna joins us.

I just want to correct something. I think I had said that former President George H.W. Bush told a roomful of people. You were saying there were 40 people in the room, but it's clear how many people in the room actually heard him. This was done on a receiving line where he apparently said this to Kathleen Kennedy Townsend. That's correct, right?

KEILAR: That's right. He did though seem to say it in earshot of many people.

COOPER: OK.

KEILAR: So, we don't know exactly how many, but certainly, it was more than a couple.

COOPER: OK. I just like to be clear. I misspoke. I shouldn't have said a roomful of people, and I don't know exactly how many heard it.

Secretary Clinton is off the campaign trail today. Is she expected back tomorrow?

KEILAR: She is. So, she's been spending hours looking at tape of Donald Trump. But she's going to be on the campaign trail tomorrow. She's in battleground Florida.

She'll be giving an economic speech in Orlando. The economy really the issue, Anderson, that her campaign thinks is going to be so important in this election. But it is also interesting to note that she's going to be talking about what she calls an inclusive economy. She'll be focused on disabled Americans and other groups of Americans whose suffer higher unemployment rates than the general population.

COOPER: All right. Brianna thanks very much.

Let's talk about it with our panel.

Joining me now is CNN anchor of "INSIDE POLITICS" and chief national correspondent, John King. Also, CNN political analyst and "USA Today" columnist, Kirsten Powers.

John, is there a chance former President Bush actually wanted this leak? I mean, in this day and age, do you really tell several people something or one person something in front of other people and not expect it won't get out?

JOHN KING, CNN CHIEF NATIONAL CORRESPONDENT: Just between you and me, Anderson?

Look, people around the former president say this was a private conversation. He meant it to be a private conversation. I believe Kathleen Kennedy Townsend has taken down the post, but let's be real here.

Number one, George H.W. Bush, he may not be at the top of his game anymore, but he hasn't lost his game. He's a former CIA director, in addition to being a former president. He knows how to play, if you will, off the field. And remember the Bush family's contempt.

Donald Trump mocked Jeb Bush during the debate. He repeatedly ridiculed George W. Bush during the debates, and his often contradictory statements about the Iraq war, he has said that he thinks he wishes the first Iraq war was finished right. That was George H.W. Bush's war.

There's no -- the Bush family is incredibly loyal. If you know the family, you know Jeb's not for Trump, you know George W. Bush is not for Trump. And guess what? Neither is H.W. Bush. I think he kind of knew this would happen.

COOPER: Kirsten, how much do you think this could actually affect things? Could it nudge establishment Republicans that won't vote for Donald Trump to vote for Clinton? Is it just shy of an endorsement from a former -- I mean, you could say it's shy of an endorsement from a former Republican president, a leader of the Republican Party. Formerly.

KIRSTEN POWERS, CNN POLITICAL ANALYST: Right. Well, obviously, it's a big deal when you have -- I mean, this is unprecedented to have a former president from the other party endorsing the opposing party.

But I would tend to think that any establishment Republican who's not voting for Donald Trump has probably made up their mind at this point. I know the Clinton campaign is definitely trying to target Republicans with an ad using, you know, Mitt Romney and Kelly Ayotte and different Republicans speaking against Trump.

But ultimately, I don't think this is what's going to particularly move voters. I think if you're a Trump supporter or leaning towards Trump, you're going to look at this and you're going to say, of course, this is what happens. This is what the establishment does. The establishment sticks together.

And Hillary is the establishment and the Bushes are the establishment and they're all friends and we all know that Bill Clinton is friends with him and Bill Clinton is friends with W.

[20:25:04] And so, I'd be surprised if it makes a huge difference in the race.

COOPER: John, also, I mean, you could say that for liberals, for maybe some Bernie Sanders supporters, hearing that former President Bush is supporting Secretary Clinton, that may not be, you know, top of their list of endorsements they want to be following.

KING: I don't think -- I don't think it is going to drive a lot of votes either way. I do there are some Republicans who can't vote for Donald Trump, who don't think they can vote for a Clinton who might be in the Gary Johnson field, who might be thinking about sitting it out, Anderson. I think maybe there's a small group of people out there.

I just -- I don't think in this campaign, what have we learned? You know, a lot -- people aren't following the leader so much. I don't think establishment so much matter.

H.W. Bush has largely stayed out of politics for a long time. I think it is embarrassing if you are Donald Trump to have this happen, but he's been running against the establishment all along, so it can't be viewed as a surprise.

COOPER: Also, you know, both candidates are clearly trying to position themselves as better to deal with the threat from terrorism. Do you see, John, either's handling of this moment actually attracting new voters? Or does it reinforce reasons why people support or oppose them?

KING: I think it mostly reinforces what they have shown us in the campaign. Trump tends to be instinctive and muscular and send a strong signal. Hillary Clinton tends to say, hey, well, let's gather the facts and let's build coalitions and deal with the problem. She says she'll be tough as well. But she's not as quick to throw a punch back if you will.

I do think, though, Anderson, because the attack is so fresh, it will get -- if you add up the third party candidates and undecided, it's about 20 percent of the electorate, depending on which poll or which state you're looking at. I do think there are some people out there with something like this front and center. We'll watch them over the next couple of days, but more importantly, we'll watch when they are shoulder to shoulder, when they're just a few feet apart from each other on Monday night and maybe close their eyes and say, OK, who do I see in the Oval Office if that moment happens next year, not now?

KING: Kirsten, do you agree with that, that these debates could be defining?

POWER: Yes, I think the debates are definitely important. And, look, Hillary has typically polled better on this issue than Trump on this issue, not by huge margins but still she is the preferred person when it comes to handling terrorism.

So, you know, I think it is an issue also in terms of enthusiasm, because if you look at the Quinnipiac Poll, 70 percent of Trump are concerned bout terrorist attack harming them or their families. Contrast that with Hillary voters, 30 percent are concerned about that. So, you can see a really big difference in terms of how this animates both sides.

COOPER: Kirsten Powers, John King, thank you.

Coming up more breaking news: new allegations against the Trump Foundation. That Donald Trump actually used charity money to settle lawsuits against his businesses. We'll have details on that.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

[20:31:47] COOPER: Tonight there is even more reporting on allegations surrounding the Trump Foundation. Namely that Donald Trump took money intend forward charity donations and used it to settle lawsuits against his own businesses. According to the "Washington Post" this happened to the tune of $258,000.

The Trump Foundation was already under scrutiny because the allegation that Trump used the foundation to funnel other people's money not his own to other organizations. But this new report says he actually wrote checks from his charitable foundation to settle lawsuits from his for profit businesses.

David Fahrenthold of the "Washington Post" broke the story, he joins me now. So of all things reported about the Trump Foundation, this is pretty surprising. I mean can you explain exactly what Donald Trump was using money from a foundation to pay off?

DAVID FAHRENTHOLD, WASHINGTON POST REPORTER: Sure. So the money in his foundation was given by other people to Donald Trump. It belongs in the charity. It can only be used to do charitable work. But instead we have these two cases where Trump's businesses, one a club in Florida, the other a golf course in New York they got in legal trouble and they made settlements to get out of that legal trouble as part of the settlements, the clubs, the businesses agreed to make donations to charity. What Trump did was then take out money out of this foundation and use that to pay off those obligations.

So they neither is a -- his resort or his gold club had actually make any donations.

COOPER: And in my understanding in the case of I think it was Mar-a- Lago, the club in Florida. There were a bunch of -- was it fines, or liens or something that the local community, that he was supposed to pay but the local community agreed to get rid of those if he made this donation.

FAHRENTHOLD: That's right, Trump had put p a gigantic flag poll that was like 30 feet too tall for the town's code. And so after he fight -- with fought with the town for while, he build up $120,000 of unpaid fines for his club.

So in the court settlement, the town said look, we're not going make you pay the $120,000, but you the club have to make this $100,000 donation to a particular veterans charity. And that's the chair -- the donation that Trump paid off with his foundation, the golf club didn't actually pay anything.

COOPER: And is that OK under the law? I mean is it ethical?

FAHRENTHOLD: The law says that there is a bar against something called self dealing. That is, if you are the head of a foundation you can't take the money out of the foundation and use to it buy things for yourself or things that benefit your businesses.

So people I've talked to said this is a pretty clear case where Trump took the money out of his charity and did a thing that saved his own business money.

COOPER: So what might happen? I mean he did take up the -- if somebody looks at this, does he potentially pay a fine or?

FAHRENTHOLD: The penalties could include Trump may have to give the money back that the foundation paid on his behalf, like he have to reimburse the money to the foundation. He would also pay penalty taxes. He could pay penalty taxes for having filed a false IRS return because he told the IRS he had not engaged in acts of self dealing. He could even have his charity's non profit status taken away.

COOPER: The New York State Attorney General Eric Schneiderman has open investigation in his foundation. Do we know if he's going to be looking at these specific transactions or is he looking stuff in New York?

FAHRENTHOLD: Well, since the Trump Foundation is head quartered in New York all of these attractions are under his purview. And I think he will be looking at these transactions.

COOPER: Is there any kind of timeline do we know for this investigation? I mean is there any chance that it will be done before the election? Because obviously Trump's supporters say look, this is politically motivated.

[20:35:00] FAHRENTHOLD: I don't have a time, I talk to them yesterday and didn't get a comment from them. I imagine they find a work on a fast but I don't know if they'll before election.

COOPER: Last time you were on the program you are trying to track down a 6-foot tall painting of Donald Trump that he bought with foundation funds, and I understand he bought a second portrait of himself using money from the foundation. I saw just a little while, you tweeted out a picture apparently of that portrait from trip advisor, is that right?

FAHRENTHOLD: That's right. Trump bought this painting with $10,000 with the charity money in 2014. And since the charity bought it, it has to be use for charity purposes. It can just hang on the wall in Donald Trump's club. Yet it is hanging on the wall in Donald Trump's club apparently, trip advisor a user at Trump's dural golf resort outside Miami took that picture where apparently the tore (ph) bought was charity money is hanging.

COOPE: David Fahrenthold, thanks very much. Appreciate having you on again.

FAHRENTHOLD: Thank you.

COOPER: Up next, the American white working class, they are the core of Donald Trump's support. But what is driving their decision to support him over Hillary Clinton? Some answers, next

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

COOPER: We are just six days away from the first 2016 presidential debate. Seven weeks from today, America vote. Where Donald Trump draw his strength is from white non-college graduates that make up 63 percent of Trump supporters according to a recent CNN/ORC poll.

[20:40:11] For with that voting block is shrinking. Back in 1984, 62 percent of voters were whites with no college. Four years ago in the last presidential race, they only made up 36 percent of voters. The demographics in America are clearly changing and with those changes come a lot of assumptions made about the white working class.

But we want to get past the assumptions to get some real insight information that could make a difference in this election. So we teamed up with the Kaiser Family Foundation for an in-depth survey. What we found both confirmed and challenged frankly a lot of conventional wisdom.

One of the findings, 47 percent of white working class believe America's best days are behind us. Now take that information consider Trump's repeated slogan, "Make America Great Again." You can see one reason perhaps why this voted block is the core of Donald Trump's support.

John King joins us again with more results from this survey. We talked a lot John over the course of the campaign about the importance of the white working class and now we have this detail look at what drives their politics. Can you take us through what the survey found.

JOHN KING, CNN INSIDE POLITICS ANCHOR: At its core Anderson, what drives the politics the white working class is economic anxiety and feeling left out. Feeling left out of the economy and feeling ignored by government.

Look at this. Will your children be worse off? Essentially the American dream question. Will your children be worse off than you, 50 percent of the white working class thinks the answer to that is yes, that their children will be worse off than they are. And as you can see and the black works class is 43 percent. The white college graduates, Latino working class. This is a much higher number than these other subsets.

Economically they are pessimistic about what comes down the road for themselves but importantly for their children. Also they don't think government understands this problem and understands them. How well does government represent your views? The percentage saying not at all well. Look at this, 56 percent. Much higher than these other groups. Nearly 6 in 10 members of the white working class say my government doesn't get me. It doesn't represent my needs and my concerns. You can understand why that outsider like Donald Trump would appeal to somebody like that.

Economics again. What does trade -- what do trade agreements do here? What impact do they have? Only 5 percent of the white working class say international trade agreements create jobs in the United States, that's what the president says, that's what Hillary Clinton said for a long time in her political career. They agree with Donald Trump, 69 percent of the white working class says trade agreements bleed jobs from the United States. Only 21 percent say they make no difference at all.

Now remember that 70 percent number just about, 69 percent there shouldn't surprise you then. Of those considering voting for Donald Trump, members of the white working class, 79 percent Anderson, so nearly 8 in 10 members of the white working class are say I'm thinking about voting for Donald Trump agree the trade agreements cost U.S. jobs. Among the white working class they said a not thinking Trump, still a pretty high number 61 percent, but 8 in 10 think is of white working class voters who are thinking about voting for Trump, they are with him on this. They think NAFTA should be ripped up like Donald Trump promises.

COOPER: What about **immigration** more specifically Trump's calls to be tougher about letting Muslims into the United States?

KING: No question, that same anxiety and now security anxiety factors in. First more broadly this is just the white working class. **Immigrants** today burden the country or strengthen the country nearly half 47 percent of the white working class say **immigrants** are a burden on the country today. Only 40 percent and we don't have the other groups up here but this is higher, this 47 percent had say this is a burden that's higher than other groups, especially white college- educated voters.

Now, the terrorism question you asked. **Immigrants** from Muslim countries, do they increase the terror risk, 63 percent, more than 6 in 10 of the white working class in this country think yes. Muslim **immigrants** or **immigrants** from Muslim courtiers increase the terror risk and probably no surprise you can make this connection. 82 percent of white working class voters considering voting for Donald Trump agree that **immigrants** from Muslim countries increase the terror risk among those not considering Trump, drops to 37 percent. So there's no question this big group they agree when I hear Donald Trump say we have to do something about it. There something going on, we got maybe a temporary Muslim ban, they agree Anderson.

COOPER: Do the numbers back up the idea that this group t white working class is the basic Trump support?

KING: Yes. And overwhelmingly so. You just mentioned there will be about 40 percent of the electorate when we get to the election, it's down from 20 or years ago, but 60 percent of white working class voters are considering voting for Donald Trump. Look at that 6 in 10 white working class voters, say I'm going think about voting for Donald Trump. That's a stunning number, but now look at this number, 68 percent say they will not consider voting for Hillary Clinton. So she has a huge problem with the white working class. Only 3 in 10 white working class voters will leave and give her a chance Anderson, that's pretty overwhelming.

COOPER: Yeah, fascinating. John stay with us. I want to bring back the panel. A lot to discuss. Angela Rye is here, former executive director of the Congressional Black Caucus. Also Clinton supporter, Maria Cardona and Trump supporter Jeffrey Lord and Andre Bauer.

Maria, I mean you look at that number only 29 percent of white working class would consider voting for Hillary Clinton in battleground states like Pennsylvania and Ohio, that's a huge issue. Does she lose if she can't get that number up?

MARIA CARDONA, CLINTON SUPPORTER: Well, I think first of all that number is not really all that surprising, we knew that she had a big issue with working class voters. Her campaign knows that she knows it.

[20:45:03] It's not a group that she's giving up on however. She has focused her policies frankly. Her policies will help white working class voters when she talks about doing the biggest jobs investment since World War II. That is strictly focussed on white working class voters.

COOPER: But if number doesn't -- if the number doesn't rise can she win?

CARDONA: Yeah, I actually do think she can win. That's not how she wants to win, because she wants to be able to get as many voters in general, right as possible. But President Obama didn't do well with white working class either. So ...

COOPER: So if hearing (ph) her message for them why isn't the message resonating is this.

CARDONA: Well, because I think unfortunately what Donald Trump is doing, we've seen from the very beginning that his message does resonate for all of the reasons that we saw. He is focused on playing to the fears of this electorate. And there is no question that there is anxiety there it is something that Hillary Clinton brings up all the time. That they do feel left out. That we have to talk to them about the policies that will help them.

She focuses on trying to bring them together along with the rest of the country whereas Donald Trump is somebody who focuses on their fears and that's not leadership.

COOPER: Jeffrey one of the biggest thing I found surprising this poll 8 in 10 white working class voters are actually satisfied with their lives and yet the majority of them believe their kids are not going to have ...

JEFFREY LORD, TRUMP SUPPORTER: Right.

COOPER: ... as good a life.

LORD: I think that is very typical. And where this comes to play. As you know, I'm a Pennsylvanian. When you go to places like Altoona and Johnstown and Williamsport and Southwestern Pennsylvania. When you hear these people talk about Hillary Clinton saying she's going to shutdown for instance Southwestern Pennsylvania.

Coal mining jobs. Well what is that mean not just for them but could their kids, I mean if they're trying to provide an education for their kids or they're trying to do various things to help their kids down the path (ph), they're looking at this and saying she's shutting off their future.

COOPER: And John, I mean the 1950s, the '60s, the '70s Democratic Party was the party of the white working class. Why the shift to Republicans generally in Trump specifically?

KING: How much time you got Anderson, that you go back through this and look at it play out. We can talk about the civil rights movement and the civil rights act. We can talk about the Democrats becoming known as the party of tax and spend and the Republicans taking advantage to them. Republican the so called southern strategy that's to take white voters away from a Democratic Party that the Republicans argue with beholden to minority interest.

You can talk about even the election more recently of the first African-American president. You want to talk about Trump. Remember no longer but until Friday a champion of the birther movement and he play that's not -- I'm not saying all Trump supporters agree with him on that. But there is a long list. We could spend an hour or two on the Democratic Party's decline among the white working class voters. Including the shrinking percent as Americans who have long for labor unions, who are more like with the Democratic Party.

So there are a number of reasons but there is no doubt about it that the shifts in white working class now favor Trump and they are the backbone especially in those rust belt states. He needs them to turn out and in huge numbers.

COOPER: Yeah. I want to talk to Andre and Angela and the rest of our panel but we got to take a quick break.

We'll take a look also what Donald Trump said today in North Carolina, including comparing African-American communities and Afghanistan, we'll let you decide what to make of that, next.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

[20:51:44] COOPER: Hillary Clinton spent the day on debate prep, while Donald Trump campaigned in North Carolina, where he used the terror attacks in New Jersey and New York to bolster his **immigration** policy. He also renewed his outreach to African-Americans, with the same kind of message that's drawn fire in the past, but kind of on steroids. Listen.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

DONALD TRUMP, (R) PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE: We're going to rebuild our inner cities, because our African-American communities are absolutely in the worst shape that they've ever been in before, ever, ever, ever. You take a look at the inner cities, you get no education. You get no jobs, you get shot walking down the street. They're worse. I mean, honestly, places like Afghanistan are safer than some of our inner cities.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

COOPER: And back with the panel. Angela, I mean when you hear Donald Trump say that African-American communities are quote and I want to get this right, "In the worst shape they have ever been before, ever, ever, ever," Do you know any African-American who would agree that statement? I mean given the history of the United States.

ANGELA RYE, POLITICAL STRATEGIST: Probably a Trump supporter. And for what it's worth, there are a few that appear on this network. I think the challenge I have is, when we talk about they have no education, I wonder where he went to school. I wonder what textbook he had. I wonder why he never learned about slavery, the Atlantic Slave Trade. I wonder why he didn't learn about Jim Crow and segregation. I wonder if he knows about, you know, the soldiers who fought in the Korean War and World War II -- the World War I who came back here to communities that didn't accept them, because they were other.

And when we go full circle back to this poll you were just talking about, with white working class voters, this is an election that Donald Trump has made about otherism. And otherism is, frankly, racism. Where it is wrong to be different. He just compared black communities to Afghanistan and the timing of it is dangerous. We are talking about someone who just spent a year in Afghanistan and is a terrorist. A bomber.

So that type of connection to a community that I come out of is immensely frustrating, it's hurtful, and it's wrong.

COOPER: Andre, I mean Donald Trump has said, look, he'll never lie, you know, but to say that African-American communities are worse than they ever, ever ...

ANDRE BAUER, TRUMP SUPPORTER: And they probably are. They're probably less safe than they've ever been in the history of this country.

RYE: No! Andre, do you know about lynching?

BAUER: ... than they've ever been. And so, again ...

COOPER: Wait, wait, we're talking about -- wait we're talking about the ever in the United States. Slavery, segregation, I mean ...

BAUER: The death rate is probably higher now in those urban communities than it's ever been.

COOPER: Jeffrey Lord, do you believe that?

LORD: Well, certainly, what's going on in Chicago at the moment is not good.

COOPER: But African-American communities are worse than they've ever, ever, ever been?

LORD: I think when you've got the murder rate, you got in the city of Chicago? I mean what was the murder rate for African-Americans ...

COOPER: But when -- of the last person could not walk down the street ...

(CROSSTALK)

COOPER: ... in some communities in America, a black person could not walk down the street and look at a white person in the eye without having great risk to their life.

BAUER: But now they can't do it ...

(CROSSTALK)

[20:55:01] RYE: No, wait a minute! Wait a minute, you guys.

LORD: No, wait, wait, wait.

RYE: Wait a minute, I just have -- I just have to say this. Because Anderson just said something, as if it's past, right? That a black man couldn't look a white person in the eye. If we talk about Terence Crutcher, who is the black man who just lost his life, hands up with a police officer, one who supposed -- an entity that is supposed to protect and serve. It's not just black people who are killing each other. And I want to be clear about this. White people kill each other, too. You kill people who you are in proximity to. That is just a fact.

LORD: Americans kill each other.

RYE: That's true. And so -- and you were just talking about black Americans. I'm telling you about an issue of excessive force and excessive violence with black people and men and women in uniform. That is also a problem. So I just think that you all -- I'm asking you now, as your friend, when we go off air, please utilize facts when you bring up these points about how dangerous ...

(CROSSTALK)

COOPER: But also -- but also let me just point out, I mean crime rates nationwide have gone down ...

RYE: Yes.

COOPER: ... you know, since the 1990s, during the crack epidemic. I mean, there are -- to say that it's worse than it has ever, ever, ever been is just factually incorrect.

LORD: Yeah. I mean, maybe he's exaggerating here some ...

RYE: Maybe?

LORD: But to make a point, to make a point, things are not satisfactory. It's not good enough that the city destroy (ph) in the shape that ...

COOPER: Right, but you can make that point without making up a fact.

LORD: Anderson, look, I mean I think we have to keep getting back to why -- I mean you started to brick this up, but left out one key thing. Jim Crow and slavery and all the things that got us here. Who was responsible?

RYE: Racism was responsible! I want to ...

(CROSSTALK)

RYE: Wait, Jeffrey, Jeffrey!

(CROSSTALK)

RYE: Excuse me! Anderson, Anderson doesn't like when we all talk at the same time, so let me respond to you, Jeffrey.

LORD: And then I will respond.

RYE: That's fine. It's up to him, he's the moderator. I guess what I would say to you is this. You continue to blame the Democratic Party for something that is a vestige of slavery in this country. It is called racism. We can continue ...

LORD: Is that racism for the Democratic Party.

RYE: Systemic oppressive racism for white people against people of color and that other that your candidate continues to prey on. We have to acknowledge what that is. Racism is bipartisan. It is a nonpartisan problem. Jeffrey, stop putting it at the feet ...

(CROSSTALK)

LORD: Wait, wait, wait, wait ...

COOPER: Let him respond.

LORD: When President Obama said just the other night to the Congressional Back Caucus ...

RYE: I was there.

LORD: OK, and he did he not say, if you don't -- meaning the black community vote for Hillary Clinton ...

RYE: That's not what he said.

LORD: What did he said?

RYE: He said if this community does not turn out in vote, this will be an insult to my legacy. And I'm happy to give you time.

(CROSSTALK)

COOPER: I want to bring John in here. Donald Trump only has 3 percent of the black vote according to the latest polling. If his message is, what the hell do you have to lose, if that's failing to resonate according to polls, how will this statement improve that standing? Or can it? KING: Well, as you listen to Angela speak, there's no question the Clinton campaign believes what Donald Trump says in this issue, forgive my language, but I think part of the problem is, but we should applaud. We should applaud any candidate that wants the Clinton community to compete for votes. So one of the problems we've had in American politics for the last 20-plus years is Republicans have not gone into the African community in a sustained way some have in a sustained way and competed.

However, you hear Angela, you hear from a lot of Democrats is Donald Trump use these issues as forgive the language that is black and white issues. And they're not. He didn't talk like Jeffrey just did. Donald Trump doesn't say, we have a huge problem in Chicago. I'd like to get to understand it better. I'd like to help if I'm president.

In Detroit, you had economic exodus of jobs. If I'm president, I would like to help. He talks about this best and worst and stark in this and Democrats abandoned you. And he also doesn't acknowledge, Anderson, in North Carolina, there is a thriving African-American middle class, in Maryland, in many places across the country. I don't want to over generalize. But in that state where the African-American vote is so key, look in the Charlotte area and Charlotte suburbs. Go up to the research triangle in Raleigh Durham, there are doctors and lawyers, and researchers and professionals who happen to be African- Americans and who are critical to the vote in that state, and some of them are open to Republicans on taxes and spending, smaller government issues, but it's the language he uses I think that gets him into trouble.

Again, we should applaud the effort, but I think he needs to spend more time in the community, because he'll learn the language better.

COOPER: We've got to take a break. We have much more ahead on tonight's breaking news, on more on politics also coming up. But we'll take a look at the charges federal investigators have filed against the suspect in the bombings in New York and New Jersey. The latest on that.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

**NEW\_DOCUMENT\_HERE**

Anderson Cooper, Pamela Brown, Evan Perez, Robert Baer, Paul Cruickshank, Juliette Kayyem, Sara Sidner, Jeff Zeleny, David Axelrod

8372 speakers\_end

[21:00:36] ANDERSON COOPER, CNN ANCHOR: Good evening. We begin tonight with late developments. After three days of violence that leaves New York, New Jersey and the country on edge, and certainly the city breathing a sigh of relief.

A pipe bomb goes off Saturday morning in a Marine Corps charity race on the Jersey Shore. That evening, a pressure cooker bomb explodes in the Chelsea neighborhood of Manhattan sending 29 to the hospital. Then police find another unexploded bomb not far from there packed with ball bearings designed to maim and kill.

Sunday night, five more bombs found in Elizabeth, New Jersey near the suspect's home, one goes off as a police robot examines it. Then this morning, a neighboring Linden, New Jersey, the suspect is cornered, confronted and captured after a changing fire and wounding two police officers.

Today, Ahmad khan Rahami, a naturalized American, born in Afghanistan is in the hospital under arrest and short time ago facing a string of very serious charges.

In just a few minutes, an exclusive interview that you won't want to miss with the man who many would call a hero. I certainly would. He saw the alleged bomber, made the call that led to his capture.

First, our CNN's Pamela Brown and Evan Perez are working their sources and all the angles, including a handwritten note, found with the unexploded pressure cooker bomb here in New York. Let's start with Pamela Brown.

So, the suspect traveled to both Afghanistan and Pakistan in recent years. How much do we know about those trips?

PAMELA BROWN, CNN JUSTICE CORRESPONDENT: So right now, Anderson, investigators are scrutinizing his travels overseas to see if he may have been radicalized while there. We have learned that in the last few years, he went to Afghanistan, the country where he was born, and the Taliban stronghold of Pakistan.

A law enforcement official tells me that he married his wife in 2011 while in Pakistan and then returned to Pakistan for an entire year from 2013 to 2014. The official says after that he -- or during that time, he filled out paperwork for his wife to come here to the U.S., it was approved. He later contacted a New Jersey congressman in 2014, saying he was having issues getting his wife to the U.S. She apparently had become pregnant and couldn't get her **immigration** visa until after she had the baby. We don't know, Anderson, if she ever came to the U.S., but she's certainly someone officials want to speak with.

COOPER: Was he on law enforcement's radar?

BROWN: So we're told at this point that he wasn't on law enforcement's radar as a suspected terrorist. In fact, both times, when he returned from Pakistan and Afghanistan in 2011 and 2014, he underwent secondary screening because of where he had traveled to, and both times, he told **immigration** officials that he was just visiting family. And apparently gave satisfactory answers that didn't raise any red flags, so he wasn't placed on any terror watch list. Of course, that is something officials are going back and reviewing. Anderson?

COOPER: All right. Pamela Brown, thank you.

Joining us now is Evan Perez, who's learning more about how the bombs were made and the notes found with them. What about this handwritten note?

EVEN PEREZ, CNN JUSTICE CORRESPONDENT: Well, this handwritten note, Anderson, was found with the unexploded pressure cooker bomb on 27th Street. It appears to have contained some ramblings that make reference to previous terrorists, and that includes the Boston bombers. So right now, investigators are analyzing this note. It may indicate some kind of motive, motivation for why he did these things.

The other thing, obviously, is the fact that these were pressure cooker bombs, which were similar to the bombs that were used in Boston.

COOPER: And yet, based on your reporting, you've learned some of the ingredients of these bombs, actually more powerful than potentially those in Boston.

PEREZ: Yeah, potentially more powerful. It was inside a pressure cooker. It included ball bearings and BBs. It was definitely intended to maim and kill. It included aluminum powder, ammonium nitrate and HT -- HMTD which is one -- an explosive that we don't normally encounter in these types of cases. We've seen TATP, which is a close relative in the Paris attacks and in other attacks. HMTD was used in the 2005 London bombings, and that raises some concerns among authorities.

The investigators believe that there's perhaps some know-how that he obtained somehow and training perhaps into how to make this explosive. Well, there are some recipes on the internet that you can use to make this. They're really looking at it at the bigger picture, including his travel to Afghanistan, as Pamela was just mentioning, and Pakistan. It really raises the concern that perhaps he may have gotten some kind of bomb training. Especially because you look at the fact that there were at least two different types devices that he made here.

COOPER: And of course, did he actually practice? Did he do dry runs? Would anybody have been involved in that? Do authorities at this point know of any other connections to other people or groups?

[21:05:00] PEREZ: Well, they don't. But, you know, the back of the minds is still the possibility that someone might have helped him, someone might have helped him either pay for some of these explosives, helped them in conducting some of the dry runs, perhaps. They do believe that he was the only bomber, the only bomb maker in this case, but there's still a great deal of investigative work to be done.

COOPER: All right, Evan Perez, the one -- there were two people seen on surveillance camera, right? Who were those two people and are they connected?

PEREZ: This is the bomb, the unexploded bomb on 27th Street, right? They do see him wielding a duffel bag and he leaves it behind. These two people come, not clear who they are, and they pick up the bag, they open it and they take out what becomes what is the bomb, and they leave it on the sidewalk. They take the bag. Authorities have not found those people. They haven't been able to find them. They would love to interview them, they, at this point, do not believe that they had anything to do this -- do with this. Perhaps they were thieves. They were homeless people who picked up the bag.

COOPER: Right. I mean there are plenty of people, sadly, who, you know, go through garbage and take things from garbage because they need stuff or they're just looking for stuff to ...

PEREZ: Right. They would definitely like to talk to these folks because they want to know whether or not there's any association. And that was one of the reasons why they initially had this view of perhaps a larger cell at work here. At this point, they don't believe that, but they certainly would love to talk to those folks.

COOPER: Amazing, though, I mean, they could have blown themselves up, I mean, taking out a pressure cooker.

PEREZ: Clearly. And they do -- investigators believe that perhaps just by picking up the bomb and, you know, throwing it on the sidewalk, they may have disturbed the bomb and prevented it from functioning.

COOPER: Wow. That was incredible. Evan thanks very much for the reporting.

I want to bring in the panel, CNN national security analyst and former assistant Homeland Security Secretary Julia Kayyem, CNN intelligence and security analyst, Robert Baer, he's a former CIA officer, and with me here, CNN terrorism analyst, Paul Cruickshank, co-author of "Agent Storm, My Life Inside al-Qaeda and the CIA".

Bob, you say even though the suspect was not successful in detonating all the devices, just the way they were constructed, you believe, puts them in a different category. How so?

ROBERT BAER, CNN INTELLIGENCE AND SECURITY ANALYST: Well, exactly. HMTD is not easy to make. Yes, the formula is on the internet. I've been in a London safe house for the 2005 bombings there and a chemist walked me through this. Very difficult, very unsafe. Your hair gets bleached if you don't know how to vent the chemical. It is just not something you pick up off the internet.

You know, and the fact that he used this as an initiator tells me that he either got training or got help. There's really nothing in between. Same goes for the pipe bombs. You simply cannot put gun powder in a pipe bomb and screw the top on and expect this thing to go off, especially with a cell phone timer.

So we're seeing a bit of sophistication and don't be fooled by t fact that he executed this attack in a very clumsy way and got caught so quick. That's something else I can't explain, but the explosives, you look in totally, and we've got a problem there. He had some assistance somewhere along the line, if just training.

COOPER: You do acknowledge, Bob, I mean, someone who's worked with the CIA, his tradecraft, if you will, was pretty weak. I mean, he's on surveillance video going from one location to the other. He's caught, you know, sleeping in -- outside a doorway of a bar, and we're going to hear from the bar owner in just a moment who, you know, made the call to the police.

BAER: Oh, absolutely. I mean, the fact that just one person put the bomb down in three locations in Elizabeth as well, it tells me he was acting on his own. At least he didn't have assistance, somebody driving there. We just don't have evidence to that. But nonetheless, there are parts of this operation that are fairly sophisticated, which someone who, you know, gets up one day just can't effect this bomb making. And there was a lot of it. And most of these people, frankly, get their hands blown off if they're amateurs and he didn't, obviously, made a lot of bombs and two of them, three of them went off.

COOPER: Paul, for you, the ingredients of this bomb are very important, just as they are for Bob and for Evan?

PAUL CRUICKSHANK, CNN TERRORISM ANALYST: Yeah, I mean, the fact that there's aluminum powder, ammonium nitrate, HMTD, it's the primary detonator which would detonate that main charge. I've been speaking to explosive experts today. They say that you're talking about an explosive device significantly potentially more powerful than the Boston devices. This could have caused real carnage, especially if it fully detonated in two possible locations on the streets of Manhattan.

And HMTD, as Bob was saying, that's tricky to make. It requires experimentation, often. I can only think of one or two cases in the last decade or so where an Islamist terrorist in the West has managed to do this without getting the training overseas. There was a case in 2008 in the U.K., somebody who had managed to build a suicide device off the internet, but those are very, very rare cases.

[21:09:58] And given that international travel we're now finding about to places like Qatar and Pakistan, a Taliban stronghold. One of the primary focuses of the investigation right now is did he link up with an overseas terrorist group, could it have been al-Qaeda or the Pakistani Taliban? The Pakistani Taliban being the group that directed the Times Square bomber to launch a car bomb attack here in New York City in 2010.

COOPER: You know, Juliette, I keep thinking about, you know, when you and I were covering the bombings in Boston, the marathon, there was so much discussion of did those brothers or did one of the brothers, you know, have connections overseas? He had spent time overseas, I think it was in the caucus regions, and as far as I remember, if memory serves me correct, it was never proven that he had any formal training in bomb-making, in pressure -- in building a pressure cooker bomb.

JULIETTE KAYYEM, FORMER U.S. ASST. SECY. FOR HOMELAND SECURITY: That's exactly right. And I think -- I think we just don't know yet. It seems to me, at least in terms of biography, that the radicalization process was relatively recent. People had noticed a change in his physique and a growing anger. We don't know exactly what that was related to. But other similarities with what we saw in Boston. One is, as Bob was alluding to, sophisticated planning, no exit strategy. I mean, he didn't want to get killed. That seems clear to us, because he left things behind. But these guys seem to think that people are just sitting around not caring when this happens. I mean, it was 48 hours -- there was a bad news story that you barely blinked and the guy is now under custody. Part of that is the use of technology by law enforcement to essentially crowd source investigations now. We cannot underestimate how unique that is for the FBI and the New York Police Department, which used to keep things very close hold. So I think that is a good use of technology to try to thwart a much more nimble threat these days.

COOPER: When you talk about kind of the use of technology to crowd source, what do you mean, specifically?

KAYYEM: Well, so, basically, once they have the identification, they knew who he was, they didn't know where he was. But they probably knew that he also wasn't going to go down peacefully. By sending the text alert out to the New York area, they engage the public in the search, and basically giving CNN and other networks the picture, that is ultimately how he was found. So this wasn't your sort of quiet manhunt where they were looking for him. They essentially said, help us look for him, and that's exactly what happened.

The challenge is, as New York -- the police department found and part of this is our antiquated communications system, they weren't able to attach a picture. That's something that needs to be fixed in this day and age.

COOPER: Juliette Kayyem, Bob Baer, thanks. Paul's going to stick around. Just ahead, we're going to talk to witnesses to the shootout, including the one who took this video. We'll also hear from the man who spotted the fugitive and made the call that brought his alleged to say reign of terror to an end. Just as to Julia's point, he saw the guy's image on CNN online and realized the guy he had just had an interaction with in the alcove of his bar was this suspected terrorist and he called police.

Also tonight, breaking news on the attacks in a mall in Minnesota. Late word on survivors and what to make of ISIS' claim of responsibility.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

[21:16:56] COOPER: More now on the capture of the suspect in the New York and New Jersey bombings. He was arrested after a shootout with police in Linden, New Jersey. There are several small businesses as well as apartments and houses in the area where the shootout and capture happened. Here's what it sounded like.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

(Gunfire)

(END VIDEO CLIP)

COOPER: That video was shot by David Ayres. He and Derek Pelligra witnessed the takedown. They both join me now.

David, I understand you were working in your auto shop when this all started. What did you see? What did you hear?

DAVID AYRES, WITNESSED SUSPECT'S CAPTURE: Well, we were basically standing on the corner, which is like kind of behind me, you know, just hanging out talking to the local business guys like we do all the time. We're real close around this area.

One of my employees saw something running up the street. He noticed him. He immediately, you know, said he had a gun. You know, we've looked around thinking, you know, that's just crazy or whatever. Next thing you know, he dips behind one of the Volkswagens over by Pegasus, which is over here, and there shot, they're exchanging shots, you know, we're running, we're looking for some cover. We're sticking the video camera out, because nobody wants to stand in the line of fire or anything. It was pretty surreal, to be honest with you.

COOPER: Yeah, it's got to be. I mean, Derek, I understand you were across the street in another auto shop working when you heard the shots. Can you walk me through what you saw? Did you actually see the suspect running?

DEREK PELLIGRA, WITNESSED SUSPECT'S CAPTURE: Yeah, I had heard the first two gunshots go off, which I now hear were the shots made at the police officers here in Linden, and I left my office coming down the street, and I'd seen the cops going after him, and him running down the street towards Dave's shop, Hometown Tire and Auto. And a lot of shots were exchanged and eventually they obviously took him down.

COOPER: And I -- looks like we just lost the feed as happens in live television. We'll try to get that back as quickly as we can. And I'm told they are back.

Derek and Dave -- no, we're back guys, you're back on the air. I think we were able to restore it.

AYRES: Listen, I'd like to just take a second ...

COOPER: Yeah, go ahead.

AYRES: ... to tell you guys how great the Linden Police Department is. These -- all of these businesses behind me have huge doors. Anybody could have ran into any of these businesses and this could have been a hostage situation like that. Linden P.D. had this man under control and down and the threat gone before it was even a threat, before you really even knew what was happening. So I'd like to take a second and thank the Linden P.D. for helping everybody around here, you know, to feel safe. And we felt really safe when they come around here.

COOPER: Yeah. I'm glad you did that. Because I mean, I think, first of all, there's a lot of New Yorkers, too, not only about the Linden police officers, but the response by law enforcement ...

AYRES: Police officers ...

COOPER: ... in this entire tristate areas have been incredible.

AYRES: Police officers in general, they are heroes and let's not forget that.

[21:20:00] COOPER: Yeah. What did you think when you heard the shots being fired, David, I mean, did you think it was connected to the bombings over the weekend or did you think it was something else?

AYRES: You know, the craziest thing, Anderson, is -- the first thing you think nowadays is, is that terrorism? You know, it's sad to even say that, but, yeah, of course, I thought that. Because, you know, it's in the news, it's on your Facebook feeds. It's everywhere you're looking. But now it's right in my backyard and it became really real for us today.

COOPER: And I understand you actually know one of the police officers who were shot, Angel Padilla.

AYRES: Yes, Angel. Angel, yes. He's a very good friend of ours. Good customer, quality person. Never does not wear his vest, thank God he was wearing his vest. Thank God.

COOPER: Yeah.

AYRES: My heart goes out to him. And he's a true hero.

COOPER: Yeah, because from what I understand, I mean, he was, you know, a couple of feet away, six feet or so away, according to one eyewitness I talked to earlier ...

AYRES: Yeah, he was ...

COOPER: ... it could have been much worse.

AYRES: Yeah, he was point-blank pretty much.

COOPER: Yeah.

AYRES: It could have totally been much worse. But he acted just like any of these policemen in our great country would act, selfless.

COOPER: Yeah, I mean, every day, this is what they do. Derek, I mean, it could -- as we said, you know, it could have been a lot worse, what goes through your mind when you think back? I mean, it all happened so fast. As you think about it now, what goes through your mind?

PELLIGRA: I mean like kind of like Dave said, it comes to a shock to us something happened and so close to home. I mean, we're a close- knit community. Hearing what happened in Seaside and Elizabeth and New York, to actually see it, it really comes to a shock. The bravery of the Linden Police Department and all of the police across the country that put themselves before us to keep us safe, it's absolutely incredible.

Really, I'm just shocked we got to see it firsthand. I'm glad nobody was killed today.

AYRES: Thank God. Thank God.

PELLIGRA: And my heart goes out to the police officers that were there at the scene when it happened. Two of them that were hit. I understand Angel is now leaving the hospital ...

AYRES: Yeah. We just heard he's leaving the hospital.

COOPER: We heard that too.

AYRES: Yeah.

PELLIGRA: It's incredible.

COOPER: Yeah. I think the other officer is going to be held overnight, but thank goodness, they're going to be OK.

AYRES: Yeah.

COOPER: Derek Pelligra, David Ayres, guys, thank you so much for taking the time. It's been a crazy day for you, I know. Appreciate it.

AYRES: Thank you, Anderson.

COOPER: Yeah.

PELIGRA: Thank you, Anderson. We appreciate the time, thank you.

COOPER: Up next, another firsthand account and this is an extraordinary one. An exclusive interview with the man a lot of folks are calling a hero. A citizen who saw the alleged bomber and made the call to police that actually led to that dramatic confrontation to his capture. We'll talk to him when we come back.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

[21:26:32] COOPER: Well, Harinder Bains has had quite a day to say the least. He called the police after recognizing the suspect in the doorway of his bar. He'd seen the suspect's picture on CNN. I spoke with Harinder earlier.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

COOPER: Mr. Bains, thank you for being with us and for what you did. Take me through what happened because you saw this guy sleeping in the doorway of your bar this morning. What happened next? Did you instantly recognize him?

HARINDER BAINS, CALLED POLICE WHEN HE SPOTTED SUSPECT: No, around 9:00 in the morning, I went in front of my bar and he was leaning towards the door, and the door was a little cracked, you know, the glass panel. So, I just went there and told him, I said, "Hey, buddy, you're going to get hurt, this door is cracked." So he just looked towards the door crack and then said, "Oh, I'm sorry, I'll move to the other side." So he was on the left side. And he just removed his hoodie and just moved to the right side of the building.

So, and I just left, because it was raining very hard, so, and I just ran back to my store because I have a store just across the street from the bar. And that's the time when I saw his face when he moved his hoodie. It like kind of shocked me, because I was watching CNN on my laptop and you guys have his picture on your site like PIP, you know, on a site.

COOPER: Right.

BAINS: So I said this guy looked similar -- like very familiar to same -- like the same guy, you know? And then I got a little busy in the store and then I was still wondering, like, does he -- is he the same guy? Is he the same guy? I'm just thinking.

And then my friend, he has a trucking repair shop, he came to my store. I said -- his name is Vinnie, I said, "Vinnie, did you saw that guy lounging around in the back?" He said, "Yeah." I said, "Look at this photo." I showed him the photo. I said, "He looks exactly like this guy, but only the mustache, but he looks like him, and I recognize like he's the same guy. He said, "Are you sure?" I said, "Yes." He said, let's -- I said -- then call the cops. So I was about to call 911, then he said, "No, I have the number for the Linden cops, so we should call them." And that's when I called the cops, you know?

COOPER: And how quickly did the police arrive? BAINS: Because I just -- I didn't tell them that he -- this is the guy that you guys are looking for and he verified what I've said that, maybe they would have been there in a minute. But I just told them that the guy looks a little suspicious and you have to look, it doesn't look good to me. And she said, "What do you mean that doesn't look good to you. Is he dead or alive?" I said, "No, no, he's alive, but he doesn't look good. Like -- he's like -- you have to send somebody to check it out, you know?"

So I think the cops came within five minutes. And I was just waiting for the cops, because at that point -- by that point of time, I was like peaking to me again and again, this is the guy, this is guy, you know ...

COOPER: You were more sure than ever at that point?

BAINS: Yeah, yeah, I was like watching across street from the bar, and then the first cop rolls in, he just looks at him, he's still sleeping on his hoodies, pulled over his head, and then when the second cop pulled in and he just pick him up, and right away he went to his left side to pull -- I think I'm sure, the gun. And I couldn't hear the conservation because I was across street in my store, you know. And right away, he pulled a gun and he shot twice and the glass splinters almost hit my store across street, and that's when I also ducked behind a coffee table in my store.

[21:29:59] COOPER: So you saw the suspect pull out a gun?

BAINS: Yes. I did. He moved towards his left, like he was like slouching, you know? So he moved towards his left and like tried to take out something. That's the point when the cop took out the gun and he pointed towards him. And it went so fast, it happened in like 15, 20 seconds ...

COOPER: How close were they to each other?

BAINS: Close, like, maybe six feet, five feet. Not more than six feet. He was right there at the small vestibule. He was standing outside the vestibule, and he was right there, you know?

COOPER: And do you -- do you have any idea how long this guy had been sleeping there? I know you only saw him around 9:00 a.m. Had he been there much of the night?

BAINS: No, no, he was there since 6:45, I opened the store. He was there. He was sitting on the bench outside when it wasn't raining at 6:45, and I looked at him and I thought maybe some drunk guy, his hoodie was pulled over his face. And then when it started raining around 8:00, I think 8:30, he went into that vestibule-covered area, you know? I saw him at 6:45.

COOPER: That was the earliest you saw him. And then when -- so they exchanged shots. How many shots was between the first officer and the suspect?

BAINS: He shot twice like one of the shots hit the cop, and the cop, like, ran back towards the brick wall of the building, and he -- the guy got up and they started running towards the Roselle Street and he started running between the parked cars and the cop came behind the SUV and he started shooting too and I came out of the door and I started yelling at the cop, I said, because I knew the cop too, you know, he came to my store for food, you know. So I told him this is the freaking guy you guys are looking for. I started yelling and he looked at towards me and acknowledged me that what I'm saying and then he's trying to shoot but he don't have the clear vision. You can't see him clearly, you know? And he keeps running towards Roselle Street and firing in the air. He's not fighting back towards the cops anymore. He's like going forward and fighting and that's when a couple of other cops started pulling him from the other side, you know?

COOPER: So when the initial officer came on the scene, it was just one police officer in a car?

BAINS: Two.

COOPER: Two police officers.

BAINS: One officer came first. He didn't talk. He was just looking at him. And I suppose he was waiting for the other cops to come in, you know. When the second come came, he confronted the suspect.

COOPER: And how long would you say this entire exchange from the time the first police officer approached to the time he was actually apprehended, how long do you think it was?

BAINS: The second cop came one minute after the first cop, and after that, it only took -- the whole thing took maybe 30 seconds or less than 30 seconds. Because once he went towards the door, everything happened so fast, because he -- right away, he went to his gun and he started shooting. He shot two shots, and both the shots went through the glass panel, and the holes are still there. You can see, you know?

COOPER: Were you ever frightened for your safety? I mean seeing this guy who's being, you know, was wanted by police?

BAINS: I didn't knew at -- in the first minute I went there I didn't knew that he's the guy, but only when I saw his face that time, that things started like, I had a suspicion that this might be the same guy, you know?

Yes, I was like shaking a little bit, you know. When the cop pulled out his gun at that point of time, I realized that, OK, this is the guy. I'm sure this is the guy, you know?

COOPER: There's a lot of folks who are calling you a hero today. Do you feel like a hero?

BAINS: No, I'm not a hero. I'm just a regular citizen doing what every citizen should do. Whatever you see, you call the cop. Cops are the real hero. Law enforcements are the real hero, you know? COOPER: There's a lot of people, though, who, you know, have suspicions, but don't actually pick up the phone and dial the police when they have a suspicion. You did that.

BAINS: Yes, I think everybody should do. That's -- when you see something, you should say something, you know?

COOPER: Harinder Bains, it's really a pleasure and an honor to talk to you. Thank you so much for what you did. You very possibly saved a lot of people's lives. Thank you.

BAINS: Thank you. Thank you.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

COOPER: And as we reported earlier, the two police officers in Linden who were injured apprehending the suspect, one, we're told, Officer Angel Padilla, is going home tonight from the office. Officer Peter Hammer is being held overnight, but both seem to be are going to be able to pull through this and be OK.

Up next, we have more breaking news in the attack at a mall in Minnesota where a man stabbed 10 people before he's shot to dead by an off-duty police officer.

[21:34:59] ISIS has praised the attacker. The latest on what we know, next.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

COOPER: At practically the same time the 29 people were being treated for injuries here in New York for the bombing in Chelsea, others elsewhere were also getting medical attention for knife wounds. Victims of an attacker at a shopping mall in St. Cloud, Minnesota.

Our breaking news tonight, we now know of 10 victims in the brazen crime, a new one just identified when police watched surveillance video. The suspect is dead. Details from Sara Sidner.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

SARA SIDNER, CNN CORRESPONDENT: Terror in the mall. Dispatchers scramble to send help.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: We're taking reports of shots fired and then people stabbed.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: We're sending people out to the north side of Macy's.

SIDNER: By then, 10 people had been stabbed. They all survived. The attacker did not. Shot dead by off-duty officer, Jason Falconer, who's being hailed a hero. According to the mayor surveillance video shows a customer running with children in two and then the suspect comes into frame. MAYOR DAVE KLEIS, ST. CLOUD MINNESOTA: You see him immediately lunge forward with a knife and you've seen officer fire. The suspect went down. He got back up. The officer fired again, he got back up. This was three times.

[21:39:58] SIDNER: The man responsible, 22-year-old Dahir Adan. An ISIS linked news agency tweeted he was one of their soldiers. The FBI is calling the attack a potential act of terrorism, while police are searching for more evidence of a link to ISIS.

CHIEF WILLIAM BLAIR ANDERSON, ST. CLOUD MINNESOTA POLICE: As we talk today, I don't have anything to make that connection.

SIDNER: The attacker worked as a part-time security officer and was wearing his uniform during the stabbing. He lived in this modest apartment complex.

Minnesota is home to the largest Somali population in America. Somali community leader Abdul Kulane spoke with his family and said the young man had lived in the U.S. nearly his entire life.

Was he living with his family?

ABDUL KULANE, SOMALI COMMUNITY LEADER: He was living with his parents, both parents and members of an extended family was also around, a different apartment at the same building.

SIDNER: Did they give any indication that they saw a change in him or that they noticed him watching videos or anything like that that gave him an indication that he was becoming extreme?

KULANE: They haven't told us anything about that. They were shocked, as everybody else was. And they're in disbelief that it could happen.

SIDNER: From speaking to the family, would you say that this young man had assimilated as an American?

KULANE: He was as American as everybody else is.

SIDNER: Something clearly changed him. He says their son left home saying he was going to the mall to buy an iPhone. About three hours later, his family was informed he was dead and many were wounded.

REV. JAMES ALBERTS, HIGHER GROUND CHURCH PASTOR: Terror has visited St. Cloud and it is our job as members of this community for it not to find a home.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

COOPER: Sara Sidner joins us now from St. Cloud. There's a newly discovered 10th victim. What do we know?

SIDNER: The 10th victim didn't come to police, because he was so lightly injured. He didn't get a chance to tell them, apparently, but police found out when they went inside the mall, they started canvassing, talking to store owners and one of the owners said that yes, indeed, their employee was hurt, had minor injuries but didn't need to go to the hospital.

The good news tonight though is that all of the victims have been released from the hospital.

And lastly, I want to let you know what happened to that officer and why he was in here, you know, on his day off. The off-duty officer was inside the mall, buying a gift because it was his child's birthday. He ended up saving a lot of lives and a lot of folks here are very thankful for that. Anderson?

COOPER: Yeah, again, another heroic action by a police officer in this. Sara Sidner thanks. This kind of crime by a suspected self- radicalized individual and a so-called soft target seems to be on the rise.

With me again, CNN terrorism analyst Paul Cruickshank, co-author of "Agent Storm, My Life Inside al-Qaeda and the CIA".

I mean, look, we have seen a number of naturalized American citizens of Somali origin, most often going back to Mogadishu, elsewhere in Somali, Somalia, joining up with Al-Shabaab, I think the first in fact American suicide bomber overseas was a Somali.

CRUICKSHANK: That's right. We saw that last decade. But in more recent years, we've seen a number of individuals from the Somali community in the Minnesota area try to go and join ISIS in Syria and Iraq. It's the most significant recruitment pipeline that they've seen in the United States. There have been 11 that have been charged so far. Some actually made it all the way to join ISIS in Syria, and there's concern they've been using social media from there to connect back with radicals in the United States. But this individual seems to have been an all-American kid, well integrated. He had a job as a security officer. So we still don't know how he became radicalized.

COOPER: That -- I mean that's the thing that's so important to point out is that -- I mean, look, obviously, there's got to be tough screening of anybody coming to the United States, but so many of these attacks we're seeing in the United States are from -- and people who have even plotted attacks and been arrested are from people who grew up here, who came here as children, were, you know, raised here, lived here for 20 some of the odd years and then do this.

CRUICKSHANK: Absolutely right. We've seen a whole bunch of these kind of cases. We've also seen a significant number of converts who have got involved in trying to go off to join ISIS in Syria and Iraq or terrorism plotting as well.

But I've got to say, you know, tonight, Americans are asking, where are the trend lines going here? Are we -- is it growing more dangerous or less dangerous in the United States?

And I've got to say, the trend lines are actually have been quite encouraging this year compared to last year. We've seen a significant drop-off in the number of Americans trying to travel to join ISIS in Syria and Iraq. And we've also seen a significant drop-off in the number of Americans being charged in terrorism cases. It may not seem like it tonight ...

COOPER: Right.

CRUICKSHANK: ... but the trend lines are encouraging. ISIS, there's evidence that it's beginning to lose its luster when it comes to followers in the United States. The vast majority of American-Muslims absolutely, profoundly reject this ideology.

COOPER: Right. Paul Cruickshank thanks for being here.

Coming up, new surveillance video we've just gotten. A law enforcement official says this is the bombing suspect less than an hour before the explosion in Chelsea. The latest on that.

[21:45:00] Also ahead, the election, 50 days away. The way the candidates handle this aftermath. We'll take a look at what Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump are saying.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

COOPER: We got a new and exclusive look at video that a senior law enforcement official says is the bombing suspect. This is surveillance video from a local restaurant, Francisco's Centro Vasco which on 23rd Street between 6th and 7th Avenues. You can see a man -- again, a senior law enforcement official says this is the suspect dragging two duffle bags down the side walk. And this is about 7:30 Saturday night. The explosion happened about one hour later.

Now to politics and terror. The first presidential debate is one week away. The election 50 days away, it's putting even more scrutiny on what Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton are saying in the wake of this weekend's bombings and bomb scares. Senior Washington correspondent Jeff Zeleny tonight reports.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

JEFF ZELENY, CNN SENIOR WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENT: One week before their first debate, a new test for Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton. Already on a collision course over who's better equipped to be commander in chief and who has better judgment. Trump quickly seizing on the Afghanistan born suspect to make an **immigration** argument.

DONALD TRUMP, (R) PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE: Let me state very, very clearly, **immigration** security is national security.

ZELENY: Clinton accusing her rival of fueling hate. Blasting his call to ban Muslims from the U.S.

HILLARY CLINTON, (D) PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE: We know that a lot of the rhetoric we've heard from Donald Trump has been seized on by terrorists, in particular ISIS, because they are looking to make this into a war against Islam.

[21:50:06] ZELENY: With the election in 50 days, voters sending mixed signals on the qualities of Trump and Clinton. Asked who is a strong and decisive leader, Trump leads by eight points. As for who has the temperament to serve as president, Clinton holds a wide 20-point advantage.

Both candidates reacting in real time to fast moving developments in the bombing investigation on the streets of New York and New Jersey and in multiple stabbing at a Minnesota mall. All being investigated as acts of terror. Trump taking to Twitter, "Under the leadership of Obama and Clinton, Americans have experienced more attacks at home than victories abroad. Time to change the playbook."

At a rally today in Florida, Trump echoed the call.

TRUMP: That's all we need is four more years of Obama, except worse.

ZELENY: And Clinton delivering a pointed response to Trump for linking her and the President to attacks on the home front.

CLINTON: It's not grounded in fact it's, you know, man to make to some kind of demagogic point. And the facts are pretty clear.

ZELENY: It's an open question how the attacks and terror treats were influence the presidential race or what did they will at all. Clinton using the moment to remind voters of her experience.

CLINTON: I'm the only candidate in this race who's been part of the hard decisions to take terrorists off the battlefield.

ZELENY: Trump bluntly making the case that his message of strength is needed to meet the call for change.

TRUMP: Anyone who cannot name our enemy is not fit to lead this country.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

ZELENY: Now, strength and security already pillars of this presidential campaign, now have a greater sense of urgency, Anderson, with six more days before that first presidential debate, taking place here in New York. This all will cast a, you know, a poll over how both sides prepare here. But Donald Trump, I'm told, is going to keep digging in on this and continuing to make his **immigration** argument including tomorrow as he campaigns in North Carolina.

Hillary Clinton for her part is basically off the campaign trail preparing for that first debate. She believes she is on the right side of the arguments on this, her experience and her strength. But Donald Trump is presenting himself as the candidate of change here, and if the electorate is fearful, the candidate of change often is the one they go with. But, Anderson, this is going to be front and center next Monday night at that debate.

COOPER: Yeah, Jeff Zeleny. Jeff, thanks very much.

Joining me now is CNN political commentator, David Axelrod, the former senior adviser to President Obama.

Two very different responses, clearly, from Clinton and Trump, how do you see this playing out over the next couple of weeks? Which response resonates more especially with the undecided voters at this point?

DAVID AXELROD, FORMER OBAMA SENIOR ADVISER: You know, first of all, one thing that I've learned over the years of being involved in these things is the next couple of weeks is an eternity, there may be intervening events, how this plays out in the next few days will determine the intensity of this discussion in the next few week.

But I think generally speaking, I'll pick up on Jeff's last point. Donald Trump's basic script is that America is kind of a dystopian Gotham City and he's Batman coming to save us from all of the bad guys. And it's a very visceral appeal. It's rooted in fear. And so when things like this happen, he's going to seize on it to make that point.

Hillary Clinton has an entirely different approach, which is to say, I've been there, I'm experienced and I have the temperament to deal with these things in a responsible way. Because this is one of the problems that Trump has faced. You get into these focus groups, and what you hear is, people worry about his temperament in dealing with these very, very sensitive grave mortal issues that president's have to face. And she's counting on people turning to her as being the more responsible of the two. And that's the way this debate is going to play out.

COOPER: Although, I mean to Jeff's point, you know, Donald Trump has the advantage of saying, "Look, people wanted change and people are fearful. If you vote for Hillary Clinton, it's going to be more of what you've had over the last eight years, "in his words, "only worse." He is the change agent, that's his line.

AXELROD: Yeah, and that's the reason why, you know, he is going to capitalize on moments like this to exploit people's fears and prop up that argument. But the question I think that he's going to have to resolve in these debates if he can -- if he can is to allay people's concern that how much change is too much change? Is Donald Trump as reactive as just we saw this weekend for example him chasing comments by Bob Gates, the former Defense Secretary highly respected guy who questioned his temperament and fitness for the office of commander-in- chief. And he responded in a very caustic almost juvenile way, and went after Colin Powell. And that is his habit.

[21:55:01] People worry about that. They worry about a guy -- it -- there's a point at which strength becomes something other than strength and it becomes reactivity in a way that makes people uncomfortable when they're thinking about a president of the United States. So he has to show in these debates that he has the temperament to handle these kinds of great responsibilities.

COOPER: You know, I mean everyone thought or a lot of people thought going into this election, Clinton's strength might be these kinds of moments, tests of national security, and yet, it's not really clear who comes out of this with, you know, with the lead politically speaking.

AXELROD: Well, and I don't think we'll know for awhile, Anderson. As you can see in these polls, they're a little muddled ... COOPER: Yeah.

AXELROD: ... in term of where people place their confidence. So I think we're going to have to wait and see how this all plays out to see who gets the upper hand.

COOPER: David Axelrod, appreciate it. We'll be right back.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

[22:00:09] COOPER: That does it for us. We'll see you tomorrow. "CNN TONIGHT" with Don Lemon starts now.

**NEW\_DOCUMENT\_HERE**

John Berman, Paul Begala, A.J. Delgado, Maria Cardona, Christine Quinn, Scottie Nell Hughes, Kayleigh McEnany, Jeffrey Lord, Van Jones, Dana Bash, Rana Foroohar

9811 speakers\_end

[21:00:00] HILLARY CLINTON, (D) PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE: So here's the bottom line. Comprehensive **immigration** reform will not only be the right thing to do, but it will add $700 billion to our economy. And enable America to be what it's always been, a place where people from around the world can come to reunite with family, start new businesses, pursue their dreams, apply their talents to American growth and innovation.

Now, I know this has been a long road, and we wouldn't be where we are today without your persistence and the quiet courage of families in every state of our union. And we certainly wouldn't be here without the bravery of the young men and women who have risked their very place in the United States, by coming forward and fighting for their own future and the future of millions of others.

They helped change the conversation and when President Obama created DACA, it changed their lives. Right now, 750,000 undocumented young people in America are going to school, working, and planning for their future. They're dreamers in much more than name. I've met so many. I've listened to their stories. They've done everything we've asked of them and made our country stronger in return.

So when Donald Trump promises to rip that all away on day one, when he promises to round up and deport all of the 16 million people living and working among us, including American citizen children, who were born here to parents who are undocumented, these are the faces I see. I picture Astrid Silva, who I met in Las Vegas. Many of you know her story. She came to this country from Mexico at the age of four, with nothing but a doll, a cross, and the dress she was wearing. Now she's in her 20s, advocating for the rights of **immigrants** everywhere.

I picture a young man I never met, whose high school teacher wrote me a few months ago, to share his story. His teacher told me that this former student was funny, enthusiastic, and patriotic. He played the drums in the school marching band and after graduation in 2005, proudly enlisted in the U.S. Army. Before shipping off to Iraq, he stopped by the school, so everyone could see him in his new uniform. "He was," his teacher wrote, "as respectful and optimistic as any student who ever entered my classroom." He was also a dreamer. Brought here as an undocumented child. He loved America and hoped one day to earn his citizenship.

But in April 2007, while on a mission in Baghdad, he was killed by an improvised explosive device. He was just 19. The Army called him a hero and he was posthumously granted the American citizenship he'd always wanted.

All these years later, his teacher still treasures his memory. And this teacher wanted me to know, he wanted me to know that despite what Donald Trump may say, **immigrants** are not rapists and criminals.

The truth is, this young man may not have been born here, but he represented the best values of our country. We teach our children that America is one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all. Not just for people who look a certain way or worship a certain way, but for all.

Everywhere I go, people tell me how concerned they are by the extreme policies and divisive rhetoric they've heard from my opponent, from the racist lie about Mexican **immigrants** that launched his presidential campaign, to his racist attacks on a federal judge.

[21:05:12] And every time we think he's hit rock bottom, he sinks even lower. His latest target, a minister in Flint, Michigan, who respectfully asked him not to use her pulpit for political attacks. He called her a nervous mess. How insulting. How dead wrong. Reverend Faith Green Timmons is not a nervous mess. She's a rock for her community in trying times. And she deserves better and so does America.

And again today, he did it again. He was asked one more time, where was President Obama born? And he still wouldn't say Hawaii. He still wouldn't say America. This man wants to be our next president? When will he stop this ugliness, this bigotry?

Now, he's tried to reset himself and his campaign many times. This is the best he can do. This is who he is. And so we need to decide who we are. If we just sigh and shake our heads and accept this. Then, what does that tell our kids about who we are? We need to stand up and repudiate this divisive rhetoric. We need to stop him conclusively in November in an election that sends a message that even he can hear. We need to set the kind of example we want for ourselves and our children and our grandchildren.

Parents and teachers are already worried about what they're calling the Trump effect. Bullying and harassment are on the rise in our schools, especially targeting students of color, Muslims, and **immigrants**.

At a high school basket game in Indiana, white students held up Trump signs and taunted Latino players on the opposing team with chants of "Build the Wall" and "Speak English."

Donald Trump is running the most divisive campaigns of our lifetimes. His message is, you should be afraid. Afraid of people whose race or ethnicity is different, or whose religious faith is different, or who were born in a different country. There's no innuendo or dog whistles anymore, it's all right out there in the open now.

So we've got to come back twice as strong and twice as clear. Just this week, a mother in Florida wrote to me about her 11-year-old son, Francisco. He's proud to be American, Colombian, Ecuadorian, and Puerto Rican. As he calls it, a pot luck of Hispanic heritage. And Francisco has been following this election very closely, his mother told me. He wears his "Love Trump's hate" pin every day and refuses to take it off.

When his father warned him, that might make him a target for bullies, Francisco looked his father in the eye and said, "I was always told to stand up for myself and what I believe in and I believe Trump is wrong." And good for you, Francisco, that's what we have to do in this election. And that's what so many of you are doing already. Standing up to the bullying and bigotry, wherever it comes from.

Together, we must send this resounding message, and we need to inspire a level of turnout that will help us win up and down and the ticket. We've set an ambitious goal of registering and committing three million people to vote in this election, that would not have otherwise voted, and we can't do it without you.

Nearly half of Latinos in America are under 35 and we need you to show up and make your voices heard in this election.

[21:10:02] So we're going to keep asking for your help, keep hitting the campaign trail. Please, talk to your friends, your neighbors, your community. Everyone you see between now and November 8th. Tell them to go to hillaryclinton.com or text "Join," J-O-I-N to 47246 to get involved.

This election is too important for anyone to sit on the sidelines, as we heard from Congresswoman Sanchez. So let's stand up to a future where we put families first, where we build bridges, not walls, and yes, together, we can prove, love Trump's hate.

Thank you all very much.

JOHN BERMAN, CNN ACHOR: All right, Hillary Clinton just wrapping up a speech at the Congressional Hispanic Caucus event in Washington, D.C.

I want to get some immediate reaction from our panel. With me tonight, New Yorker Washington correspondent, Ryan Lizza, former New York City Council speaker, Christine Quinn, who supports Hillary Clinton, Democratic adviser, Paul Begala, who advises a Pro-Clinton Super PAC, Trump supporter and conservative columnist, Kayleigh McEnany, Trump supporter and RightAlerts.com political editor, Scottie Nell Hughes, and Mary Katherine Hahn, senior writer for the Federalist. I'm just John Berman filling in for Anderson.

Also, with us tonight inside the Convention Center in Washington, Democratic strategist and 2008 senior Clinton campaign adviser, Maria Cardona, monitoring the event for us, and in Miami, Trump campaign senior adviser, A.J. Delgado.

Paul, let me start with you and get your immediate reaction to this because this was a very different speech than the one we heard from Hillary Clinton earlier today. This was her first day back on the trail after three days off battling pneumonia. Earlier today, it was much more subdued, talking more about policy. Really didn't mention Donald Trump at all by name in that speech. Did a little bit but tonight, you know, directly at him.

PAUL BEGALA, PRO-HILLARY CLINTON SUPER PAC ADVISER: Yeah, boy, she went right at him, particularly on those issues of -- that matter to Latinos. This is a constituency where Trump is averaging 17 to 19 in the swing states in Univision poll, 17 to 19 percent. Mitt Romney got 27 and lost. Trump's got to get 40 to 50 of Latino votes.

So that seems like a high mountain and she knows that. But the question is turnout. Will they all turn out?

But as a campaign veteran -- can I just take one little insider thing, really important. She cited "The Washington Post" interview in which Mr. Trump, again, said he didn't believe -- he wouldn't say that the President was born in America.

BERMAN: Well, just hold that thought.

BEGALA: That shows a nimbleness in her campaign. The story was posted at 7:34.

BERMAN: Let's play that. Let's play the sound bite where Hillary Clinton talks about this in "The Washington Post" article. "The Washington Post" report Robert Costa asked Donald Trump, "Do you think that the President is born in the United States," Donald Trump will not answer the question, Hillary Clinton just talked about it.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

CLINTON: Today, he did it again. He was asked one more time, where was President Obama born? And he still wouldn't say "Hawaii." He still wouldn't say "America." This man wants to be our next president? When will he stop this ugliness, this bigotry?

(END VIDEO CLIP)

BERMAN: All right. A..J. Delgado, you're joining us right now. You are an adviser to the Trump campaign. Is this a question that Donald Trump should just say "Yes" to? Why won't he answer it?

A.J. DELGADO, TRUMP CAMPAIGN SENIOR ADVISER: You know, it's not worth discussing. This is just another media trick to try to bring up this issue again to deflect from Hillary Clinton's weaknesses and the disastrous week or couple of weeks she's been having.

Listen, I do give her credit, though, for addressing the Latino community. You have to have a lot of nerve to do that when some years ago, she's on tape saying that she is, "Adamantly opposed to illegal **immigrants**." Not to illegal **immigration**, to the **immigrants** themselves. So I find it funny she has the nerve to address us. I'll give her credit.

I'll also find it quite ironic that she brought up Cesar Chavez and Latino kids reading about him and all kids reading about him during Hispanic (inaudible). Because Cesar Chavez's policy, and he's a great Latino icon, and a legend among our community, was very much in line with Donald Trump's. Cesar Chavez used to patrol the border to keep illegal **immigrants** out. Why? Because he believed, like Donald Trump, in helping the Latino-Americans who are in the U.S., and not bringing in added competition for jobs and bringing down our wages.

BERMAN: Let me bring in Maria Cardona, who's in the room right now. I want to give you a chance to respond to what A.J. just said.

MARIA CARDONA, DEMOCRATIC STRATEGIST: It's absolutely ridiculous. Hillary Clinton has had a four-decade relationship with the Hispanic community.

In the early '70s, she was out registering Latino voters in the Texas Valley, way before it was cool to register Latino voters. She has fought for our families, four our children, for **immigrants**, legal and undocumented ...

[21:14:59] DELGADO: name one way.

CARDONA: And in this room, she was with them. And she got a tremendous welcome, the way that she always has. She was here last year. She misses Latino leaders everywhere she goes and she was addressing 2,000 people in this room tonight, Anderson, that will spread out tomorrow, and talk to all of the key communities in Florida, in Nevada, in Colorado, in Arizona. I'm sorry, John, in Arizona, to make sure that they all understand that it is Hillary Clinton, her policies, her commitment to our community, and to Americans of all communities, the one that will raise them up, the one that will lift them up, instead of trying to divide them with fear and divisive rhetoric and hatred and vitriol and bigotry.

She talked about personal stories ...

BERMAN: Hang on one second, Maria.

CARDONA: ... of **immigrants** who are trying to make their life here ...

BERMAN: A.J., you're nodding your head. Your response.

DELGADO: You notice -- because you notice Maria didn't say a single thing, other than that, what was that, Maria, registering voters that she did decades ago? You can't name a single thing that Hillary Clinton has ever done for the Latino community. Whereas Donald Trump with the wall ...

CARDONA: Oh, I'll name them ...

DELGADO: Donald Trump with the wall itself is going to keep drugs and crime out of communities. It's going to keep jobs from coming into our communities and driving down our wages. Those wages are driven down $500 billion a year, because of illegal **immigration**. Check (inaudible), Harvard economist research on that.

It's Donald Trump who's helping the Latino community. Hillary Clinton's policies will not only harm the Latino community, but in decades of public service, she has not done one thing for us and your speech ...

BERMAN: Maria, I'll give you one more chance to respond. Maria, go ahead.

CARDONA: You know what? Yeah, absolutely. There's a reason why Hillary Clinton is in the high 70s of approval with Latinos and Donald Trump is ...

DELGADO: She's not. That's a lie.

CARDONA: And it's because ...

DELGADO: She's in the 50s.

CARDONA: It is because Hillary Clinton has fought for health care. She gave our kids health care. She fought for ObamaCare. She has fought for, to make sure that everybody in our community is lifted up with real jobs, with growing wages. She has fought for equality and education from the moment that she left law school. So you can say -- you can continue to lie, the way that your candidate says about what Hillary Clinton have said?

DELGADO: I get it. You have to speak in platitudes. I get it ...

CARDONA: But the fact of the matter is ...

(CROSSTALK)

BERMAN: All right, guys, one at a time. One at a time. You know what? Hang on. We're going to break that up for one second.

Christine Quinn, you ready to in?

CHRISTINE QUINN, FORMER NYC CITY COUNCIL SPEAKER: Yeah, the comments that Cesar Chavez and Donald Trump are similar? First of all, Cesar Chavez is spinning in his grave. But that's like saying Santa Claus is following the lead of the Grinch. I mean, they're just the most opposites of human being and vision out there.

And again, I just want to note that A.J. said the wall will prevent drugs and crime. Yet another Trump campaign attack on Mexicans, which builds on ...

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: No ...

QUINN: ... and further on -- I just want to say, earlier in the show, we talked about voters wanting change, which can mean, as we said, progressive change. And when Secretary Clinton says she's going to end the raids, end the roundups and close the detention centers, that is the progressive change that the Latino community has been dissatisfied with President Obama about.

BERMAN: Scottie, go ahead.

SCOTTIE NELL HUGHES, TRUMP SUPPORTER: Let's take down memory lane. Let's go back to 2000. President Bill Clinton, you know, it's interesting that Maria brought up the four decades. Hillary Clinton has been sitting here and trying to promote, "I'm fighting for Latino rights." I don't remember Hillary Clinton fighting for Elian Gonzalez as he was being ripped out of gun point, out of his hands after his mother died trying to get him to freedom from Cuba.

The only time we've ever seen those pictures has been under a Clinton administration and we heard silence out of Hillary Clinton as the first lady and fighting for that child's rights in as he was deported back to Cuba. And we have yet to hear her comments now about it.

BERMAN: Paul.

QUINN: Let me give you an example, though ...

BEGALA: Paul will jump in here.

QUINN: Sure. Sorry.

BEGALA: I'm going to go out on a limb and suggest that perhaps you're not going to persuade me, and I'm not going to persuade you. But to say that somehow Hillary has been bad on Latino issues, as A.J. just did, to suggest, I think, that Latino voters are not able to see their own self-interests. Univision just did a polling in three of these swing states. Hillary is leading 68 to 18 in Arizona, very Republican state. She's leading 65 to19 in Nevada, a swing state. And 62 to 17 in Colorado.

DELGADO: Why is she in the 50s in Florida? Why didn't you cite Florida?

BEGALA: She's ...

DELGADO: I notice you didn't cite Florida or nationally. Why is she in the 50s when Obama had 70 percent Latino support? Why wouldn't you address that?

BEGALA: I think you should continue -- I think, A.J. and her campaign should continue to do what they're doing, because they're going to set a record low for Latinos. I think she's right, all is well with Trump and Latinos. And I think he should continue his campaign, Hillary will continue hers.

[21:20:00] Latinos are going to vote in this election. They're likely to be a determining factor. And Trump has gone out of his way from his announcement speech to today to **alienate** Latinos and ...

KAYLEIGH MCENANY, TRUMP'S SUPPORTER: This is so interesting to me, Paul, because A.J. just very skillfully ...

BERMAN: Kayleigh?

MCENANY: ... posed a question to the Clinton campaign, which is what has Hillary Clinton done for the Latino community?

QUINN: I'll give you an example. MCENANY: And the Clinton campaign hasn't answered. Instead, you default to attacking Donald Trump. You know what?

BEGALA: I'm not attacking Donald Trump. I'm citing polling data. Do you think voters are stupid?

MCENANY: OK. Well, let me cite a fact that Hillary Clinton brought up tonight that Latinos make up 17 percent of the nation, but we only have 2 percent of the wealth. Well, guess what? Her and her family have been in power for four decades. Obama continued her family's policies and yet Latinos are worse off four decades after Clinton/Obama rule and they were before it started.

So, AJ's question is a skillful one and the Clinton campaign is yet to answer ...

BERMAN: Christine, go ahead.

(CROSSTALK)

BERMAN: Hang on. A.J., A.J., hang on. Christine Quinn's going to answer ...

QUINN: I'll give you some very specific answers. After 9/11, one of the most ignored communities related to the impact of the work on the pile, were day laborers. The vast majority of whom at that time were Latinos and Hispanics in New York. And I saw Hillary Clinton on a regular basis standing with those workers, fighting for those workers, getting those workers to become part of the 9/11 health registry at Mt. Sinai, making sure they got included in health coverage. That's a tangible thing she did when she was a United States senator.

She has been a supporter of dreamers and DREAM Act legislation, which will help -- has helped make sure people could stay here and go to college.

Her work around getting child health care coverage when she was first lady was extraordinarily helpful to the Hispanic and Latino communities ...

MCENANY: None of those are for the Latino community specifically.

QUINN: Absolutely ...

MCENANY: By the way, I worked in **immigration** where I heard the stories that the Obama administration sending ICE. officers into people's homes, ripping children out of them, while he is letting 19,000 criminal and illegal **immigrants** back into society that ...

BERMAN: All right, quickly, last word.

(CROSSTALK)

BERMAN: A.J., hang on.

QUINN: First of all, you cannot say -- you cannot say that the child health coverage, and I would also add ObamaCare, hasn't significantly helped the Latino community. It has helped others, but there were clearly, clearly helped by that.

And I don't disagree with you, that the raids and the roundups and the splitting up of families and the detention centers ...

(CROSSTALK)

BERMAN: Hang on, hang on.

QUINN: ... have been outrageous and ...

(CROSSTALK)

QUINN: Wait, wait, wait. I have -- when I was an elected official, spoke out aggressively against them and panned (ph) legislation in New York to control ICE and the Secretary, talk about change. She said she's going to change what President Obama is doing. That is radically important change.

BERMAN: We are -- we're going to take a quick break, everyone. Thanks a lot. Stick around, though.

Donald Trump, he laid out his economic plan today. We'll have the latest on that, next.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

[21:25:57] BERMAN: Busy day for Donald Trump. He wrapped up a speech in New Hampshire just a short time ago.

Earlier, he laid out his economic plan in a speech here in New York, pledging to create 25 million jobs over the next decade and offering his ideas about how he would do it.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

DONALD TRUMP, (R) PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE: In Hillary Clinton's America, we have surrendered our status as the world's great economy. And we have surrendered our middle class to the whims of foreign countries. We take care of them better than we take care of ourselves. Not one single idea she's got will create one net American job or create one new dollar of American wealth for our workers. The only thing she can offer is a welfare check. That's about it. Our plan will produce paychecks.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

BERMAN: Trump vowed his proposal will boost the economy 4 percent a year. He also rolled out a kind of revised tax plan, a different one than he initially proposed several months ago. It's a pretty big overhaul with new tax rates and new levels for standard deductions.

Back now with Paul Begala, joining the conversation, CNN global economic analyst and "Time" assistant managing editor Rana Foroohar, CNN political commentator and Trump supporter, Jeffrey Lord, and economist and Trump policy adviser, Peter Navarro. Thank you one and all for being here.

Rana, I will start with you. We watched the speech together.

RANA FOROOHAR, TIME ASSISTANT MANAGING EDITOR: Yeah.

BERMAN: You know, an ambitious plan.

FOROOHAR: Indeed.

BERMAN: You know, 25 million new jobs. All while assuming 4 percent growth, an average of 4 percent growth over 10 years.

FOROOHAR: Yeah.

BERMAN: Tax cuts, no deficit impact.

FOROOHAR: Yeah, a magical thinking I think. You know, I mean, 4 percent growth is about double what we're at right now. And we're talking about tax cuts that are meant to spur that kind of growth. It's a dynamic tax plan, is what they call it.

But if you look back over the last 20 years, there's just not a lot of evidence to show that tax cuts have been creating that kind of growth. So if you look in 2001 and 2003, we had really broad-based tax cuts under George W. Bush. Those didn't jump-start growth. Pre-2000 -- sorry, after the financial crisis in 2008, Obama's tax cuts also didn't spur on growth.

So this idea that we can just cut taxes and that's going to magically create growth is just not holding water.

BERMAN: Peter Navarro?

PETER NAVARRO, ECONOMIST AND BUSINESS PROFESSOR, U.C. IRVINE: Yeah. That wasn't what the speech was about. That's just wrong. What we have here is ...

BERMAN: I'm sorry, the speech was about -- he said he's going to create 25 million jobs.

NAVARRO: Correct, yeah.

BERMAN: OK. All right.

NAVARRO: Let me just do the numbers for you. It's really interesting. If you go from 1947 to 2001, the economy grew at a real GDP rate of 3.5 percent. From 2002 to 2015, we dropped down to 1.5, essentially cutting it in half.

So what Mr. Trump's mission is, basically, is to get us back from that 2 percent, 1.8 percent to 3.5, and maybe 4. But in the speech, it was 3.5.

BERMAN: It was both.

NAVARRO: So what we've got to do is we got to pick up 1.5. Now, in terms of where we get that. The tax cuts are a small part of that. The other part of the plan has to do with overregulation, has to do with the trade deficit, which is a big drain on our GDP, and it has to do with the off-shoring of fixed non-residential investment, which counts towards the GDP.

And the analysis that we've done shows that you pick up these instant growth. For example, just solving the regulatory trade and energy issue gets us a point. When you dynamically score the tax cut plan, that gets us another half a point, and there we are.

And so what that does -- and let me just say one more thing, it's like one point. This is really important. One point of GDP growth is 1.2 additional jobs over of what you're doing, right? So if we go from 2 to 3.5 over a 10-year period, that's 18 million additional jobs.

[21:25:01] BERMAN: I understand, Peter, but the speech was largely -- he talked a lot about the tax cuts there. We all watched it together and yes, he did talk about other things, you bring up dynamic growth. That's double dipping, though. You're saying dynamic growth is going to help promote growth all at the same time. Well, at the same time, dynamic growth is ...

NAVARRO: Let me just break it down ...

BERMAN: No, no, no. Dynamic growth is where he gets to the idea that it's deficit neutral. So, you know, ...

NAVARRO: No, no, let me -- again, let's do the numbers here. Let's just do the numbers. The tax cuts themselves create a deficit.

BERMAN: 4.4 trillion.

NAVARRO: It's static, OK, which nobody believes in. It's about $2.5 trillion dynamic. OK. Take that. Now, what we do with the increment of growth, on the regulatory side, on the trade side, and on the energy side, is we show a net gain of about $2 trillion. OK.

FOROOHAR: No, if I can just ...

BERMAN: Go ahead, Rana.

FOROOHAR: Yeah, if I can just jump in. Whenever the projections get too complicated, I get worried because one thing we know is that economic projections are often wrong. What we can say is historically, these types of trickle-down plans have not worked real well over the last 20 years. We know that for a fact.

NAVARRO: Can I ask you a question?

FOROOHAR: Yeah, go ahead.

NAVARRO: OK. So, so we communicate, right? You're in a world thinking just about tax cuts, OK? Donald Trump's in a world where tax cuts are just a part of the problem. When I'm asking you, here's the question. If we are able to reduce the $2 trillion annual burden of regulation on this economy, would that increase growth? If ... FOROOHAR: I think ...

NAVARRO: If we were able ...

FOROOHAR: Yeah.

NAVARRO: ... to eliminate the 800 -- almost $800 billion deficit in goods, would that create an increment of growth and if we were able to lower our electricity?

FOROOHAR: Yup.

NAVARRO: So the question is, what would that do in your world?

FOROOHAR: OK, let me say two things. First of all, the speech was mostly about tax cuts. But let me answer your question.

NAVARRO: It was not

FOROOHAR: I think that regulatory issues are a minority of how we're going to create growth in this country going forward. I think that small business regulation, yeah, it could be cleaned up a little bit, but that's not going to get you to 4 percent growth. I mean, you know, it's just false to think that. And the same time, putting out your debt ...

NAVARRO: It's a $2 billion on the American people. And if you cut that simply by 10 percent, what our simulations show is that we ...

FOROOHAR: Simulations, that's making me think about 2008. The models didn't work back then.

BERMAN: I want to bring Jeff Lord into this conversation because ...

JEFFREY LORD, TRUMP SUPPORTER: Paul and I are letting the economists do it.

BEGALA: That's right.

(CROSSTALK)

BERMAN: I'm going to bring up the Reagan administration ...

LORD: Yeah.

BERMAN: ... because if I don't, you will.

LORD: That's right. That is correct. And I even have a surprise for you.

BERMAN: What you're going to say is that Ronald Reagan cut taxes and he created growth, right?

LORD: He created political growth from 1983 to 1990, according to the Joint Economic Committee of the House and Senate. A total growth of 35.7 percent ... BERMAN: But what happened to the deficit during that time?

LORD: And let me finish. And then, and then, when the Clinton administration came in, they had a total growth of 33.0 percent. In other words, it was very close. Which, of course, is what led Art Laffer, the founder of the supply-side economics or back to more classical economics to say, "Bill Clinton was one of the best conservative president in this country," and I agree.

BERMAN: But Paul, back to Ronald Reagan, he did absolutely, you know, cut taxes and there was growth there, but there was also a deficit there. Now, you can argue that it was worth it, but it was not deficit neutral. What Donald Trump is arguing today is that all of this is deficit neutral. And the math is very difficult, if not impossible to, you know, to connect.

LORD: Well, I mean, I will say this. I mean the Cold War is gone, I mean, and that was the big decision with Ronald Reagan. As you know, he said, his strategy was we win, they lose. OK, they're gone. Now, Donald Trump has got to face, as does whomever is president, has got to deal with ISIS and all of this sort of thing. But still and all, if you make the right cuts in the right places, you know, you can get this done over a period of time.

BERMAN: Paul Begala?

BEGALA: Well, politically, where it's a problem, is this. From the beginning of his campaign, from the beginning of life, Donald Trump has told us how rich he is. And I believe him. That's -- I mean, people quibble about whether it's $10 billion or $1 billion, but who the hell cares? He's a really, really rich guy. Voters know that he brags about it all the time. He is connected with voters on that notion that he is rich.

So when he proposes a tax plan that's tilted toward the rich, it's going to infuriate a lot of folks. For example, the specifics. He calls for a repeal of the estate tax, which only the very, very wealthiest, less than 1 percent of Americans pay, right? First 5 million, I think $5.4 million is exempt from taxes. So unless you're leaving your grandchildren or children more than $5 million bucks, you don't have to worry about the tax.

He eliminates that, because he has a vast fortune that he wants to leave to these very impressive children he has, I'm sure. But it benefits Trump and his family particularly.

Also, huge tax cuts, at least in the original plan. You can correct me if it's in this, for these pass-through entities, companies that are taxed at a different rate than the corporate rate, often a lower rate. He cuts it even lower for them.

[21:35:00] Guess what, according to the "Washington Post," Trump owns over 200 of these pass-through entities. This is designed for Trump, by Trump, to benefit Trump. I bet if we dig deep into it, we'll see tax cuts for tanning beds and hair spray. Because this is design for Donald Trump. BERMAN: All right, all right. You know what, guys, we've got take a quick break.

We have much more to discuss, coming up. Donald Trump lashing out at the Flint, Michigan pastor who interrupted his speech at her church. Hillary Clinton just weighed in on this as a short time ago, as well.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

BERMAN: So Donald Trump criticizes a lot of people. His opponents, the media, people he perceives as haters and losers on Twitter. Now there is a new target, a pastor from Flint, Michigan, who interrupted Trump when he was speaking at her church.

At her speech in Washington tonight, Hillary Clinton says that pastor deserves better and so does America. We'll have Trump's comment today on the pastor in just a moment.

First, let's bring you up to speed on how this all started. This is what happened yesterday in Flint.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

TRUMP: Hillary failed on the economy, just like she's failed on foreign policy. Everything she touched didn't work out. Nothing.

Now Hillary Clinton ...

[21:39:59] REV. FAITH GREEN TIMMONS, FLINT, MICHIGAN PASTOR: Excuse me, Mr. Trump, I invited you here to thank us for what we've done in Flint.

TRUMP: Oh, oh, oh, OK.

TIMMONS: Not give a political speech.

TRUMP: OK. That's good. Then I'm going to go back onto Flint.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

BERMAN: Now, this morning, in an interview on Fox News, Donald Trump suggested Faith Green Timmons, the pastor of Bethel United Methodist Church who we just saw in that video had planned to disrupt his remarks, ahead of time. Listen to this.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

TRUMP: When she got up to introduce me she was so nervous, she was shaking, and I said, "Wow, this is sort of strange." And then she came up. So she had that in mind, there's no question about it.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Bother you? Does it bother you? It seems like it did.

TRUMP: No, it doesn't bother me. No, I mean, everyone plays their games, it doesn't bother me. I'll tell you what really made me feel good, the audience was saying, "Let him speak, let him speak."

(END VIDEO CLIP)

BERMAN: Now, the poll reporter in the room at the time got that through NPR says Reverend Timmons did not appear nervous. He also says that no one said, "Let him speak," instead, he says hecklers started shouting at Trump and that's when Reverend Timmons spoke again, telling the crowd that Trump was, "A guest in my church and you will respect him."

Joining us now, CNN Political Commentator Van Jones, a former Obama Administration official, also Trump supporter Scottie Nell Hughes and Kayleigh McEnany are back with us, as is Clinton supporter Paul Begala.

Kayleigh, when we saw this yesterday, I think we all commented, it was an interesting exchange between the pastor and Donald Trump. And Donald Trump when she, you know, when she stopped him, he just said, "OK, you're right, you're right, you're right," and went back to his speech. He handled that moment graciously.

This morning, calling her nervous and saying she was playing games. Is this the type of comment, is this the type of attack that Kellyanne Conway is trying to keep him from doing?

MCENANY: No, because one of the things people love about Donald Trump is he's honest. And he says what's on his mind. And what he said today was truthful. Because when you look at the Reverend's Facebook the day before the event, you know what you find? You find, I have it here, "Today is our day. It's our chance to show Donald Trump he will not use us, we will educate him." This was on her Facebook. She had plan to setup Donald Trump. She deleted the Facebook post.

Now among this fire, she wants it to seem like she just, you know, intervened spontaneously, this wasn't pre-orchestrated, but it was, in fact, pre-orchestrated. And for Donald Trump to point that out, it was him being honest about what happened in the moment but he was gracious to her, despite her setting him up.

BERMAN: Well, he wasn't gracious today. But Van Jones, what's your take on the whole episode?

VAN JONES, POLITICAL COMMENTATOR: Well, you know, I see it differently. First of all, you know, it's not uncommon for people to say things like that, especially if you're in a poor community, any leader come say, "Hey, listen, we're going to tell them, we're not going to be used, we're going to make sure we get heard." But I think that my -- what I'm disturbed by is Donald Trump kind of rewriting the whole thing.

I thought the woman was very elegant. She didn't seem to be a nervous mess or whatever he called her. And she did not just jump on him. She said, "Hey, don't talk bad about Hillary Clinton. Let's stay on the issue." And then she defended him. I mean, if she was trying to set him up, as Kayleigh suggested, then when the crowd went for him, she would have egged him on. She defended him. So, I just don't, you know, listen, let's not read too much into people's social media feeds. I don't think he handled this properly. And I think that, you know, we should be worried about someone who can't seem to take any criticism without going back and reinventing it into some whole other fantasy.

BERMAN: Scottie, let's listen what Hillary Clinton had to say about this, because she made a point of bringing it up, not once, but twice. Let's listen.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

CLINTON: My opponent is running a very different kind of campaign. His latest target is a pastor in Flint, Michigan, who respectfully asked him not to use her pulpit for political attacks. He called her a nervous mess. That's not only insulting, it's dead wrong.

Reverend Faith Green Timmons is not a nervous mess. She's a rock for her community in trying times. She deserves better than that. And Flint deserves better.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

BERMAN: Again, Scottie, does this just get to the idea of campaign discipline? Does Donald Trump open himself up to criticism by doing what he did this morning?

HUGHES: Well, I think he handled it very classy last night. I think I wish he would have actually just stopped there and then we go into this one of the questioning. Obviously, Mr. Trump was read her tweet. He probably was also shown the picture of her arm and arm and hand in hand with Barack Obama that she took back this past June when Barack Obama was with her at an a event. And we don't know necessarily if he spoke at her church or not.

But this just brings the question. This is a woman who's obviously engaged in politics, she's engaged in what is going on, and I am all for that. Whether it's the Democrat or Republican, I love the idea of preaching from the pulpit and having these spiritual leaders lead their congregation in what they feel like might be right or wrong.

That being said, I think, once you open yourself up to this, you're also going to get the criticism, and many conservatives today felt like this was a trap for Donald Trump what he went into.

BERMAN: But he knew where he was going. It's not like someone forced him to go there, that he was going there under duress and no one told him. I would think, you know, who would be introducing him and they probably checked the social media feed. I mean, he did walk in there and do it. Did he not know any of this?

HUGHES: Well, he probably didn't know necessarily that it was Hillary Clinton, that she had taken a picture with Barack Obama or what her political standing was. He was going in to talk to the group. And this is -- I think this is a much ado about nothing. [21:45:07] Once again, this is going away from the policies that Mr. Trump wanted to talk about, why he was there in Flint, Michigan, the money that had not gone to help those people right there. And this has become the story that we're focusing on, mainly, I think, because the Hillary Clinton camp, this is what they want to talk about.

BERMAN: It is interesting, Paul, because Hillary Clinton brought it up not once, but twice today, largely using the same language. So you do get the sense that they've almost been waiting for this type of thing to pounce on.

BEGALA: Well, because it always happens with Donald Trump. This is a pattern. First of all, I actually don't fault him for trying to bring a little politics into the preaching. It's 54 days before the election, it happens all the time in hundreds of churches and politics often gets into the pulpits. Scottie's right. I'm not offended by that. And he took his shot, I don't blame him.

But the -- Reverend Timmons said, "Wait, no we don't want that here." And he did respond, very meekly, very uncharacteristically, very un- Trumpian, right? And I thought, wow, maybe the Thorazine is working, you know, maybe they've got him on good meds.

But, then classic Trump, when confronted, he backs down. And then the next morning, when Reverend Timmons is not around to defend herself, he prevaricates, he creates a scenario, which never happened, according to Scott Detrow, the NPR reporter who was in the room covering the event, saying, "Well, folks in the audience were saying, let him speak, let him speak," apparently that never happened. And then he attacks Reverend Timmons when she is not there to defend herself. This is classic Trump, I've said this from the beginning, he's a bully, but inside every bully is a coward. And this is an example of that. It's not going to play very well with the voters he needs.

BERMAN: Van Jones, you know, I want to bring you into this again, because tonight Hillary Clinton, when she was speaking to the Hispanic gathering in Washington, D.C., she did bring this up. She also brought up the fact that in a "Washington Post" interview that Donald Trump would not say that Barack Obama was born in the United States of America. And Kayleigh and Scottie here have been making the case, "You know what, those aren't the big issues of the campaign right the now. That doesn't get to jobs. That doesn't get to the economy." What's your take?

JONES: Yeah. Well, you know, they're right, as far as it goes. I mean, I've been watching all night. They are correct that most people, they don't wake up in the morning thinking about birtherism or anything else. They want safety, security, et cetera. But at the same time, when you're picking a president, character matters.

It's not -- I think what's offensive to African-Americans isn't just that he went on this crazy tirade, it felt very racially charged, but that he's never shown the character to come back and apologize. That does become a presidential issue because it goes to character. Not the policies, they're right about that. But to say that it says nothing about his character, I don't think that's right.

I like it when people make mistakes and show they've learned from them and can make atonement. When people make mistakes and they don't atone, it makes me very, very nervous. And so, I do think that this is still a very big issue.

He has been trying to reach out to African American voters. When he started off, he was doing a terrible job. He has improved somewhat. But this is the thorn in his paw. And if he does not pull it out, I think he's going to -- he has a ceiling on himself that's not necessary.

MCENANCY: That's just not true. I mean, here is the thing. Donald Trump asked a question of President Obama. He challenged him, were you born here? He asked the same question to Ted Cruz, you know, are you eligible to run for president? He got the answer and moved on. It seems like the only people who haven't moved on are the Clinton campaign, who realize the polls aren't going in their direction, Donald Trump's now winning by two points in the CNN poll, so now they are going back to something that happened eight years ago, because they're desperately trying to change the subject from a Trump message that is winning.

BERMAN: Van?

JONES: I see it differently. Listen, I think that, you know, right now the Trump people feel they got a little bit of momentum here, they might be improving a little bit with the African-Americans going from 1 percent to 3, 4, maybe 5, who knows? But it's really not just the Clintons doing kind of political jiu-jitsu on this, trying to, like change the topic.

This is a big, big problem for African-Americans. This is the defining relationship that millions of black voters have with him and it's the easiest thing in the world to do. What Giuliani did and just say, "You know what, I don't agree with it, I take it back, whatever, and then we can move on." But I think you're missing it if you think it's just political ...

(CROSSTALK)

BERMAN: Wait, wait, wait. We're going to take a break right now. Van Jones, Kayleigh McEnany, Paul Begala, Scottie Nell Hughes, thanks very much.

Still ahead, between speeches today, Donald Trump take an interview with "Tonigh Show with Jimmy Fallon" and gave the world something new to factor in, the mystery of his hair.

Plus, Dana Bash in an exclusive interview with the Ohio governor and former presidential candidate John Kasich who has refused to get on board the Trump train. Does he think that Trump can win Ohio?

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

[21:53:01] BERMAN: Just 54 days to go, the polls have tightened nationally and in some key swing states including Ohio, where Donald Trump now has a five-point lead in the new CNN/ORC poll, he's at 46 percent, Hillary Clinton at 41 percent.

Let me be the first to tell you that no Republican has ever won the presidency without winning Ohio. But this year, the Republican Governor John Kasich has refused to endorse Donald Trump. He boycotted the Republican convention in Cleveland in his home state.

Now, Kasich is going to meet tomorrow with President Obama as part of an effort to push the Trans-Pacific Partnership trade deal. This is another unorthodox move by Kasich. The trade deal has been a flash point in this campaign.

CNN's Dana Bash caught up with the Governor, take a look.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

JOHN KASICH, (R) OHIO GOVERNOR: I think this trade agreement is vital. I mean, if I said this, the two most receprious (ph) opponents of the trade agreement are Vladimir Putin, and Xi, one of the most oppressive leaders in the history of China. That, in and off itself, should tell you why this agreement is really important.

DANA BASH, CNN CORRESPONDENT: You know for well it's not just Vladimir Putin that opposes the TPP. It's your party's nominee, the Republican nominee, Donald Trump, and also Hillary Clinton says that she's not for it now.

KASICH: Yeah, pretty amazing.

BASH: So, why do you think you can do something with this president that the two people who want to be president oppose?

KASICH: Because I'm an optimist and I know that facts matter. And I think the political heat that people get from supporting trade, and I've never been an ideological supporter of free trade. When I look at it over time, I don't think we -- I think it's a good choice for America to be able to make sure that we can move our products around the world. I've been in the Republican Party all of my adult lifetime. We've always been for openness and free trade. The fact ...

BASH: But that's changing.

KASICH: Well, I mean, it's changing maybe with some, OK? But I'm not prepared to walk away from that. It's worth fighting over.

BASH: You are a governor of a major state, sitting down with the Democratic president two months before an election. You're not worried about the political backlash from that?

[21:55:09] KASICH: Well, I -- frankly, I welcome it.

BASH: You welcome a backlash?

KASICH: I welcome the fact that people will criticize me for putting my country ahead of my party. It's time we start doing this in this country. We are not a parliamentary system and we were never taught to hate people because we might -- they may be in a different political party.

You know, when it comes to the President, he and I have a lot of disagreements but there are areas where we can agree. And if I can become somebody in the front that leads an effort for people to hear this and say, you know what, maybe he's right, what would I do, shrink, go hide somewhere?

BASH: Trump points to his trade positions as one reason he'll win Ohio, that he disagrees with free trade.

KASICH: I don't think that's what it will turn on. And frankly, part of the problem that the Clinton campaign has is that there's literally no enthusiasm for Hillary Clinton. There just isn't right now. I don't know if it will change but that's -- that is her challenge.

BASH: You obviously are not endorsing Donald Trump, you have made that clear. But it's not just that, the Kasich machine, the people who have worked for you successfully to get out the vote for your races in Ohio, they're not helping Donald Trump. Is there a concern that at the end of the day, if Donald Trump loses Ohio and loses the presidency, Republicans nationwide are going to turn to John Kasich and say, thanks a lot and you're going to get blamed.

KASICH: Well, look, first of all, this vaunted Kasich machine, OK, that's not how you win elections. I mean, we're going to go and help people to get the vote out, obviously.

BASH: For Donald Trump?

KASICH: And senator -- we'll get Republicans out to vote, period. But I don't, first of all, control any machine.

BASH: I'm not saying you control any machine, you just -- you understand very well how to get people out to vote.

KASICH: We want to re-elect Senator Portman and we want to re-elect people down ticket. And frankly, you know ...

BASH: So you're going to be helping to get Republicans to the poll?

KASICH: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

BASH: And if that means voting for Donald Trump, so be it?

KASICH: Do whatever they do. I wouldn't try to tell somebody. I don't get into an argument with somebody about they ought to vote.

BASH: You'd said you're not going to vote for Hillary Clinton.

KASICH: No, I'm not going to vote for Hillary.

BASH: Have you decided yet what you're going to do when you go into that voting booth? KASICH: No, I'll let everybody know when. But I think my actions have spoken very loudly, louder than even my words.

BASH: Gary Johnson?

KASICH: I haven't even gone there yet. It's a long way until Election Day.

BASH: So, is it still possible that you could vote for Donald Trump?

KASICH: Very unlikely.

BASH: OK.

KASICH: Too much water under the bridge.

BASH: What if Donald Trump wins? What if he becomes president?

KASICH: Well, we'll see what happens, if that happens.

BASH: What would John Kasich do?

KASICH: Well, I'll still be governor for a couple more years and I still have my agenda and we have a very robust agenda in this Ohio and, you know, depends what they're interested in.

BASH: Could you see yourself sitting in the Oval Office with a President Trump just like you're going to be with President Obama?

KASICH: Look, if whoever is the president, if I can do something to help them in a constructive way and something I agree on, absolutely.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

BERMAN: All right, Dana Bash joins me right now.

Dana, pretty unusual to see the Republican governor of a swing state meeting with the Democratic president, we're going to see this tomorrow morning. It's so close to the election.

BASH: It really is. It is a big deal. And I have to tell you that when one of the Governor's aides called me and told me he was coming to do this, I thought I heard wrong at first because it's not just any governor, it's the governor of Ohio, which you mentioned at the top, is a must-win for any Republican. And it's a governor who is actively not supporting Donald Trump for president, so it's risky for John Kasich.

But I have to say, I also think it's kind of eyebrow raising for President Obama to invite Kasich and have him there in such a public way because of course the President supports free trade and wants it to pass, things that Kasich can help. But holding hands with the Republican Governor of Ohio on an issue that is risky for Hillary Clinton, you never know how that's going to play in Ohio where she also needs to win and she's said at least lately, she's against this free trade. BERMAN: Not an issue, but at least, yes, as of now she doesn't support. Dana Bash ...

BASH: Exactly.

BERMAN: ... thank you so much. Appreciate it.

BASH: Thank you.

BERMAN: All right. So it's been a long day in politics, a lot of back and forth competed moments in the campaign trail and here on the set. So we wanted to end on a lighter note. Donald Trump taped an interview for "The Tonight Show with Jimmy Fallon" and included hair raising moment.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

JIMMY FALLON, "THE TONIGHT SHOW" HOST: Can I mess your hair up? I'll be gentle. I'll be gentle.

TRUMP: The answer is yes, but the people in New Hampshire where I'm going to be in about an hour from now, I hope they're going to understand. OK.

FALLON: He say, yes.

TRUMP: Go ahead with my hair stuff.

FALLON: Yes, Donald Trump, everybody. I want to do it again. Donald Trump, everybody.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

BERMAN: God bless him. It's a lot of hair. That does it for us. Thanks for watching CNN.

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8389 speakers\_end

15 September 2016

BARACK OBAMA, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES: You know firsthand the challenges we still face, challenges that often affect the Latino community harshly.

[20:00:03] When governors refuse to expand Medicaid, that hits Latinos harder than most. When folks block an increase in the minimum wage or refuse to expand paid family leave, that hurts the pocketbook of millions of Hispanic families.

So, we've got make sure this recovery reaches all Americans. We've got to help more students not just get to college but finish. We've got to reform our criminal justice system. And we got to protect our children from the madness of gun violence.

And yes we've got finally make meaningful, effective **immigration** reform a reality in this country.

(CHEERS AND APPLAUSE)

I'm proud of the executive actions I've taken to modernize our system. I'm proud of the work we've done to help show more than 740,000 DREAMers that the country they grew up in, the country they love, believes that they are worthy of this country's blessings, just like your kids, just like my kids.

But if we're truly going to fix this broken system, then we're going to have to push back against bluster and falsehoods and promises of higher walls. We need a comprehensive solution, one that works for our families and our businesses, that grows our economy, that enhances our culture. We need an approach that upholds our tradition as a nation of **immigrants** and a nation of laws.

And it is possible to do that. It is possible to insist on a lawful and orderly system while still seeing students and their hard-working parents not as criminals. Not as rapists. But as families who came here for the same reasons that all **immigrants** came here, to work, and to learn and to build a better life.

And look, throughout this political season, you know, the talk around these issues is cut deeper than in years past. It's a little more personal. It's a little meaner, a little uglier. And folks are betting that if they can drive us far enough apart. And if they can put down enough of us because of where we come from or what we look like or what religion we practice, then that may pay off at the polls. But I'm telling you that is a bet their going to lose. We've seen this kind of ugliness and anger and vitriol before. That kind of politics sometimes may carry the day in the short-term. I know that there are a lot of folks who have this notion of what the real America looks like. And somehow it only includes a few of us.

But who's going to decide who the real America is? Who's to determine that in this nation of **immigrants**, in a nation where unless you are a Native American, you came here from someplace else that you have a greater claim than anybody here.

So, we can't let that brand of politics win, and if we band together and if we organize our communities, if we deliver enough votes, then the better angels of our nature will carry the day. And progress will happen. But it is going to take all of us. This is not something that a president can do alone. It is not something the next president will be able do alone either. No matter how tough she is.

(CHEERS AND APPLAUSE)

So we've got to work to get a Congress that is willing to act on **immigration** reform. That means we need more than just the people in this room tonight. We're going the need some fresh faces under the Capitol dome. It is going take work on all of our parts.

And I have faith, because over these last eight years, every time I've fallen short. Every time I've faced doubts or been taught a tough lesson or experienced a loss, what got me through has been you. You have picked me up. CHC's picked me up.

It's knowing that I've got allies like -- like Linda and Ruben and Charlie and Lydia, fighting tooth and nail on the Hill, and back in your home states, even on tough votes.

[20:05:09] It's knowing that you are fostering the next generation of leaders, including more than forty of your former fellows that have helped lead the way in my administration.

It's knowing you are giving folks like Diego Quinones a chance.

Where is Diego? Is Diego here? There he is back there.

So, when Diego was 7 years old, Diego moved to Arkansas from Mexico with his parents. His dad took a job repairing and building wooden pallets, which is a lot of hard work. Calloused hands. Few years later, his dad opened his own business.

So, Diego was walking at 5:00 and loading and unloading pallets by hand, working every weekend through high school. His family didn't have a lot of money, but they had belief, faith in America, because as he says, and I'm quoting here, if you come here and work hard, eventually you will succeed.

And today, thanks to DACA, Diego is first in his family to graduate from college.

(CHEERS AND APPLAUSE)

And now he's a fellow here at CHCI. And one day he hopes to go into government himself and make things better, not just for Latino kids like him, but for every single person in the United States. It's young people like that keep me going, folks who prove that **immigrants** aren't somehow changing the American character, **immigrants** are the American character.

That is who we are. It is the DREAMers full of optimism, the moms and dads working long hours to give their kids a better shot, the entrepreneurs who came here to start new businesses and put Americans to work, the teachers and nurses and the lawyers who wake up at the crack of dawn to get ahead, and the folks who clean up after us and the folks who care for our grandparents, the folks who are so proud of this country that they carry a pocket constitution in their breast pockets. That is the America I know. That is the America I believe in more strongly than ever.

So thank you for picking me up every step of the way. Thank you for making this country great. We've got more work to do. But we will keep on making progress and create a brighter future for everybody in this country we love. Si se puede.

Thank you. Thank you, CHCI. God bless you. God bless the United States of America. Thank you.

JOHN BERMAN, CNN ANCHOR: President Obama wrapping up his speech before the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute. That's in Washington, D.C. Believe it or not, the president just the warm up. Hillary Clinton will be speaking in just a few minutes.

While we wait let's check with our panel and talk about what the president said. I want to bring in Paul Begala here right now.

Paul, the president really talked about mostly about himself right there. He in fact did not mention either presidential candidate, Hillary Clinton or Donald Trump, by name. Though he did make, you know, not so thinly veiled references about them.

PAUL BEGALA, CNN POLITICAL COMMENTATOR: He did. I love when he said -- he talked about how the folks at the Congressional Hispanic Caucus have lifted him up and no president can do this alone no matter how tough she is and the place roared. I mean, I think that was great. It's very appropriate.

It wasn't the time for just a campaign style speech but one of the great assets Hillary Clinton has is that the president's job approval rating is moving up. It's higher now than it was even when he was reelected. In "Washington Post" poll is 58. It's probably like 52 in most national polls.

But that's terrific. You can run with that. You can win with that. So, he's going to be a really effective surrogate.

BERMAN: But you do know, Christine Quinn, you do know, Christine Quinn, former city council speaker here in New York, Hillary Clinton supporter, you know, getting elected for a third term a party elected for a third term is very difficult to do in this country. And President Obama while he may be popular now, you know, while he's had himself reelected and won elections for himself he hasn't shown ability to elect other people, has he?

I mean, you had the congressional elections in 2010 and 2014 and didn't go too well for the Democrats.

CHRISTINE QUINN, CNN POLITICAL COMMENTATOR: Well, look, I think there are people who would say. Liz Warren would say President Obama has helped get people elected and there's a list of other folks. But I think what's really President Obama reminded us tonight in his speech is, of course, what you said is correct politically.

But it's not as hard when you contrast all President Obama has done for the country. Particularly for the Latino and Hispanic community against the person Hillary Clinton is running against, a man who's based most of his camp, a lot of his campaign specifically on attacking **immigrants**, talking about building a wall, calling Mexicans rapists and criminals, attacking a Mexican-American judge and saying he wasn't fit jurist to overhear his cases.

[20:10:07] When you hear President Obama and you're reminded of all he's done with Secretary Clinton and others to help the Latino and the Hispanic children, so personified in Diego's story, you are reminded what's at stake and just how dangerous Donald Trump will be to our country and to the Latino-Hispanic and **immigrant** community. And that matters to people like me who aren't **immigrants** but my grandparents all came from Ireland searching for a better life and getting it here and I want others to have that.

BERMAN: Kayleigh McEnany, I want you to respond to Christie Quinn, Donald Trump supporter here. But also, you know, President Obama did not mention Donald Trump by name but he did talk about the bluster, falsehoods and higher walls which t president said he's against in this campaign. I think we can all assume he's talking about Donald Trump.

KAYLEIGH MCENANY, CNN POLITICAL COMMENTATOR: We can assume that. And certainly based on this speech yesterday, out on the campaign trail, it is no secret he's not a fan of Donald Trump. That being said, you know, I think what Christine just said is emblematic of what I think the problem is with the Obama/Clinton campaign, because they are linked together in this. And it's describing the economy for viewers and for voters rather than acknowledging how they feel.

You know, I heard one say, and this was a telling moment. If only we got the news out that median wages rose. If only we got the news out. It is not about that. It is about how feel and two-thirds of the country still feels we're heading in the wrong direction. Still close to 60 percent think the economy is getting worse, how voters feel and it's certainly how Hispanic and black voters feel because their economic indicators have lagged behind white voters to a big extent.

So there hasn't been this closing inequality gap where you look at net worth, where the average white person net wealth is $142,000, the average black person is $17,000. That is abysmal. We need to remedy this gap here. It shouldn't exist. It hasn't gotten better under Obama and won't get better under Clinton and this is how voters feel.

And not acknowledging that is not going to help you win this election.

QUINN: Kayleigh, I don't think you listened to the president just now.

MCENANY: I did.

QUINN: Because he did acknowledge the gains that we have made but also acknowledged the work that needs to be done. People can be grateful and not fully satisfied or declaring victory at the same time. And I think the president eloquently spoke to that reality.

And Hillary Clinton has dedicated her life to bridging that gap. And there is nothing in Donald Trump's history of being sued by the Department of Justice, being forced and, you know, directed to follow laws against discrimination and pro civil rights law. There is nothing about his history of sending jobs overseas and taking good jobs away from Americans that would give anybody any sense that he would sustain the president's gains or bring new --

(CROSSTALK)

BERMAN: Mary Katharine, conservative writer with "The Federalist" -- go ahead.

MARY KATHARINE HAM, CNN POLITICAL COMMENTATOR: He's been giving this speech for essentially eight years. And you are right, he does acknowledge both sides, but the two candidates running for president now after him are both running as change candidates, because people are not happy. And that is the bottom line.

If both candidates are running as change candidates, he didn't get done what he wanted and his speeches remain aspirational and he's an all right speaker.

(LAUGHTER)

BEGALA: Right.

HAM: And people in that room too are like man really wish we had another one of those, but I do think there is an issue of whether he can be an effective surrogate in the places where Donald Trump can be stronger. Somewhere like Ohio.

There is part of his speech here. I'm not far left on **immigration**. I'm not far right. But when he's saying, unless you're a Native American, you came here from somewhere else and he sort of blends this into anyone is American.

And there are many people in Ohio and places in the Rust Belt who look at that and go, wait, there is a line there is a process people go through to become American and you are not just American if you show up here. And that is something he's going to have trouble relating to.

BERMAN: One of the things he talks about, he says, what is a real American? The president focused on that. And for some people being a real American only includes a small number of people. And he question who gets to determine, Ryan, who is a real American?

RYAN LIZZA, CNN POLITICAL COMMENTATOR: Yes, I mean, that's a shot at Trump, right? That's a shot, that's a -- saying Hillary Clinton is running campaign about unity and Trump is running one about division. That's their argument.

I think you hit a point about the distinction between Hillary Clinton and Obama's message, right? Obama wants to cheer lead for his eight years and talk about the positive things that had been done. He wants to talk about the positive numbers.

Hillary Clinton has a much more difficult task. She wants to sort of celebrate and embrace what's been popular over the last eight years. But at the same time, make sure she's addressing the real concerns that people have, people who say that enough hasn't been done. So, she's walking much more of a tight rope and their messages do at times diverge I think because of that.

But on the poll -- it is very complicated. As Paul pointed out, he's got -- Obama has got 50-plus percent approval rating. So, if that doesn't track with the understanding of the electorate that is also 60 to 66 percent change electorate and I think part of that is just polarization, Democrats like Obama even if they want change, they might want more liberal change rather than conservative.

QUINN: Right.

SCOTTIE NELL HUGHES, CNN POLITICAL COMMENTATOR: You can like the person and not like the policy and you're looking at right now, the real Americans, real taxpayers are actually bearing the brunt of $113 billion the illegals are costing us today. $1,000 on average per household that Americans are having to pay right now.

And it's interesting that you talk about Obama in jobs when just this week, Ford announced, in the next two years, they are going to move all small manufacturing out Detroit to Mexico. So, actually, in that case, Obama has caused jobs to lose to Mexico at this point. But it's really interesting to talk about job creation and Donald Trump, jobs losing to other country when we have a fact just this week of Barack Obama exporting jobs -- causing jobs to leave America and go --

QUINN: But Donald Trump didn't lose -- he sent jobs. He made --

(CROSSTALK)

HUGHES: Ninety-six percent of all manufacturing of clothing right now is in other countries because we are not an environment in America today that respects jobs.

QUINN: He made a decision as a CEO to send those jobs. And there are others in the fashion industry who make the decision to stay here. He could lead by --

(CROSSTALK)

QUINN: But the question is, are you going to lead by example wherever you are in public life or are you going to take the easy road that hurts American workers and then come out hypocritically and pretend you have never done and act like you are something different?

MCENANY: Or you're going to be the presidential candidate who supported NAFTA, who supported TPP, who supported all of these policies that did export jobs overseas. And then when it's politically convenient to you, shortly before you run for president, after you call the TPP the gold standard of trade deals, then all of a sudden, you change because it is convenient for you then.

QUINN: That is incorrect presentation --

MCENANY: That is very correct.

BERMAN: You get to tell us why it is incorrect.

QUINN: At the break.

BERMAN: Paul Begala has to say about that after the break.

Hillary Clinton set to speak right now right in front of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute. We'll be right back.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

[20:20:42] BERMAN: All right. Dueling speeches right now. We're waiting on Hillary Clinton to speak in Washington. But right now, Donald Trump in New Hampshire live. Let's listen in.

DONALD TRUMP (R), PRESIDENTIAL NOMINEE: -- and one in four since China joined the world trade organization, both Hillary Clinton-backed disasters. Bad judgment, remember. Bad judgment.

And I'm going appoint the best and toughest trade negotiators. And we have the best in the world. We have the greatest business people and the greatest negotiators in the world. We don't use them. We use political hacks.

We're going stand up and defend our American workers.

(APPLAUSE)

Any deal that doesn't increase jobs and wages in America, I will oppose and I mean seriously oppose. Not politician oppose. We are going turn our bad trade deals into great ones.

Another major reform is going to be school choice. I've outlined -- and by the way, we are going to terminate Common Core and bring education --

(APPLAUSE) I've outlined a plan to provide every disadvantaged child in America the freedom to choose the private, public, magnet or religious school of his or her choice. This will help lift millions of poor African- American and Hispanic children out of poverty. The poverty in our country is unbelievable.

It's time to break up the failed Democratic control over our inner cities and provide real hope and opportunity to every single community in this nation. Our policies on taxes, trade, regulations and educations will grow. Incomes will boost and go right through the roof. We have to increase people's incomes.

Do you know that many people in this room made more money 18 years ago in real wages -- think of it -- than they do now? They are working harder now. They are older. And many people because of Obamacare and for other reasons are holding two jobs.

So, you're getting older. You are working harder. And you're making less. I don't think that sounds great.

The only good thing is that I'm also working a hell of a lot harder that I've ever worked so I don't feel so sorry for you. Working hard.

BERMAN: All right. That's Donald Trump. He's in Laconia, New Hampshire, addressing the crowd there. A Trump rally, his second speech of the day. He gave an economic speech earlier today.

We are waiting on Hillary Clinton. She'll be speaking in Washington any minute.

Now, there is a little bit of other Donald Trump news to report tonight. "The Washington Post" just posted an article online, went up just a few minutes ago. And in this interview, Donald Trump once again refused to say that he thinks that Barack Obama, the president of the United States, was born in the United States.

I'm going read you direct quote of what he says. He says, "I'll answer that question at the right time. I just don't want to answer it yet," unquote.

For the record, the president has produced a birth certificate, not just one but two, a short and a long one. He was born in Hawaii. Hawaii is in the United States of America.

Back now with the panel. We want to discuss not just that. Donald Trump refusing to back off his birther stand once again.

But, Scottie Nell Hughes, I want to start with you because in the last block, you said Ford Motor Company moving jobs to Mexico. In fact, what's happening is they are opening a plant in Mexico, moving small car manufacturing there. But the CEO of Ford told our Poppy Harlow that in fact not one single American job will be lost. They are going make other cars at that plant.

HUGHES: Well, you can sugar-coat it how you want. But -- BERMAN: Scottie, sugar coat? Hang on. It is not sugar coating to say no one is getting laid off. Donald Trump says everything is getting fired there. They are not. They are making a different kind of car.

HUGHES: Right, 2,800 jobs will be employed in Mexico. Since Barack Obama came in, 40 percent of more jobs, 675,000 jobs in the auto industry alone are now in Mexico.

[20:25:08] Detroit, 90 -- there are 288,000 workers in 1994, now, there's only 150,000 automotive workers. You cannot tell me that those jobs have all been export to Mexico under the Obama administration.

BERMAN: You brought up the point, of course --

(CROSSTALK)

QUINN: Scottie, you said those jobs were being lost. That's not true, A. And B, it is curious for Trump supporters to be talking so much about the auto industry when Donald Trump did not support the auto industry bail out which would have cost us far more jobs.

But I want to add on the "Washington Post" story, not only did Mr. Trump answer the question as was quoted. He also to agree disassociated himself from Kellyanne Conway's comments where she said Donald Trump does believe the president was born in the United States. He said and I'm paraphrasing, well, she's totally allowed to say what she thinks and what she wants. He did not say she was correct.

Again, we have Donald Trump standing by a factually incorrect statement that's been disproven between -- we've see two birth certificates from the president of the United States. It is racism on the part of Donald Trump. Nothing else.

MCENANY: I'm glad you brought up the other quotes he gave to "The Washington Post". One of them was, "I'm not going to talk about this. I haven't talked about this since the beginning of the campaign because I want to focus on jobs and the economy and terrorism."

And, by the way, when you look at latest Gallup poll, issues most important to the American voters, noticeably absent from that is the birther controversy.

(CROSSTALK)

BERMAN: Hang on one second. Why is there a statue of limitations on saying that the president wasn't born in the United States? Why does it matter that he wants to talk about other things? Unless he says he was wrong when notion the president wasn't born here?

MCENANY: He's not going to get back into this jargon and this continual news story and the Clinton campaign wants to bring it up and I get that, because you guys want to get in the mud, you want to associate all of us, we're the deplorables, Scottie and I are deplorables. I get you guys want to go there. Donald Trump has taken this campaign to a higher level. Guess what you saw him do today and yesterday and last week -- policy speeches. Hillary Clinton stood on the stage calling him a showman, laughing about Dr. Oz. The Trump campaign wants to talk about policies that help the American voters.

You guys want to talk about the birther movement. There is a difference here --

(CROSSTALK)

MCENANY: Which is why my candidate is on rise and your candidate is on the fall.

QUINN: Let's be clear -- Donald Trump was asked a series of questions today by "The Washington Post".

MCENANY: The liberal --

QUINN: Don't -- again. Attack the messenger. It is not Trump M.O., attack the messenger.

He -- they brought it up. He was in the interview. No one put a gun to his head to meet with "The Washington Post". He chose to do it, whatever he thinks of them. He was in this story today and it would be irresponsible for us not to talk about it.

Now, he was in the beginnings of the birther movement. He started this. And he can now not just walk away in it because he knows it is a bad -- incorrect racist position.

BERMAN: Furrowed brow.

(LAUGHTER)

BEGALA: Kayleigh, you are a gifted person but you can't say Donald Trump is taking the campaign to a higher place.

MCENANY: He is.

BEGALA: Well, you can, but he's going to be struck by lightning.

MCENANY: He's given policy speeches. Your candidate has not.

BEGALA: He attacked a minister this morning.

MCENANY: He's not attacking a minister.

BEGALA: He did. A few months ago, he attacked the pope. He made horrible comments about (INAUDIBLE) mocked his physical disability. I mean, it's just on and on.

I mean, you can support him. I can oppose him. That's all fine. You can't pretend he's put the campaign on a higher plane. That's absurdity. It's absurd --

(CROSSTALK)

MCENANY: There's one candidate in this race who attacked millions of Americans calling them desperate or deplorable. It's not my candidate. It's Hillary Clinton.

BEGALA: In the next morning, she said that was a mistake and apologized.

(CROSSTALK)

MCENANY: He apologized for the math.

HUGHES: No, she regretted it. She didn't apologize.

(CROSSTALK)

BERMAN: One at a time. Paul and Christine.

BEGALA: Do you believe the president was born in America?

MCENANY: I do believe he's born in America. But I'm not --

BEGALA: Why doesn't Trump?

MCENANY: This is an exact example of what I'm talking about.

BEGALA: Millions of people think it's racist.

QUINN: It is racist.

MCENANY: No, no, because Donald Trump today put forth an economy plan that lowers tax brackets of all Americans and look at what the other side of this table is talking about, the birther moment.

Do you know what Scottie just talked about? Ford Motors moving --

BERMAN: They are not moving jobs.

(CROSSTALK)

QUINN: They're not moving jobs, Kayleigh. That's not the fact.

MCENANY: This is where our campaign wants to go and every time our campaign goes there, the response from this side is the birther movement.

BERMAN: Mary Katharine Ham?

HAM: Wait, wait --

BERMAN: Actually I did say Christine first. Then, Mary Katharine.

QUINN: A couple of things here. Facts matter. They're not moving jobs overseas. Facts matter.

[20:30:02] This was not a conversation that the Clinton campaign or the Obama people ever started. That is factually just --

MCENANY: But you are bringing it up --

QUINN: No, again. Whoa, whoa, whoa. I am not "The Washington Post".

MCENANY: They are an arm of your campaign.

QUINN: Oh please. Good lord.

MCENANY: They have 20 ...

QUINN: Oh ...

(CROSSTALK)

MCENAY: ... of Donald Trump and they're unable to ...

QUINN: Please if the "Washington Post" was the arm of my -- our campaign, it would be writing much that a stuff on a regular basis.

(CROSSTALK)

MCENANY: They have 20 on something ...

(CROSSTALK)

QUINN: And let's just say your -- your great different reality that Donald Trump is the policy candidate who's elevating thing. This week he put out -- I won't go to the specifics, but a highly flawed child care plan. Said the secretary had none. When she's had a child care plan out there for a year.

So this is another example of the Trump campaign distorting the facts to try to make Donald Trump something other than he is. What he is, is a con man and we've seen that yet again.

BERMAN: Mary Katherine was waiting patiently.

KATHARINE: I think it is fair on one hand to say why is the "Washington Post" focusing on this fairly fringe issue that I don't think is all that important in this campaign. It's also fair to say Donald Trump could just say, yeah I think he's born in America. We can move on.

BEGALA: Right.

HAM: I'm not sure we would actually move on. But ...

(CROSSTALK)

QUINN: I would, I promise.

HAM: I think this is problematic (ph) of he does not like to be disciplined and he's -- but he's doing it and has done it in and give him his falsely (ph) speeches. Kellyanne Conway I think is part of the reason that he has been recently and that's the reason she came up in this discussion. I say like -- she's the one imposing when he makes these smarter decisions. And he's bucking a little at it. And he's going continue to.

BEGALA: The gains he's made in the polls have been largely with college-educated white folks. Now they are Republican ...

BERMAN: You know, in Ohio and Florida, in fact he's now leading among those and he was trailing.

BEGALA: No Republican ever lost in the -- his right. Holing no Democrats have ever won than President Obama was reelected pretty comfortably losing by 14 points, but Hillary has been winning them, now she's narrowly losing. This is an important develop in the race. It's why this thing in the birther movement hurts him. If he's got any sense he's given up on the African-American vote. OK.

I mean he was getting two or three which is what George Wallace got. George Wallace got 3 percent of black vote, I don't think Trump is going to do much better. But a lot of college educated white people cannot possibly support somebody who they believe is racist and a lot of people believe the birther thing is racist and when Trump fails to disavow given an easy opportunity to do so it hurts him with the voters he needs to win.

As a political strategist I'm glad he's doing it, because he's further desecrating himself in the eyes of the voters he needs, but if just as -- if I can put my hat on thinking about the Trump strategist, they must be tearing their hair out now, because his -- they have made gains with this key constituency and now there's going right back, attacking that minister this morning who was wonderfully gracious to him but told him not to be too political at her church and then now revving the birther issue because he won't disavow it is going to hurt him again with the voters he needs.

BERMAN: Ryan Lizza, I want to bring you this conversation, because Kayleigh here. What you do call the "Washington Post" the ...

MCENANY: I call them an arm, as they're unable ...

BERMAN: OK.

(CROSSTALK)

BERMAN: ... I'm just clarifying what he said. An arm ...

MCENANY: An arm of (inaudible) of the campaign. That is what I consider.

(CROSSTALK)

LIZZA: I think ...

BERMAN: OK.

LIZZA: ... it's a kernel of truth in this idea that there is a lot more reporters and a aggressive reporting on Donald Trump. For one reason. I don't think -- I don't think it's conspiracy everyone in the press and is crazy liberals. Hillary Clinton has been around a really long time.

When there is a scandal that preponderance pops up about Hillary Clinton, I don't think you can say that the press is not aggressively pursue it and report it. The e-mail story has dogged her from day one. At the same time most people know who she is and they have very set feelings about her. Donald Trump is the new sort of character on the political scene and he's got a very long, very complicated history. Lots of business deals. And so that's just going to attract a lot more scrutiny.

MCENANY: Ryan I think that ...

BERMAN: Hey, hey ...

LIZZA: And I think that the sort structural thing that you're seeing there.

BERMAN: And on the scene there Ryan. You know, what journalist would just say, oh Donald Trump you don't want to talk about that anymore? In that case it is a settled issue.

LIZZA: Well I just say, the two quotes in the piece. You got his -- his campaign manager who in a month has really done a lot of work with this one constituency that Paul talked about college educated whites. The sort of the most important group out there right now, Republicans have to win, and some has to be better. And they have targeted that group in a very disciplined manner spent a month improving their numbers among that group.

So if I were Donald Trump I'd be listening to everything Kellyanne Conway says. So when she says yes Obama was born in the United States, it's sort of a wink in a nod, like maybe my candidate would be vet and, you know, and, you know, I said that I doubt but ...

(CROSSTALK)

LIZZA: ... Trump is stubborn, we all know he's very stubborn and doesn't like to admit he's wrong.

BERMAN: All right, hang one second, I know you want to get in, but we're going take a break. We're waiting on two speeches right now, Donald Trump -- well Donald Trump still speaking in New Hampshire right now, we may go back to that.

But also Hillary Clinton set to speak in Washington D.C. in just a few minutes. And Donald Trump, Donald Trump also went on "Tonight Show." had his hair messed up and also talked about this issue we've been talking about here about staying on message.

So that, plus Hillary Clinton's first day back in the campaign trail, when we come back.

[20:35:04] DONALD TRUMP, (R) PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE: ... and new factories will come back and they will come back rushing into our shores. It will be a beautiful sight to be hold.

Once more, we will have a government of, by and for the people.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

BERMAN: All right, we are waiting on Hillary Clinton. She is due to speak in Washington very shortly. We'll bring that to you as soon as it happens. Donald Trump, he just finished up speaking in New Hampshire. As, you know Mr. Trump has been campaigning on jobs, specifically keeping here in the United States. He speaks often about jobs going to Mexico.

Earlier today Donald Trump said there is a new example of that and that Ford was planning to fire all the employees in one plant and move them to Mexico. Well in an interview with CNN's Poppy Harlow, Ford CEO Mark Fields, said that simply not true.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

POPPY HARLOW, CNN CORRESPONDENT: So it is not true that Ford will be, quote, "firing all of its employees in the United States." Will Ford cut any U.S. jobs as a result off this move? One? Any single one?

[20:40:13] MARK FIELDS, FORD CEO: Absolutely not. Zero. And what we announced is that we'll be moving our focus out of Michigan so that we can compete more financially in that particular segment. But at the same time and that's an agreement, we have what the UWA and what we'll be doing is we'll be replacing those products with two very exciting new products, so not one job will be lost. And most of our investment is here in the U.S. and that's the way it's going to continue to be.

HARLOW: So Mr. Trump is wrong, is that correct, Mark?

FIELDS: That is correct.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

BERMAN: So Mark Fields there with Poppy Harlow. Finishing up. You can see he says Donald Trump is wrong. Ford is not moving jobs to Mexico, not a single a job, he says will go.

But Paul Begala, if I can bring you in here, because, you know, Donald Trump was factually wrong. He just was. Those jobs aren't going to Mexico. But ...

BEGALA: That's breaking news

BERMAN: But at the same time -- but at the same time, we're talking about Michigan here, we're talking about Michigan, which all of a sudden is a state where it's a lot closer, there was new poll came out.

BEGALA: Poll tonight, was 3 point race here.

BERMAN: Margin of error race in Michigan. Michigan is a place that could be susceptible to the types of arguments that Donald Trump has been making about manufacturing jobs leaving the country. Which over time they have.

BEGALA: Yes. And in part because of Trump is what Democrats have to put out. There's a terrific ad. I don't -- it's not my PAC but somebody said it might be Hillary's campaign which shows Trump himself on the David Letterman show hocking his suits, and shirts and ties and Letterman involve people becomes the fact checker and asks him where are the ties made. Bangladesh, the shirts are Bangladesh, the ties are made in China, the suits in Mexico.

And it is not true everybody exports -- but by the way this suit, this fine new suit you were complimenting me on this morning, made in Chicago by Union Tailors, it's American made. You can -- still lots of people, all Brooks Brothers stuff is made in America. He could do it.

So that's a huge vulnerability for him. Any time you can puncture a person's argument by pointing to hypocrisy, it's a very good thing. But Chris makes good point too that there'd be no auto jobs in America if it weren't for Barack Obama and that bailout. Which Trump opposed.

(CROSSTALK)

HAM: I don't think ...

(CROSSTALK)

HAM: ... because it wasn't just Obama.

BERMAN: But Scottie ...

(CROSSTALK)

BERMAN: You did hear the Ford CEO there clear that up. So what Donald Trump has been saying about the jobs going to Mexico, that is wrong? Yes.

NELL HUGHES: Yes. For today it's wrong. Because obviously he gave a set promises word. Let's talk about this in few weeks, a few months, and a few years, because I think that is why Mr. Trump's message is resonating, because they heard that before from CEOs like this and those jobs are shipped off.

Kind of like Carrier plant losing 1,400 workers at the Carrier plant, shutting down in Indiana, moving to Mexico. That's why I think Mr. Trump's message is resonating because they don't trust these slick high wielding union control CEOs telling them these things today when they know tomorrow they might be out of a job. There is no trust.

QUINN: I would think if you'd ask the UAW people, I know well they will love to control the Ford CEO. But they would admit they do not and he would admit that is not true. But again, I appreciate that Mr. Trump is now standing up for keeping jobs in America. But at a critical point where the president needed support to put a plan in place with taxpayer money that would bail out the auto industry that was critical and time sensitive, Mr. Trump wasn't there for him and has opposed that plan. So today ... BEGALA: Only Mike Pence oppose as well. Mike voted -- Congressman Pence voted as well.

HUGHES: Yes, fine -- that's fine, that's great.

QUINN: Today we wants to be the champion of auto workers. But when he actually had a moment where his voice as a CEO and business leader could have been critically helpful, he chose not to. So your words at any moment are not necessarily more relevant than your historic actions.

HAM: But anything (ph) runs into the same problem she always has but just -- but she's not necessarily a credible voice on this, but she has these are very close ties with corporate organizations and that's why, for instance, Bernie came up and snuck up on her in Michigan in that primary, because that's a place where that message works and Trump has a bit of that that can appeal to the civil (ph). I think that's the problem she's facing, is that in those places where that message works she remains vulnerable.

BERMAN: Right now, we are looking at the screen, right now Representative Sanchez introducing Hillary Clinton. So we're just minutes away from Hillary Clinton's speech there in front of the National Hispanic Caucus Institute in Washington D.C. We will bring you there as to begin.

Mary Katharine, you brought up an interesting name just then. You said Bernie Sanders. I happen to see that Bernie Sanders doing a round of interviews tomorrow morning for Hillary Clinton. I happen to see that Bernie Sanders and Elizabeth Warren are going Ohio to rally young people in support of Hillary Clinton.

QUINN: Have a number of events scheduled.

BERMAN: Elizabeth Warren and Bernie Sanders, you know, they're looking incredible either spring chickens. So it is there is a bit of irony there that they are going to Ohio to rally young voters, but this does Hillary Clinton getting a speech ...

QUINN: They are young at heart John.

BERMAN: They are.

QUINN: Young at heart.

BERMAN: Each about millenials Hillary Clinton is on Monday. Does this indicate the Clinton campaign has work to do among younger voters?

[20:44:56] QUINN: Look, this an election that isn't over until Election Day. So the Hillary campaign as any campaign would is going to fight till the end and focus on all constituencies but particularly on key ones, which is the youth vote. I think Secretary Clinton has said since day one after the primary was over she always knew this was a community in which she had work to do. And we're doing it. And we're so grateful to have the support of people like Bernie Sanders and Elizabeth Warren. You don't see nearly as many -- he had more of Donald Trump's opponents out there stumping in the same by away.

BERMAN: Ryan Lizza, you know, deficit and I spin on a foot Hillary Clinton is not doing as well with millennials as President Obama did for instance that she did better.

LIZZA: Yeah, and look I'm not a millennial but when I hear a politician who's, you know, 69 right now, 68, saying I'm going to be giving my speech to millennials on Monday. To me it just kind of misses the mark a little bit.

HUGHES: Just use a Snapchat.

LIZZA: You know, first of all millennials are being complicated demographic that are, you know, idealogically diverse, I mean that no there's some issues in common. But it just seems to me like a little too telegraphed and like maybe a little bit of tone deaf for that group. You do want do is just go talk about issues that you might appeal to them but not necessarily in telegraph, but now is my speech to the young audience.

MCENANY: I say, here's where a message fall a flat. I'm a millennial, I have a student loan debt. I'm in the same -- I get the ...

(CROSSTALK)

MCENANY: I have student loan debt and I look at the candidate who took $2 million in speaking fees from my student loan debt, went to the candidate for personal enrichment.

LIZZA: What the?

MCENANY: That is why Barack Obama won voters under 45 and soar in Ohio like a double digits.

BERMAN: Kayleigh?

MCENANY: But now it is tied in Ohio among this ...

BERMAN: Kayleigh as a millennial what's ...

(CROSSTALK)

BERMAN: What's Donald Trump's plan.

MCENANY: Well the number one job -- or the number one plan I can tell you this is to lift wages among these young voters.

BERMAN: OK, we're talking about just a second. I think Hillary Clinton ...

(CROSSTALK) BERMAN: Hillary Clinton is walking up on the stage right now. We'll talk about millennials, talk about all things as soon as she's done speaking. Let's listen in to the secretary.

HILLARY CLINTON, (D) PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE: Hello. Hello CHCI.

It is so great to be back here with so many friends and to see so many young people here, because that fits the theme this year: educate, engage, vote. And I can't think of better marching orders for the next 54 days. And anyone who just heard the congresswoman knows we cannot be on the sidelines. This is the most consequential election in our lifetimes. I want to recognize the Institute for all you do to inspire the next generation of Latino leaders. Last year, I had the chance to spend time with some of the CHCI interns and fellows. It really was like seeing the future of America in one room. I can't wait to see everything that they achieve. And I can't wait, if I'm fortunate enough to be president, to put some of them to work!

And I want to thank all my friends in the Congressional Hispanic Caucus. You fight every single day to lift up the Latino community, when the cameras are rolling and when the cameras are off, at home in your districts and here in Washington. And no one understands better than you the pivotal moment we're at right now, not just for Latinos but for our country.

My friends in the caucus have traveled to every battleground state, registered voters. You've stayed focused no matter what kind of outlandish and offensive comments we have heard from my opponent and his supporters. By the way, I personally think a taco truck on every corner sounds absolutely delicious.

Now, here's a confession, running for president is never easy, but it shouldn't be, right? But tonight I have the ultimate challenge, speaking after President Obama. He's always a tough act to follow, in more ways than one.

[20:50:11] I, for one, don't think the President gets the credit he deserves for rescuing our economy from another Great Depression. Think of what we've achieved these last eight years. American businesses have created 15 million new jobs since the recession. Twenty million Americans have health coverage, and no one has seen a bigger drop in uninsured rates under the Affordable Care Act than Latino-Americans. We got more good news this week. A report came out showing that poverty is going down, and incomes for American families are going up, and Latino families have seen the biggest increase of all.

Now, that doesn't mean we rest on our laurels by any stretch. Our work is far from finished. But I am more confident than ever that our best days are still ahead of us. I believe with all my heart that the American Dream is alive and it's big enough for everyone to share its promise. That doesn't mean that lots of people are still not hurting, because I know they are. And when you hear a presidential candidate spewing bigotry and hate, it's easy to get discouraged. But we're here because we know this election is a choice between not just two people but two very different visions for our America's future.

Either we're going to make our economy work for everyone, or just those at the top. Either we're going to fear our differences, or embrace and celebrate our diversity. Either we're going to pit Americans against each other and deepen the divides, or we're going to be stronger together.

Today, as you know, we're in the midst of Hispanic Heritage Month. In classrooms across America, children will study Dolores Huerta and Cesar Chavez, Julian and Joaqué

**NEW\_DOCUMENT\_HERE**

Anderson Cooper, Karine Jean-Pierre, Corey Lewandowski, Stuart Stevens, Gloria Borger, Jim Acosta, Jeff Zeleny, Maggie Haberman, Abby Phillip, Sanjay Gupta, Kyung Lah

8771 speakers\_end

12 September 2016

[21:00:56] ANDERSON COOPER, CNN ANCHOR: Thanks for joining us for the second hour of "360".

Hillary Clinton says she's feeling better and that she didn't think her pneumonia diagnosis was that big a deal and just wanted to power through it. She's now taking doctors' orders and resting at her home in Chappaqua, New York.

I spoke with her at length on the phone in the last hour. Here's that conversation.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

COOPER: Secretary Clinton, thank you very much for calling in. There's a lot of folks who are very worried about you. How are you feeling?

HILLARY CLINTON, (D) PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE: Oh, thank you, Anderson. I'm feeling so much better and obviously I should have gotten some rest sooner. I probably would have been better off if I'd just pulled down my schedule on Friday. But like a lot of people, I just thought I could keep going forward and power through it and obviously that didn't work out so well.

COOPER: Let me ask you, your husband said tonight in an interview with Charlie Rose, he said, "Rarely on more than one occasion over the last many, many years, the same sort of things happened to her," meaning you "when she got severely dehydrated." Can you say how many times over the course of the last, say, five years you've been dehydrated and gotten dizzy? I know you passed out, hit your head back in 2012 which led to the concussion. How often has this happened?

CLINTON: Oh, I think really only twice that I can recall. You know, it is something that has occurred a few times over the course of my life, and I'm aware of it and usually can avoid it.

What happened yesterday was that I just was incredibly committed to being at the memorial, as a senator on 9/11, this is incredibly personal to me. And I could, you know, feel how hot and humid it was. I felt overheated. I decided that I did need to leave.

And as soon as I got into the air-conditioned van, I cooled off, I got some water and very quickly I felt better. So I felt fine, but I'm now taking my doctor's advice which was given to me on Friday that I ignored to just take some time to get over pneumonia completely.

COOPER: You know, a lot of people have obviously seen the video of you being helped into the van. Did you actually faint? Did you actually pass out or lose consciousness?

CLINTON: No, I didn't. I felt dizzy and I did lose my balance for a minute, but once I got in, once I could sit down, once I could cool off, once I had some water, I immediately started feeling better. And my daughter lives nearby so I went over to her apartment and, you know, spent time with her and my grandchildren which, you know ...

COOPER: Right.

CLINTON: ... you know, the best medicine for anything in my life.

COOPER: A lot has been made over the course of the last week or so about the cough you've been struggling with. You blamed it on allergies, joked at one point you were allergic to Donald Trump. Was that cough actually pneumonia related and not, in fact, allergy related?

CLINTON: Well, it sure seemed like it was an allergy because I've had allergies, seasonal allergies off and on, and it does come with a cough, you know, I've got lots of examples, you know, in the spring and in the fall getting a bit of a coughing fit then it dissipates.

What happened this time, though, was it didn't dissipate and that's why when I got off the road on Friday, I did go to see my doctor and that's when I was diagnosed with pneumonia.

And the funniest thing that happened to me on Sunday, wasn't a funny day, after all, but this was kind of humorous, is I got to the memorial, I saw my friend and former colleague, Chuck Schumer, and the first thing he says to me is I've had pneumonia and I've been resting for five days. And I looked at him and he said, "You know, that's so funny, I've just been told I have pneumonia." So apparently, there's something to this that's going around.

COOPER: Yeah.

CLINTON: And I've since been contacted by, you know, a number of people who've told me they have had it, they've gotten over it.

[21:05:02] COOPER: Well, let me ask you about that because David Axelrod ...

CLINTON: Right.

COOPER: ... was very critical of the way that you and your campaign handled sharing your diagnosis with the public. He tweeted, "Antibiotics can take care of pneumonia, what's the cure for an unhealthy penchant for privacy that repeatedly creates unnecessary problems? Why not just say on Friday as you said apparently to Senator Schumer on Sunday, you know, I have pneumonia, folks, I'm going to power through it. Why keep it a secret?

CLINTON: Well, I just didn't think it was going to be that big a deal. You know, I know Chuck said today he didn't tell anybody. It's just the kind of thing that if it happens to you and you're a busy, active person, you keep moving forward.

And, you know, I think it's fair to say, Anderson, that people know more about me than almost anyone in public life, they've got 40 years of my tax returns, tens of thousands of e-mails, a detailed medical letter/report. All kinds of personal details. And, you know, it's just so -- it's so strange that with all of that information out there, and as soon as it became clear I couldn't power through, we, you know, we said what was going on.

COOPER: Yeah, but when you ...

CLINTON: Donald Trump is ...

COOPER: I'm sorry.

CLINTON: What?

COOPER: When you left your daughter's apartment, you said you were feeling great. Obviously you ...

CLINTON: I did. I felt -- I felt really good, but that didn't mean that I shouldn't rest. So when I -- you know, I did. I mean, I felt 100 percent better.

COOPER: But doesn't your handling of this, and your campaign's -- you know, their refusal to acknowledge what happened until really after that video was circulated, confirms suspicion of some voters that you're not transparent or trustworthy?

CLINTON: Oh, my goodness, Anderson. You know, compare everything you know about me with my opponent. I think it's time he met the same level of disclosure that I have for years. You know, you've got a medical report on me that meets the same standard as Mitt Romney and Barack Obama. Donald Trump's doctor said he'd be the healthiest president in history. That's just not even serious.

And I've released nearly 40 years of tax returns. He hasn't released one. This is a man with unknown numbers of partners and investors who says he's doing 120 foreign deals. The American people deserve to know what he's up to and what he is hiding.

So if we weren't -- if we weren't fast enough, you know, I've talked to my staff, we, you know, take responsibility for that. But the information is out there. You can't say the same thing about Donald Trump.

COOPER: Brian Fallon from your campaign said your campaign is going to release more of your records. I know -- as you know probably, Donald Trump has said he's now had a physical I believe on Friday and that he's going to release that soon. Will you be releasing more details about your medical history and do you know, you know, how detailed it's going to be, how far it's going to go back? Is it going to be more about what happened in 2012 when you fell and hit your head? Do you know how far it will go?

CLINTON: Well, we're going to be releasing more information, and I think it's fair to say we've already met the standard of disclosure of past presidential candidates like Mitt Romney and President Obama. We'll add more information, but I've already released information about my health in this campaign, as well as nearly 40 years of tax returns. We've already met a high standard of transparency and we know the least about Donald Trump of any candidate in recent American history. Know virtually nothing about his business entanglements, his foreign investors. You know, it's really past time for him to be held to the same standard, not just as me, but of everybody else who has sought this job.

COOPER: The final question, I know both your supporters and probably those who are opposed to you want to know the answer to is, how quickly, when are you going to get back on the campaign trail?

CLINTON: Well, it will be the next couple of days. Obviously, I was supposed to rest five days. That's what they told me on Friday, and I didn't follow that very wise advice. So I just want to get this over and done with and get back on the trail as soon as possible.

COOPER: Well, Secretary Clinton, we wish you the best and a speedy recovery. Thanks to you so much for speaking with us.

CLINTON: Thank you. Good to talk to you, Anderson. Thanks a lot.

COOPER: Secretary Clinton in her first interview since the incident yesterday.

A lot to talk about. With me now, former Mitt Romney campaign adviser, Stuart Stevens, former Trump campaign manager, Corey Lewandowski, Clinton supporter and National MoveOn.org spokesperson, Karine Jean-Pierre and CNN chief political analyst, Gloria Borger.

Karine, we haven't spoken to you about is yet, do you think this has lasting repercussions for Secretary Clinton? Obviously, it's a distraction, some of the Clinton campaign certainly does not want, it does play into, you know, some of the suggestions and narrative that we've been hearing from Donald Trump and the Donald Trump campaign. Does it have lasting repercussions?

KARINE JEAN-PIERRE, MOVEON.ORG NATIONAL SPOKESPERSON: Yeah. I think it has a -- it's a distraction, right, but no lasting effect.

[21:09:58] Look, she has a common illness that five million to 10 million Americans get every day, right, and it's a -- in a short term, she'll get over this and she'll move on.

COOPER: But isn't it more about how the campaign handled it and not disseminating the information even on that day after people knew something was going on?

JEAN-PIERRE: Look, the campaign has said themselves like, "Look, you know, they could have handled this a lot better." And they're right, right? They could have done that.

But look, one thing I wanted to point out, Anderson, you had Sanjay Gupta in the 8:00 hour. And he actually was able to list out all of the medications that Hillary Clinton takes and the reason why is because she actually put out a medical report. Are we able to do that for Trump? No. We can't. Because what he put is actually has no substance. So there is a little bit of a double standard here.

COOPER: Corey, the Clinton campaign certainly is trying to switch this to focus on Donald Trump, and the disparities between what the Clinton campaign has released and what, you know, their view of what Donald Trump has released.

COREY LEWANDOWSKI, FORMER TRUMP CAMPAIGN MANAGER: Look, what the Clinton campaign doesn't want to talk about is that a private fund- raiser on Friday night, she called the people who support Donald Trump a basket of deplorables. You know, that's 14 million people on the primary.

COOPER: She did apologize and the fact that she said not half, not half.

LEWANDOWSKI: OK. Which means -- but it's a gross generalization. And if this story wasn't dominating the news coverage right now, which is her almost passing out at the 9/11 memorial, that's what she'd be talking about today.

And really, you know, that's akin to Mitt Romney's 47 percent statement that was made four years ago and what it is, is, you know, it's a gross generalization, it's something that really isn't appropriate.

So I think, you know, as much as the Hillary Clinton campaign doesn't want to talk about the health issue, I think they'd rather be talking about this issue than the statement she made on Friday night about those people who are supporting the Trump campaign.

JEAN-PIERRE: It's not the same. The 40 percent was basically a narrative that told how Mitt Romney was rich and disconnected, right? It was about the wealthy. What she talked about, deplorables, was about the bigotry of Donald Trump. How that narrative is, relates to him.

Look, so, look, let's be clear here, there is an element, right, of Donald Trump supporters that are deplorable, right?

LEWANDOWSKI: Well, that's egregious. They're not.

JEAN-PIERRE: No. They are.

LEWANDOWSKI: You know what?

JEAN-PIERRE: They are. When you're talking about getting David Duke support ...

LEWANDOWSKI: He doesn't have David Duke support. He doesn't want David Duke support.

JEAN-PIERRE: When you have people at his rallies who are talking about white power, we've seen this footage saying, yelling white power. When you have confederate flag ...

LEWANDOWSKI: You have at a Hillary Clinton rally directly behind her the father of the largest mass murder in the State of Florida's history.

JEAN-PIERRE: That, you know, what? That was one ...

(CROSSTALK)

COOPER: Let me bring in Stuart and Gloria. Stuart, I mean clearly, this has taken the attention away from what Hillary Clinton said on Friday about half the Trump supporters being in this basket of deplorables.

STUART STEVENS, FORMER ROMNEY CAMPAIGN ADVISER: Well, it's an eloquent theory that she got sick to take the ...

COOPER: Well, I'm not saying -- no, of course not. It wasn't intentional, but ...

STEVENS: I -- you know, listen, campaigns usually aren't affected by these stories one way or the other. We talk about the 47 percent story. It was a big story. There's really no evidence when you look at if it affected the campaign's -- if it hadn't happened and Mitt Romney would have won.

You know, when you get in these campaigns, you have to really treat it the same way that NFL quarterbacks treat throwing interceptions. You throw interceptions. You just play the next play. No campaign doesn't make mistakes. And it's just a matter of pushing through and being able to try to communicate with as many voters as you can why you think you should be president. I don't think these little things are going to play that much difference.

COOPER: Gloria, to Stuart's point, and I think it's an important one. You know, we are all focused on the minutia of what's happening every second because this is ...

GLORIA BORGER, CNN CHIEF POLITICAL ANALYST: Right.

COOPER: You know, I have no life, this is what I do. I'm not going to speak to everybody else on the panel.

BORGER: You can.

COOPER: You seem to have more lives than I do.

BORGER: You can. COOPER: But, you know, most people in the country, you know, have real jobs unlike me and are out there working hard and have, you know, kids and a million things they got to take care of and are not following the minutia like I am and like many of us are. So, I guess to Stuart's point, does this really matter?

BORGER: I think what it does is it affirms how you feel or don't feel about somebody. I don't think Hillary Clinton's bout with pneumonia in and of itself is going to change one vote at all. But I do believe that if you believe she has a penchant for secrecy and wants to keep things from the American public and hides things and is devious, you will say this is part of that whole narrative.

And, you know, the most interesting thing to me about all of this is that we don't have Donald Trump out there talking about Hillary Clinton's health which he's been talking about the entire campaign. Instead, when there is evidence that she had a health issue, the pneumonia, and that the press was kept away from knowing about it, what is he talking about?

[21:15:00] He's talking about what works for him which is what Corey was just talking about and -- which is the basket of deplorables because that is what will motivate his base to get out and vote.

So, you know, at this point ...

COOPER: Well, also it's the age-old, you know, political idea of when the other campaign is stumbling, you just step out of the way. Allow them to kind of, you know ...

BORGER: Yes.

COOPER: ... continue to stumble. You don't need to add to it because, in fact, you could, you know, stop the stumble.

We got to take a quick break.

BORGER: Right.

COOPER: We're going to have more with the panel ahead. Donald Trump wrapped up a rally in North Carolina earlier tonight. As we mentioned, he was slamming Clinton on her comment about some of his supporters. What he said tonight, ahead.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

COOPER: Breaking news this evening. Donald Trump's running mate Mike Pence was asked by Wolf Blitzer if he considers David Duke a white nationalist and Trump supporter deplorable or somebody who supports Trump deplorable. Pence wouldn't go there. He said he's not a name calling business. He also said the Trump campaign doesn't want Duke's support.

Jim Acosta tonight reports.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP) JIM ACOSTA, CNN SENIOR WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENT: Donald Trump didn't have to dig deep into his basket of attacks today on Hillary Clinton.

DONALD TRUMP, (R) PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE: After months of hiding from the press, Hillary Clinton has revealed her true thoughts. That was her true thoughts. She revealed herself to be a person who looks down on the proud citizens of our country, as subjects for her.

ACOSTA: The GOP nominee devoted a huge chunk of his speech to a military audience today to a line Clinton delivered Friday when she referred to Trump supporters as a basket of deplorables at a fund- raiser in New York.

CLINTON: You know, to just be grossly generalistic, you could put half of Trump's supporters into what I called the basket of deplorables, the racist, sexist, homophobic, xenophobic, Islamophobic, you name it.

ACOSTA: By the next day, the damage was done and Clinton quickly backpedaled releasing a statement saying "I regret saying half. That was wrong." But she added "It's deplorable that Trump has built his campaign largely on prejudice and paranoia and given a national platform to hateful views and voices."

[21:20:11] BRIAN FALLON, CLINTON CAMPAIGN PRESS SECRETARY: We cannot treat Donald Trump as a normal presidential candidate. The idea that somebody is running a campaign that is engaging in this type of hate- filled demagoguery in 2016 is deplorable.

ACOSTA: Now Trump is accusing Clinton of slandering more than just the people backing his campaign.

TRUMP: She divides people into baskets as though they were objects, not human beings. You cannot run for president if you have such contempt in your heart for the American voter. And she does. You can't lead this nation if you have such a low opinion for its citizens.

ACOSTA: The Trump campaign is also using the moment to power new ads in four key battleground states.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: You know what's deplorable? Hillary Clinton viciously demonizing hardworking people like you.

ACOSTA: Clinton's comment instantly drew comparisons to Mitt Romney's infamous gaffe from four years ago when he slammed supporters of President Obama as the 47 percent who don't pay taxes. The defining moment that painted Romney as out of touch.

MITT ROMNEY, (R) FORMER PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE: There are 47 percent who are with him, who are dependent upon government, who believe that they are victims, who believe the government has a responsibility to care for them."

ACOSTA: But Democrats counter Clinton had good reason to cast some Trump supporters as deplorables. Noting the confederate flag on display at a Trump rally over the summer. Not to mention the GOP nominee's own comment on Mexican **immigrants**.

TRUMP: They're bringing drugs, they're bringing crime, they're rapists and some, I assume, are good people.

ACOSTA: The Trump campaign argues Clinton's remarks were much more revealing.

KELLYANNE CONWAY, TRUMP CAMPAIGN MANAGER: She's reading scripted words, and then they call it a gaffe. It wasn't a gaffe. She had said it before.

ACOSTA: But history shows voters can look past candidates' tone deaf moments. Barack Obama's comments on bitter voters who cling to their guns and faith didn't cost him the election in 2008.

PRES. BARACK OBAMA, (D) UNITED STATES: It's not surprising then that they get bitter. They cling to guns or religion, or antipathy toward people who aren't like them or anti-**immigrant** sentiment, or anti-trade sentiment as a way to explain their frustrations.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

COOPER: Jim, you were at Trump's rally earlier tonight. How did he address Clinton's comments at this evening's event?

ACOSTA: Yeah, Anderson, Donald Trump is certainly latched onto this basket of deplorables comment. He accused Hillary Clinton at this rally here in Asheville, North Carolina, of running a campaign of hatred.

At one point during the rally, he brought some of his supporters on stage to say they're not deplorable. He did go too far at one point saying that Hillary Clinton has accused these people of not being American. She did not ever say that.

And we should point out, Anderson, there was some deplorable behavior on display here. There was a man, a Trump supporter in the crowd who was punching and choking one protester. That man from what we understand was not arrested by authorities, although the protesters were led out of this venue. Anderson?

COOPER: Jim Acosta. Jim, thank you very much.

Back with the panel. You know, Stuart, as much as the Trump campaign or frankly the media wants to press Hillary Clinton on transparency, she is obviously now trying to kind of use what happened to her and point to Donald Trump and say, "Well, what about him? I'm being held essentially to a different standard.

STEVENS: Look, I think the litmus test here is going to be the tax returns. Governor Pence has released his. It really is beholden upon a modern candidate to release some tax returns. You have no idea what Donald Trump's investments are or his current income.

And I just -- the sort of common sense of it is what people come back to. Donald Trump is someone who's not afraid of saying controversial things or doing controversial things. What is it in his tax returns that he finds so disqualifying that he won't release?

So I really don't see how the Trump campaign can win an argument on transparency until they do that. Now, if Donald Trump walked out tomorrow and release five years of tax returns or even two years of tax returns, I think that would give them sort of more of a standing to make this case.

COOPER: But Gloria, if Donald Trump did that, I mean, just -- I get the rationale, the argument that he should do that, but if he did that, it's going to be a story for a week and can the Trump campaign afford that -- the focus to be on his returns and whatever they show or do not show for, you know, with so close before election day? I mean, right now, it doesn't seem like he -- that he's wavering or is bothered by the pressure.

BORGER: Well, you know, the longer they would wait, the harder it gets obviously and of course it depends on what's in them. Usually campaigns try to release it a bit earlier rather than later, and, but the question is, if you don't have anything to hide, don't hide it.

[21:25:02] You know, there is no law that says that if you're under audit that you can't release your returns. Richard Nixon did it, for example.

And I think so long as Donald Trump refuses to do that, Hillary Clinton has a legitimate right to raise questions, all kind kinds of questions about him, about his transparency, about his charitable giving, about his income, about, you know, all kinds of things that voters may want to know about. I know Congressman Pence, Governor Pence, said to Wolf Blitzer today that voters don't care about that, but once they know what's in them, then they might care about it. And so the longer they wait, the harder it is for Donald Trump to ...

COOPER: Yeah.

BORGER: ... to do it.

COOPER: Corey, you and I talked about this in the last hour, but I mean, again, if you believe the -- my taxes are under audit argument, therefore I'm not going to release them. According to his own attorneys from 2002 to 2008, those returns have already been audited, the audit is done. Why not release just those?

LEWANDOWSKI: Look, I think he's been very clear about releasing his information that's required when you run for president which is the personal financial disclosure statement which many pundits said he would d never fill out because it would show he's not actually worth what he said he's worth. And what it actually showed was he has 50 entities that are worth more than $50 million a piece.

But, you know, the one thing I do want to touch on, it's very important, this is Barack Obama's statement. We need a president who's fighting for all Americans, not one who writes off nearly half of the country. Right? This goes directly to Hillary Clinton. We want a president who's fighting for all Americans. This notion of deplorables which is what is important to talk about, she's not fighting for everybody. She wants to be a president for some of the country. And this is exactly what Barack Obama was against. That's why he beat her eight years ago and that's why Donald Trump's going to beat her now.

COOPER: Do you get -- you know, actually, let's play -- well, actually let me ask you first before we play this. Do you -- do you give her credit at all for apologizing just for saying, you know what, not half, I was wrong to say half.

LEWANDOWSKI: Look, I think she should apologize, but, you know, does that mean it's a quarter? What is it? I mean, again, Kellyanne Conway was very clear about this. These were scripted remarks. This wasn't an adlib. This wasn't, you know, off the cuff. This was designed to be very specific at a private fund-raiser where she's spending most of her time and maybe she didn't know it was going to be broadcast, maybe she didn't think it was a big deal. She didn't even understand the backlash until the following day.

COOPER: Karine, I mean, obviously they have come forward. The next day she said, "Look, I shouldn't have said half." But she's sticking by this notion of deplorables.

JEAN-PIERRE: Look, here's the reality. 60 percent of Trump voters believe that the President was born not in this country, right? This is what Donald Trump used to foray his self into the political -- it's true. It's true. This is what the polls say. In 2011, that's what Donald Trump used to get into the political landscape. And so this is -- this is the reality that we're in now. 35 percent of voters believe Trump is a racist. 56 percent of voters believe that he has negative feelings about minorities, women and **immigrants**.

LEWANDOWSKI: And Trump is still winning independents by 20 points, Trump is still winning married women by, you know, 10 points. He's still winning -- he's still continuing to win this election because Hillary Clinton is so untrustworthy. She talked today in your interview ...

JEAN-PIERRE: They're both -- I mean, that's not ...

LEWANDOWSKI: ... about e-mails. It was amazing to me that she raised that issue. She said people have read my e-mails. Well, they've read not the 15,000 she withheld ...

COOPER: They certainly both have issues on the question of trust ...

JEAN-PIERRE: Yeah, that's not even the argument there. And look, the question that I have is when is Donald Trump going to disavow the people, the element, right, in his campaign and his supporters that are deplorable? The people that we just talked about. The David Dukes of the world.

LEWANDOWSKI: Mike Pence did that today.

JEAN-PIERRE: The white supremacists.

LEWANDOWSKI: Mike Pence did that today and Donald Trump has done it on multiple occasions.

JEAN-PIERRE: No. No, no, no.

LEWANDOWSKI: So unless you're calling Mike Pence a racist, which I don't think you are. Unless you're making a statement about Mike Pence ...

JEAN-PIERRE: I'm not owing. I never said that. I never said that.

LEWANDOWSKI: ... Mike Pence said today, we don't want David Duke ...

JEAN-PIERRE: I said that David Duke who is a former grand wizard of the KKK that terrorized African-American ...

COOPER: But he has said he ...

JEAN-PIERRE: Yeah, but he is deplorable. That's the difference. David Duke is actually deplorable. The KKK is deplorable. White supremacy -- Robert Byrd apologized. He apologized.

LEWANDOWSKI: So, it's OK to say I'm sorry.

COOPER: We got to leave it there. Everybody, thank you.

Just ahead, the past couple days have underscored something Hillary Clinton, Donald Trump have in common, neither travels with a protective pool, a group of reporters who provide minute-by-minute updates to the campaigns. It's a big break with tradition. A controversial one. We'll explain that to you ahead.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

[21:33:23] COOPER: As we've been reporting, Hillary Clinton is in Chappaqua, New York. She canceled her scheduled events for today. She's recovering from pneumonia.

Here's some of my interview with her tonight.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

COOPER: David Axelrod was very critical of the way that you and your campaign handled, sharing your diagnosis with the public. He tweeted, "Antibiotics can take care of pneumonia, what's the cure for an unhealthy penchant for privacy that repeatedly creates unnecessary problems?" Why not just say on Friday as you said apparently to Senator Schumer on Sunday, you know, I have pneumonia, folks, I'm going to power through it. Why keep it a secret?

CLINTON: Well, I just didn't think it was going to be that big a deal. You know, I know Chuck said today he didn't tell anybody. It's just the kind of thing that if it happens to you and you're a busy, active person, you keep moving forward.

And, you know, I think it's fair to say, Anderson, that people know more about me than almost anyone in public life, they've got 40 years of my tax returns, tens of thousands of e-mails, a detailed medical letter/report. All kinds of personal details. And, you know, it's just so -- it's so strange that with all of that information out there, and as soon as it became clear I couldn't power through, we, you know, we said what was going on.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

COOPER: Well, this put a spotlight on something that both Clinton and Trump have no common. Neither candidate travels with a protective pool. Reporters who travel with them at all times, providing minute- by-minute updates of anything that happens. It is a big break with tradition.

Joining me now is senior White House correspondent Jeff Zeleny, CNN political analyst, Maggie Haberman, she's the presidential campaign correspondent for "The New York Times", also Abby Phillip, national reporter for the "Washington Post".

[21:35:03] So what is this protective pool for those who don't know?

JEFF ZELENY, CNN SENIOR WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT: Protective pool basically is a group of reporters, you know, some photographers, broadcast correspondent, a wire service reporter from the A.P. or something who sort of rides in a van along with the motorcade, along with the presidential entourage so to speak to keep an eye on the nominee. It happens after someone becomes the nominee. It's basically like a smaller version of what happens once you're elected president.

COOPER: And your information is given to all reporters.

ZELENY: You shared along, you know, if something would happen to the person, that's the point of a protective pool. And 9/11, for example, a small version of the pool flew around the country with President Bush. It's for reasons like that when there's some important matter to go. It limits the press core to a small pool.

COOPER: So the ideal -- idea, Maggie, would be that in the 90 minutes where reporters are kind of pinned in down in lower Manhattan yesterday and did not know what was going on with Secretary Clinton, had there been a protective pool traveling in that entourage with her, they would have been giving real-time updates.

MAGGIE HABERMAN, "NEW YORK TIMES" PESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN CORRESPONDENT: Or something or at least they would have been aware where she was going at the moment it was happening. Often the pooler is not specifically told something in route but can tell from their surroundings what's happening. I think it was the combination of the pooler not being brought along. I'm not fully briefed on what the logistics were, but I've been to those ground zero ceremonies. And it's -- you get very pinned in just because there's a lot of security. I don't know that it was necessarily feasible to get the press in time but it was the lack of contact from anybody within Mrs. Clinton's campaign as well.

COOPER: There's also, Abby, real questions of whether had that video not been released that, you know, I guess it was a cell phone video where you see Secretary Clinton clearly in distress being helped into the van. Whether or not they would have come forward at all and said what had really happened.

ABBY PHILLIP, "THE WASHINGTON POST" NATIONAL REPORTER: Yeah, I mean, there was a huge gap between the way that they described this incident, what people then saw in the video. And to Maggie's point earlier, they didn't tell the press for about 20 minutes after -- until after she had left that she'd even left the scene and then it was an hour after that that they finally disclosed that something might have been amiss. And I think that they were forced to kind of elaborate on this situation because the video was much more dramatic than their statement had indicated. They said, "Oh, she was dehydrated. She left on her own accord." And they sort of seemed to say that everything was fine and maybe everything was fine. But the sort of severity of the situation was only revealed really because of that video.

COOPER: And had -- you know, when she -- and I asked her about this when she left her daughter's apartment, she said, "You know, I'm feeling great," and I -- you know, I sort of challenged her on that tonight, like, "You couldn't have been really feeling great." And she said, "Actually I was feeling great." But if she was feeling great, you think she could have just gone up to the protective pool right then and said, "You know what, I actually got diagnosed with pneumonia on Friday, but I wanted to power through it," as opposed to kind of not until the next day.

HABERMAN: You can make the argument, and some of her supporters have that they wanted to wait until she was checked out again to know what they were dealing with. But at the end of the day, they have been through health issues with her in the past. Obviously, what happened in 2012 with her concussion was very different than what appears to be happening here. But there have been issues before of trying to get information from people around Clinton about her health and not always being met promptly with it.

So with something like this, if it just pneumonia, there isn't a reason to not really just say upfront, especially when her point is correct that, you know, she is working through this. We've had -- one of the rules of a presidential campaign is everybody gets sick. You were on these planes, you were in these bubbles. Everybody gets sick. It's understandable. But it's harder to say after the fact, look, she's powering through this, when they have sort of minimized it over many, many hours. It wasn't just initial 90 minutes. The pneumonia piece didn't come out until the afternoon.

ZELENY: I've been trying to walk this line between feeding these conspiracy theories that are out there and providing more information. And I think by erring on the side of not wanting to feed the conspiracy theories they've actually made it worse. And there are people today in the campaign in Brooklyn who acknowledged that to me, saying, look, we didn't do that right because they were afraid of feeding that beast. But that's -- and look what happened. Eight hours transpired from the time she got into that van with assistance to the time they put out that press release on pneumonia. That is a long time. HABERMAN: And the video was scary looking, I mean to Abby's point the video looked -- I mean that is what you look like when you're fainting. But when all you've been told in the morning is she overheated and left and she's feeling much better now and then you see that video, I think it was jarring for people. And look, I do think that voters care about the health in general of their presidential nominees.

COOPER: We make a lot about the transparency issue in relation to this. Obviously Donald Trump also has real questions about transparency and ...

HABERMAN: Right.

COOPER: ... like tax returns but just, you know, the same protective pool. All that sort of stuff. I mean, looking back to the convention, you know, we heard multiple things coming out of the campaign for, sometimes it would go on for days, conflicting things coming out.

HABERMAN: He doesn't have a protective pool. I do want to be really clear about this. This is not a both sides issue. Clinton's campaign is much more open on this in terms of the press. They basically have a full protective pool. Not totally.

[21:40:01] But basically the Trump campaign does not. They are trying to work on expanding some of these things, but they are not there. They're -- this is a campaign that had until recently banned news outlets.

COOPER: Right. You mean, "The Washington Post".

HABERMAN: Including "The Washington Post". So this -- this should not be treated like it's on a curve here with this. And I know that we say that a lot about various issues with Trump. But it is -- there is something to the fact that neither of them has done a full accounting of medical records, but hers generally speaking on disclosures are deeper.

COOPER: We got to leave there. Maggie Haberman, thank you, Jeff Zeleny, Abby Phillip, thanks. Great to have you on.

Just ahead, Dr. Sanjay Gupta looks back at what we know about Hillary Clinton's medical history, as Maggie just mentioned, this isn't the first time Mrs. Clinton's health has grabbed the spotlight. We'll be right back.

(COMMERCIAL RBEAK)

COOPER: The breaking news, Hillary Clinton says she's feeling better. She didn't think her pneumonia diagnosis was that big a deal and just wanted to power through it. I talked to her earlier this evening. She says she's now taking her doctor's advice resting at her home in Chappaqua, New York. She was diagnosed with pneumonia on Friday but her campaign didn't reveal until Sunday after Clinton abruptly left that 9/11 ceremony and had to be helped into a van by Secret Service agents. As you can see in the video, her legs appear to buckle. She told me she felt dizzy, lost her balance for a minute.

[21:45:02] Her doctor later released a statement saying Clinton had become dehydrated. Today the Clinton campaign said they would release more medical information about Clinton in the next couple of days. This is not the first time Clinton's health has been in the spotlight. Our chief medical correspondent Dr. Sanjay Gupta reports.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

DR. SANJAY GUPTA, CNN CLINICAL MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT: She doesn't like to talk about it but Hillary Clinton's health history has been under scrutiny ever since she was first lady in the1990's. In 1998, she experienced what is known as a deep vein thrombosis, a blood clot in her right leg. At the time, she described the experience as the most significant health scare she has ever had. The big concern, DVTs or blood clots while treatable, can lead to complications, even death if the clot moves into the lungs or the heart.

In 2009, she had another blood clot, the location of which is still unknown, and which was not made public until she launched her most recent bid for the Democratic nomination. Clinton has been on blood thinners ever since. That same year while in route to meet with President Obama, Clinton slipped in the basement of the State Department, fracturing her right elbow and requiring surgery, but it was a concussion.

In December 2012 which Clinton sustained while battling a stomach virus fainting and then falling in her home that caused the most concern. President Bill Clinton saying after the fact her recovery took some time.

BILL CLINTON, 42ND UNITED STATES PRESIDENT: Required six months of very serious work to get over.

GUPTA: The glasses she wore after the concussion fitted with special prism lenses to help correct double vision gave some indication as to how serious the concussion was and a scan taken right after the concussion revealing yet another blood clot, this time in between her skull and the back of her brain. The big concern here is that the clot could prevent blood from draining properly from the brain causing swelling and possibly leading to a stroke. Follow-up exams suggested no long-term brain injury and the clot eventually dissolved.

Just over a year ago, her doctor released a health care statement stating in part that she's in excellent physical condition and fit to serve as president of the United States. She opened up about her health to ABC's Diane Sawyer in 2014.

DIANE SAWYER, ABC NEWS REPORTER: How is your health?

CLINTON: It's very good, thank you.

SAWYER: How serious was it?

CLINTON: It was, you know, it was -- I think a serious concussion.

SAWYER: The clot in addition.

CLINTON: Yes.

SAWYER: If the clot had dislodged ...

CLINTON: Well, can I tell you, that's what -- that was the scary point.

SAWYER: You had trouble with vision.

CLINTON: I had because of the force of the fall. I had some -- I had double vision for a short period of time and I had some dizziness.

SAWYER: Did you have trouble talking?

CLINTON: No. Not -- no, I had no problems. The only thing I had ...

SAWYER: Headaches?

CLINTON: No, I didn't -- I didn't have any of that. I didn't -- I felt fine, and I felt it was kind of silly that I was supposed to stay in bed.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

COOPER: And Sanjay joins us now. Is pneumonia contagious?

GUPTA: Well, if it's untreated pneumonia. The bacteria can actually, when you're coughing it out, can be spread to other people. And you know even when they're in office or campaign office, there are other people who got sick, whether she was the source or she got sick from somebody else. It's likely that it was sort of being spread around.

COOPER: And there's different kinds of pneumonia.

GUPTA: There's definitely different kinds -- and we don't know what kind she necessarily has. There's bacterial pneumonia, there's viral pneumonia, can even have funguses that can cause pneumonia. She's on an antibiotic which I guess would suggest that maybe she has bacterial pneumonia. But again, they haven't said that. We also don't know how serious the pneumonia was. We haven't had a chest x-ray for example, to see if it involves one part of the lung or many parts of the lung.

COOPER: There's also a report out saying she doesn't like drinking water a lot and something (ph) that the campaign has try to get her to.

GUPTA: Yeah, you know, this whole notion of being dehydrated on that day, Sunday, yesterday, you know, it's very plausible. I mean that could have explained this. Not drinking, a hot day, having pneumonia, taking these medications in combination, maybe that's what caused all this.

COOPER: All right, Sanjay, thanks very much.

Up next, Hillary Clinton is not the first politician to stumble with a health scare. A look back when we continue.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

[21:52:40] COOPER: The breaking news, Hillary Clinton says she's feeling better. She's resting at home in Chappaqua, New York recovering from pneumonia. When I asked her earlier why she waited before revealing she had pneumonia she said she didn't think it was going to be a big deal.

If he wins in November, Donald Trump would be the oldest U.S. president ever elected. If Hillary Clinton wins, she would the second oldest behind Ronald Reagan. Their age is one reason there's pressure on them to release detailed health records. That said even healthy presidents get sick. And in the past, the standards for transparency about health issues were less robust. Here's Kyung Lah.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

KYUNG LAH, CNN NATIONAL CORRESPONDENT: Hillary Clinton is hardly the first candidate to visibly fall ill in the glare of running for president. 1992, President George H. W. Bush fainting and vomiting into the lap of the Japanese prime minister. His campaign blamed the flu. Bush 41 was in the middle of a tough re-election campaign against a much younger candidate, Bill Clinton.

DOUGLAS BRINKLEY, CNN PRESIDENTIAL HISTORIAN: That video clip in today's parlance went viral, kept being shown over and over again on television, and it leads one to think that the candidate is weak.

LAH: That fear consistent through presidential times has historian Doug Brinkley as are the very human conditions of illness.

In 1840, William Henry Harrison was elected president. You may not have heard of him, because he stubbornly refused to wear a coat at his inauguration, caught pneumonia and died, after being president just one month.

In 1933, candidate Franklin Delano Roosevelt publicly acknowledged his illness, polio, opening up a retreat for polio patients. But once elected, he famously restricted photographers from documenting his disability. This being one of the few film clips of FDR in a wheelchair.

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT, 32ND UNITED STATES PRESIDENT: We happen to live in the most dangerous time.

LAH: There are the candidates who simply lie about their health. John F. Kennedy projected youth, energy, when in reality his family and advisers kept his medical records and treatment inside the White House secret, hiding a rare autoimmune disease.

BRINKLEY: It's almost impossible to get away with it in this new media culture.

LAH: Video now captures stumbles like Bob Dole's plunge off the stage and Gerald Ford falling down the steps of Air Force One, both eventually satirized then weaponized in the political form against the older men. Learning from the past, John McCain chose to open up volumes of his medical history. Joe Biden did the same, though his disclosure came two decades after suffering an aneurism.

[21:55:01] Vice President Dick Cheney's heart issues were public. Though in his memoirs he revealed his safe held a secret resignation letter in case he became incapacitated while in office. Then there's recent history's most elderly nominee putting his age on its head.

BRINKLEY: Sometimes presidents are able to get rid of issues of health effectively. I remember in 1984 when Ronald Reagan, you know, flipped in a debate.

RONALD REAGAN, 40TH UNITED STATES PRESIDENT: I am not going to exploit for political purposes my opponent's youth and inexperience.

LAH: The Republican president perhaps a cue for this Democratic contender.

BRINKLEY: I think in this case the debates for Hillary Clinton are going to be a way for to outperform him, outdual him, and show that her stamina is for real, and that this set back of pneumonia was just that, a normal human condition that hits a lot of us when we're overworked and exhausted.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

LAH: So here's what historians have to say to the Clinton campaign, recent history has shown that when it comes to medical issues it's best to be honest with the voters forthcoming rather than have the voters learn about it some other way. It's likely in today's media's landscape that FDR and JFK wouldn't have been able to hide their health issues. Anderson?

COOPER: Kyung, thanks very much. We'll be right back.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

[22:00:02] COOOPER: That does it for us. Thanks very much for watching. I'll see you tomorrow night. "CNN Tonight with Don Lemon" starts now.

**NEW\_DOCUMENT\_HERE**

Anderson Cooper, Sunlen Serfaty, Kayleigh McEnany, Andre Bauer, Karine Jean-Pierre, Gregory Meeks, Brianna Keilar, Nic Robertson, Chris Prudhome

8985 speakers\_end

[21:00:42] ANDERSON COOPER, CNN ANCHOR: Thanks for joining us for the second hour of "360". We begin in Pensacola, Florida where Donald Trump is wrapping up another busy day on the campaign trail, a day that included blaming Hillary Clinton for North Korea's nuclear test among other things. One thing he did not do was release his tax returns. His running mate, however, did just that.

CNN's Sunlen Serfaty joins me now from Pensacola. In terms of the rally, what was he talking about tonight, anything in particular?

SUNLEN SERFATY, CNN CORRESPONDENT: Yeah. Well, it's really interesting, Anderson. Donald Trump has the teleprompter tonight, he has prepared remarks but it's really a spot where he's deviated from those prepared remarks. It certainly caught our ear tonight. He's talking about Hillary Clinton and setting up their private e-mail server, all the controversy over her e-mails and the fact that she did not get charge, well, here's what he had to say.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

DONALD TRUMP, (R) PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE: Because she is being so protected. She could walk into this arena right now and shoot somebody with 20,000 people watching right smack in the middle of the heart and she wouldn't be prosecuted.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

SERFATY: So some pretty strong language and words there from Donald Trump. Of course, that's just more, for now, red meat to this crowd today ate it up. Anderson?

COOPER: Trump still has not released his taxes. Tonight, though, his running mate, Governor Pence, released his. What did we learn from those? SERFATY: Well, this is 10 years of Mike Pence's tax returns. We learned, quite frankly that he had a relatively modest salary. These are not big, seven figure numbers that we potentially could see if Donald Trump were to released his own return. The Pences, they had a tax rate of 8 percent in 2015. They earned an income of $113,000.

It certainly increases the scrutiny and the attention, though, on the fact that Donald Trump has not released his. He has said that that's because his tax returns are under audit but most recently, that argument was really weakened significantly with a letter from his tax counsel which said his tax returns between the years 2002 and 2008 were not under audit anymore. In essence, they could be released. So again, it just keeps this issue and this controversy for Donald Trump front and center. Right now even more than it was before.

COOPER: And Trump surrogates today addressing the long-standing claim that President Obama is not born in the United States, something Donald Trump had been pushing for a long time. What did they say?

SERFATY: This is really interesting, almost a full force effort from the Trump surrogates, including from his new campaign manager, who all of a sudden came out this week and said yes, Donald Trump believes that President Obama was indeed born here in the U.S. And that was notable because only they didn't back that up with any specific evidence. Those claims were largely unsubstantiated, especially because Donald Trump himself, he has never publicly agreed with that. He was given a chance just this week to back off his previous insinuations and accusations on where President Obama was born and he said to reporters just earlier this week that look, I just don't talk about it anymore. But notably, not disavowing those comments.

COOPER: All right. Sunlen, thanks very much. Joining me now is Sarah Huckabee Sanders, senior adviser for the Trump campaign. And Sarah, thanks so much for being with us.

You heard what Mr. Trump said in Pensacola, Florida a few minutes ago, that Hillary Clinton could shoot someone right in the heart and not be prosecuted. First of all, do you think he really believes that? And secondly, it is similar to what he said about himself earlier in the campaign that he could shoot somebody on Fifth Avenue and his supporters wouldn't care. I guess I'm asking if you can maybe explain his references to shooting people.

SARAH HUCKABEE SANDERS, TRUMP CAMPAIGN SENIOR ADVISER: Look, I hope nobody puts that to the test on either side. I think the bigger issue here is that Hillary Clinton's gotten away pretty easily frankly. She's pretty much proved that she's broken the law through the e-mail scandal, the Clinton Foundation and all she does is say, "Oops, I'm sorry, I made a mistake." At my house if my kids say that, they get in trouble. There are consequences.

COOPER: Right. But the FBI said that's not true.

SANDERS: And Hillary Clinton, instead of getting in trouble with consequences she asked for a promotion.

COOPER: Right. The FBI says she didn't break the law.

SANDERS: Well, I think that there's still further investigation that needs to take place here. I think it's very clear that she used her private server knowing she want supposed to. She put classified information on that server and clearly, that is in violation of what she knows she's supposed to do. She signed an affidavit saying she knew that what classified information, how that needed to be handled, she didn't handle it properly.

[21:05:01] And certainly, the issue with the Clinton Foundation taking money from foreign governments and using that foundation like a slush fund while she was secretary of state, I think that's definitely calls for investigation ...

COOPER: Let me ask you about ...

SANDERS: And I think when that happens, we'll see that there was certainly some foul play.

COOPER: Let me ask about the release of Governor Pence's tax returns tonight. Can you offer voters any clarity or any reason why Donald Trump actually will not release his tax turns? I'm not talking about the ones from the past few years that he still says are under audit. I'm talking about the ones from 2002 to 2008 that, according to his own attorneys, are not under audit.

SANDERS: Look, I think he's going to release them all at one time. He's made it very clear that once his audit is finished, he'll do that all at once.

COOPER: But his audit is finished for 2002 to 2008. And so, if you know, every candidate since Nixon has released their returns -- I mean, does Donald Trump just think point-blank American people don't have the right to see his tax returns, or shouldn't be able to see his tax returns?

SANDERS: Well, I don't think that's his point at all. I think he doesn't want to create extra scrutiny while he's in the middle of an audit, whether it's from previous tax returns or not. I think the data's question is ...

COOPER: Extra scrutiny from whom though because the IRS has already seen those tax returns from 2002 to 2008. In fact, has seen them and said, you know, according to his attorneys, nothing's wrong with them. So what extra scrutiny other than from voters and the media are you talking about?

SANDERS: Well, I don't think he's worried about the scrutiny from the voters but certainly from the media who hasn't exactly been very fair to Mr. Trump through this entire process. There's no reason to ...

COOPER: You really believe that?

SANDERS: ... to give them extra ammunition while he's in the -- absolutely. It's pretty hard not to.

COOPER: Yeah. Really.

SANDERS: I mean I lived through this through the primary all the way through the general. And certainly I think there's a different set of rules.

COOPER: Really? Because I can tell you the Clinton campaign feels the exact same thing about the media. But again, you still haven't answered ...

SANDERS: That's very interesting because they never talk to the media.

COOPER: Well, actually they have given press conferences the last four or five days in a row. But certainly for the last year, she has not given press conferences and we've been very critical of her for that.

But again, I still don't understand why shouldn't Donald Trump's taxes -- why shouldn't the American people know how much he pays in taxes, what his tax rate is? I mean since they know that about Hillary Clinton, they've known that about every presidential candidate since Richard Nixon? And they're not under audit.

SANDERS: I think Donald Trump ...

COOPER: They're not under audit.

COOPER: I think Donald Trump plans to do that ...

COOPER: 2002 to 2008, they're not under audit.

SANDERS: Look, he'll have to answer the question about those specific years. But I know that I've heard him say in person and to folks like you, Anderson, that when that audit is complete, he will release all of those returns at one time. My guess is he's waiting till this audit is finished and he'll release all of them at once instead of piece by piece.

COOPER: OK.

SANDERS: But I think the biggest question here is ...

COOPER: But again, just for the record, that audit is over and it doesn't -- and saying extra scrutiny doesn't give the IRS extra scrutiny or extra power over his current audit because they've already seen, they've already audited 2002 to 2008.

SANDERS: I understand that. Again, I think you're going to have to ask him specifically about those years. But my guess is that he's going to do that all at one time instead of doing it piece by piece. But again, I think the bigger ...

COOPER: My guess is it's not going to happen before the election. That's your -- I would assume that's your guess as well, right?

SANDERS: I really -- I have no idea. I don't know how long. I've never had the type of taxes that required ...

COOPER: Because if he's worried about extra scrutiny from the media, I assume he would be worried about extra scrutiny from the media before the election even with the taxes that -- I mean even if the audit ends, why would he release them if he's worried about extra scrutiny from the media?

SANDERS: Well, I think it has bigger impact. I think his biggest concern is making sure that the audit that is under way right now goes through smoothly, and again, as soon as that's done, I think he'll do that all at one time.

COOPER: Right, but the audit that's gone through right now has no bearing because, again, the IRS has already seen 2002 to 2008. So what you're saying doesn't make sense.

SANDERS: We may just have to agree to disagree. But I think the bigger point and the bigger question and what most Americans care about a whole lot more than Donald Trump's taxes are their own taxes, Anderson. They're far more concerned about who's going to help cut their personal taxes, who's going to help create economy growth in America and Donald Trump's clearly the candidate that's going to be able to do that versus Hillary Clinton.

COOPER: All right.

SANDERS: I think that's what most Americans are asking about.

COOPER: When Donald Trump says that Vladimir Putin is a strong leader, much more of a leader than President Obama, he says, can you point to a specific example to what Trump means, what the strong qualities are and why Trump thinks they are worth highlighting? Because, you know, this is a guy who, you know, there are plenty of allegations of him killing reporters, there's obviously invasion into, you know, Crimea, taking over Crimea into Ukraine. There's a whole host of authoritarian and autocratic, you know, policies and leadership that he's had while he's in power.

SANDERS: Look, I don't think anybody thinks Vladimir Putin is a perfect leader but I do think that Russia has gotten stronger under his leadership and America's gotten weaker. Our national debt has doubled. Our enemies don't respect -- don't fear us. Our allies don't trust us.

[21:10:06] I think America is in much weaker position than we were since Obama and Hillary Clinton have been in charge of the White House.

COOPER: But what moves that Vladimir Putin has made are strong? I mean the invasion of Crimea, is that the sign of a strong leader?

SANDERS: I didn't say he has made strong moves. I said that Russia is stronger in the world.

COOPER: But Donald Trump, your candidate, is saying he's a strong leader. So how is Vladimir Putin a strong leader? SANDERS: I'm saying his country is in a stronger position in the world.

COOPER: Right.

SANDERS: And let's not forget, Obama ...

COOPER: But your candidate has said he's a strong leader. So I'm just asking you on defend what your candidate has said. How is he a strong leader?

SANDERS: Look, I think what his point is, is that his country has gotten stronger while ours has gotten weaker under Obama and Hillary Clinton leadership.

COOPER: And the Russian economy is actually not doing very well.

SANDERS: Obama and Clinton have embraced many foreign governments including Iran and Cuba, some of the worst governments in the world, and no one's talking about that. That should be one of the top issues that we're talking about right now is the way that they've embraced them. Hillary Clinton even taken money from foreign government in a pay-to-play scandal and we're ...

COOPER: Right, but Russia has embraced Cuba - Soviet Union embraced Cuba for decades.

SANDERS: ... ignoring that.

COOPER: Right. OK. I mean Russia embraced Cuba for an awfully long time and I guess that's another sign of their strength. But the U.S. embracing Cuba is somehow a sign of weakness?

SANDERS: I'm sorry?

COOPER: Soviet Union, you know, embraced Cuba for a long time. Russia even embraced Cuba and now you're saying that's a sign of weakness, when the U.S, in your accords, embraces Cuba, just normalizes relations but what when Vladimir Putin did it, that's a sign of strength?

SANDERS: No, that's not what I'm saying. I'm saying that Vladimir Putin, Russia is in a stronger place in the world ...

COOPER: But their economy is doing terribly. You're aware of that, right?

SANDERS: And so is ours. And Obama has to take some real responsibility for that. And I think that was the point that Donald Trump was trying to make. That Obama and Clinton have not done anything to make America stronger. They've made us weaker. They've crippled our economy for things like ObamaCare and out of control regulations ...

COOPER: Can you just name one thing that Vladimir Putin has done to make Russia stronger? Is invading Crimea, killing journalists -- I mean just one specific?

SANDERS: No, I certainly don't think that those are things that have made him stronger. I'm just saying that the position in the world that they have as a power in the world has gotten stronger. I'm not saying that's necessarily a positive thing. I'm just saying that they are a stronger country as America has gotten to be a weaker country.

They have weakened our military. They're not taking care of our veterans. They have increased our debt. We are under greater attack like never before. And we certainly aren't making progress under Obama and Clinton and we absolutely have to have a major change in the country and in our leadership or we're going to continue down worse path under Hillary Clinton and that's the point that Donald Trump was trying to make. And that's the point I'm trying to make now.

COOPER: Here's what Republican Senator Lindsey Graham who is obviously hardly a Hillary Clinton fan said about Trump's Putin comments. I quote, "Other than destroying every instrument of democracy in his own country, having opposition people killed, dismembering neighbors through military force and being the benefactor of the butcher of Damascus, he's a good guy." Do you agree with those points? I mean did Donald Trump agree with those points?

SANDERS: Look, I'm not here to say that Vladimir Putin is a good guy. I'm here to say that I think Donald Trump would be a good president, particularly in contrast to Hillary Clinton. She's shown us that her judgment is poor, particularly on foreign relations. She's shown us that she has no respect for our national security by not standing up for our country, by not protecting our national security, putting everything on private servers, breaking the law through her slush fund at the Clinton Foundation.

My job here is to tell you why Donald Trump would be a good president. And that's why I think he would be. He would be infinitely better ...

COOPER: OK.

SANDERS: ... than Hillary Clinton ...

COOPER: Got it.

SANDERS: ... who's done a horrible job. And I think that's why we need to make a big change.

COOPER: All right. Sarah Huckabee Sanders, I appreciate you being with us. Thanks very much.

We're going to get reaction from our panel next.

Also ahead, Hillary Clinton says national security experts on both sides of the aisle are chilled by what they're hearing from Donald Trump and the promises he's making will make the country less safe. More from that meeting and the questions that she answered afterward, coming up.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK) [21:17:48] COOPER: Donald Trump just wrapped up a rally in Pensacola, Florida tonight. Before the break, we heard from his senior campaign adviser.

We got a lot to talk about on this busy Friday night.

Joining me on the panel tonight is New York Democratic congressman Gregory Meeks, National MoveOn.org spokesperson Karine Jeanne-Pierre, both are Clinton supporters. Also with us is Chris Prudholm, president of Vote America Now, CNN political commentator and Trump supporter Kayleigh McEnany and former South Carolina Lieutenant Governor Andre Bauer, who also supports Donald Trump.

Kayleigh, Mike Pence releasing his tax return, do you think that puts more pressure on Donald Trump or less pressure on Donald Trump to release his returns?

KAYLEIGH MCENANY, TRUMP SUPPORTER: Not at all. I think the only thing that would put pressure on Donald Trump to release his taxes, which are not required to be released by law, would be Hillary Clinton turning over the 15,000 e-mails she is required by law to turn over. At that point if she obeys the law, the Federal Records Act, and turns over the e-mails she deleted with hammers, her aides did and bleached out of cyberspace, once she does that, then there's pressure on Donald Trump but only then can she make a transparency argument.

COOPER: But Hillary Clinton has released her tax returns. I mean I get the whole e-mail argument in which we've gone over a million times. But her taxes are known, the Clinton Foundation taxes are known, Donald Trump's are not. That's not an issue?

MCENANCY: We know he pays taxes according to the law. That's how he survived nearly a dozen audits. That's what voters need to know. If he wants to release his taxes he can. I don't think a single voter is going to not vote on him because his taxes are not. I think people care about how his policies and how Sarah Huckabee said his tax policy will affect their lives.

COOPER: Andre, even the taxes which are not under audit currently which have already been audited, you don't think should be ...

ANDRE BAUER, TRUMP SUPPORTER: I think Kayleigh's right. I don't think voters care if he hadn't paid his taxes, and under this administration we'd know had he not paid his taxes. I think the people would ...

COOPER: But we don't know if he has actually paid taxes because maybe he doesn't have to pay.

BAUER: Well under law, what he's had to do, he's done.

COOPER: Right. Sure.

BAUER: And I think the voters are good with that. I don't think that most people care what tax bracket he's in. I think it would be great for the other side -- I think both sides use it against to extrapolate whatever information they can get and pound on the other person for it. But he would probably take more fire if he turned them over than not turning them over.

KARINE JEAN-PIERRE, NATIONAL SPOKESPERSON, MOVEON.ORG: Not true. Voters do actually care. And polling has showed that majority of voters actually care about him releasing his personal taxes. That's number one.

[21:19:59] Number two, what is he hiding? Like why not release your taxes? The last nine Republican presidential nominees have all released their taxes. So I don't understand. What is it that Donald Trump is releasing now? We know it's no longer -- 2002 to 2008 are no longer under audit.

There's a reason for him not to. He said that he would when he announced his presidential candidacy. He said that he wouldn't release those taxes. So I'm not understanding the argument now or the whole-back.

COOPER HOST: Chris, you spoke to a lot of millennial voters who have expressed dislike frankly both candidates, Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump. How much of the Birther issue on Donald Trump is kind of a lingering source of resentment among particularly millennial African- American?

CHRIS PRUDHOME, PRESIDENT, VOTE AMERICA NOW: It certainly is a definitely a lingering issue. They're extremely upset. They feel -- of course his campaign managers has said Mike Pence had both stated that it's -- he did not -- it's not correct of course that's what he said. So, basically Mr. Trump should come out and simply put the issue to bed, put it to rest.

Of course, as President Obama being the first African-American president of the United States, I've frankly talking to them think that it's unacceptable to just continue to let the issue develop and go on.

I believe it's an insult to the American people, and of course, to people watching us across the world. He needs to put it to rest. Only he can do that, not Kellyanne Conway, not Mike Pence. He has to do that himself.

COOPER: It is interesting, Kayleigh, because I mean he's -- Donald Trump line when you ask him about this, and it has been really from the beginning of this campaign is I don't talk about that anymore. But he certainly talks about it an awful lot on television. He was out front. He claimed even higher private detectives to go to Hawaii even though there's no evidence he actually did any of that. And I mean, should he come out flat and say, "Look, yes, I accept that President Obama is an American?"

MCENANY: I think it's enough that he stopped talking about it eight years ago or -- not eight years ago, excuse me, more like six years ago. But I think the fact that his answer is always I put this to rest is just fine. I don't recall ...

COOPER: He doesn't say I put it to rest. He just says I don't talk about it.

MCENANY: I don't recall Hillary Clinton when she was asked by 60 minutes about whether Barack Obama was of the Islamic faith, she said no, as far as I know. The "New York Times", the columnist came out and called it the sleaziest moment of the campaign. She was hit by "Time" magazine. She was hit by Ryan Lizza from the New Yorker.

I don't recall her ever coming out and putting that to rest despite the media on slot of criticism. I don't think Donald Trump needs to be held to a higher standard.

(CROSSTALK)

COOPER: One at a time.

PRUDHOME: We're talking about a president of the United States.

JEA-PIERRE: Yeah. That's right.

PRUDHOME: (Inaudible) separate issues.

JEA-PIERRE: Exactly.

(CROSSTALK)

COOPER: ... he should come out and say something?

REP. GREGORY MEEKS, (D) NEW YORK: Absolutely. Here's a man who started this whole campaign questioning whether or not the president of the United States was a citizen of the United States.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: That's right.

MEEKS: And he had never, ever changed ...

(CROSSTALK)

COOPER: Whoa, whoa, whoa. Let me just -- to correct the record because that is a line that a lot of, you know, Republicans have used. To say the Clinton campaign started, there were these clean senior Clinton supporters who did in an e-mail send this out. There's no evidence the campaign itself or Hillary Clinton, I mean, just for accuracy's sake.

JEAN-PIERRE: Can I just say this?

COOPER: But Donald Trump has certainly run with the ball.

PRUDHOME: No question.

COOPER: And, you know, went far -- much farther than anybody else. I mean claiming on T.V. that he was hiring detectives who were finding out fascinating ...

BAUER: He has dropped that ball now.

COOPER: Well, he's just ignoring the ball basically.

JEAN-PIERRE: Just to follow up on what the Congressman was saying here. Look, I worked for the president during that time, in 2011 when this all started, when Donald Trump actually decided to be the grand wizard of the Birther movement. He decided that. No one told him to do that. That's how he decided to introduce himself to the political, you know, to the political sphere.

And it was so insulting, as a black woman, who's working for the first African-American president, it was incredibly insulting that he had to release a long form birth certificate to prove that he was born here.

BAUER: But why?

JEAN-PIERRE: Because the ...

BAUER: If somebody asked if I was a U.S. citizen ...

JEA-PIERRE: ... guy that you support ...

BAUER: I don't have anything to hide.

JEAN-PIERRE: Because the guy that you support was leading this movement and ...

(CROSSTALK)

COOPER: Let just remind -- I just want to remind, you know, for people who say, look, this wasn't a big error. Donald Trump didn't talk about it much.

Let's just play with some of his comments about it in the past.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

TRUMP: Yeah, I would like to have him show his birth certificate. And can I be honest with you? I hope he can. Because if he can't, if he can't, and if he wasn't born in this country, which is a real possibility, he has pulled one of the great cons in the history of politics.

Why doesn't he show his birth certificate? There' something on that birth certificate.

He doesn't have a birth certificate.

His grandmother in Kenya said he was born in Kenya and she was there and witnessed the birth. I have people that actually have been studying it and they cannot believe what they're finding.

And all of a sudden, a lot of facts are emerging and I'm starting to wonder myself whether or not he was born in this country. Somebody told me and I have no idea whether this is bad for him or not. But perhaps it would be that where it says religion, it might have Muslim.

Was there a birth certificate? You tell me. Who knows about Obama? Obama ...

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: His mother was a U.S. citizen ...

TRUMP: Who knows? You know, can I tell you -- who knows?

(END VIDEO CLIP)

[21:25:02] COOPER: Tell me he's still saying -- I mean who knows this is really the last he's been on record. That's OK for you?

MCENANY: He questioned where he was born. You can ask a question of a candidate or of a politician. He did the same thing to Ted Cruz. He got the answer. He moved on. Last time I checked ...

COOPER: But in January of 2016, he's still saying who knows. I mean isn't -- if you are out in front on this, saying I've had detectives and they're finding out these incredible things, isn't it -- doesn't it, you know, doesn't a real man stand up and say, you know what, he is an American. We didn't find out anything and in fact, there is a birth certificate.

MCENANY: But we know it's what Kellyanne Conway told us. He believes the evidence now. He believes that the president was born here. And last time I checked the Gallup's top list of issues, this wasn't on it. I don't think voters frankly care about this.

MEEKS: Then he should say. Anderson?

COOPER: Congressman?

MEEKS: Then he should say it. If he believes it, he should say it. There's a pattern with Donald Trump. I'm still looking, I'm sure that everybody's still looking for those thousands of Muslims as we celebrate -- as we look at the devastation that took place on 9/11. The thousands of Muslims that were cheering during 9/11. That has not taken place.

COOPER: In Jersey City.

MEEKS: And in Jersey City. We are still waiting. He has said -- we've heard video -- we've heard video where he said that he was for the war in Iraq. He now says he wasn't. There's not any evident where he was against the war in Iraq at the beginning.

MCENANY: There's a lot of evidence.

MEEKS: We are still waiting for that. I'm still waiting for an apology. In New York City, there were five men who were on the front page of "The Daily News" and an ad taken out where he was calling them all kinds of names. They were found to be innocent. I still have not heard him to apologize for that. ] There is a practice and pattern with Donald Trump who continues to make noise that he knows is absolutely incorrect. He never apologizes about it. He leaves it out there. In fact, sometimes is who do you believe? We've heard his voice claiming that he was somebody else talking to a reporter and he still has not admitted that was him.

COOPER: It is interesting because Donald Trump has said he has regretted some things but he hasn't been specific at all. He's never publicly that I've known of said I was wrong about a particular thing. Is that something, as a leader, that concerns you at all?

MCENANY: No. I don't think he needs to go through the list of every single thing ...

COOPER: Or just one?

MCENANY: ... he felt like he misstated ...

COOPER: Ever?

MCENANY: ... or misspoke. You know, I'm looking for a lot of apologies from Hillary Clinton. I'm looking for that apology ...

COOPER: Well she said -- she said for instance the e-mail thing was wrong.

MCENANY: And then she blamed it on Colin Powell. And then in the FBI interview, she blamed it on her aide.

I'm still waiting for the apology that she perjured herself before Congress. I'm looking for the apology that she potentially obstructed justice ...

COOPER: But why does she -- I mean -- OK. So, she's got one apology on the record that we can name right now. Where's -- does he have any apology ever?

MCENANY: Here's the difference between apologies. You know, Donald Trump said I'm sorry for the mistakes I've made. We haven't ...

COOPER: He didn't say that. He said there are some things that I regret.

MCENANY: I regret some things that he said. We haven't heard him bring it up the Khans again. We haven't heard him bring up some of those things. By contrast, Hillary Clinton says she made a mistake and then continues, just like Wednesday in that forum, she continues to try to explain ....

JEAN-PIERRE: The problem is that Donald Trump is not in the business of apologizing. If he was, we he would be apologizing every day.

COOPER: We got to take a break. I want to thank everybody.

Hillary Clinton meeting with bipartisan group of foreign policy experts, taking questions from reporters with some strong words, no surprise, for Donald Trump. We'll be right back.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

[21:32:15] COOPER: Hillary Clinton says Donald Trump will make us less safe and that national security experts on both sides of the aisle are chilled by what they're hearing from him.

Clinton met today with a group of foreign policy experts. Afterwards, she spoke at a press conference and had some tough words for Trump. Brianna Keilar tonight reports

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

BRIANNA KEILAR, CNN SENIOR POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT: Tonight, Hillary Clinton is showcasing her commander-in-chief credentials, meeting with a bipartisan group of prominent national security experts.

HILLARY CLINTON, (D) PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE: I asked them to join me for a candid conversation about some of the most challenging issues facing our country.

KEILAR: Among those at the meeting, former CIA Director and retired General David Petraeus and Michael Chertoff, George W. Bush's Homeland Security secretary. After the meeting, in a carefully staged event designed to evoke a White House press conference, Clinton came to the microphone to once again blast Donald Trump.

CLINTON: This just becomes more and more of a reality television story -- show. It's not -- it's not a serious presidential campaign. And it is beyond one's imagination to have a candidate for president praising a Russian autocrat like Vladimir Putin.

KEILAR: But with North Korea's test of yet another nuclear weapon, Clinton is also in a political bind. Trump saying earlier today, it's evidence her time as secretary of state was a failure. Clinton condemned the test and said the U.S. must recalibrate its approach with North Korea.

CLINTON: We are not going to let anyone who is a treaty ally and partner of ours be threatened and we are not going to let North Korea pursue a nuclear weapon with the ballistic missile capacity to deliver it to the United States territory. That is absolutely a bottom line.

KEILAR: Clinton's running mate, Tim Kaine, is accusing Trump of showing a shocking level of disrespect for President Obama in praising Russia's president, Vladimir Putin.

TRUMP: He's been a leader far more than our president has been a leader.

TIM KAINE, (D) VICE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE: If you don't know the difference between leadership and dictatorship, then where do I start with you?

KEILAR: The Clinton campaign is out with a new ad emphasizing the importance of Democrats and Republicans working together.

CLINTON: That's how we got health care for eight million kids, rebuilt New York City after 9/11, and got the treaty, cutting Russia's nuclear arms. We got to bring people together. That's how you solve problems and that's what I'll do as president.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

KEILAR: And there are now number of photos, Anderson, out from the Clinton Library, this was not reported by Politico because they put in a federal -- they put in a four year request to receive this.

You see this. This is from 2000. You see Donald Trump, you see Melania Trump, you see a sport illustrated swim suit modeling model there, they're yanking it up.

[21:35:05] But what's most interesting is that the archive which runs the library said there are 59 images of Hillary Clinton at a 94 fund- raiser that Donald Trump attended and they're not going to release them because they are personal records. Unclear how many of those photos they're together but wouldn't we like to see those.

COOPER: Brianna Kielar. Brianna thanks very much.

More breaking news, now, the United States and Russia reached a deal for a ceasefire in Syria set to take effect at sundown on Monday. Now, Secretary of State John Kerry and Russia's Foreign Minister announced the plan in Geneva which where Senior International Diplomatic Editor Nic Robertson is tonight. He joins us now.

So, this deal -- I mean let's talk about the details. What do we know?

NIC ROBERTSON, CNN SENIOR INTERNATIONAL DIPLOMATIC EDITOR: Yeah. Well, we know that after seven days of this ceasefire and humanitarian access is successful. Then United States and Russia will begin to coordinates attacks on the old al-Qaeda affiliate Al-Nusra and on ISIS. It means that the moderate rebel groups have to separate away from Al-Nusra.

That means as well that there will be humanitarian access getting in to Aleppo City, hugely important, 300,000 people there, opposition of the government, basically, you know, almost starving.

It also means that Assad's air force is not going to be able to drop its barrel bombs, is going to have -- not be able to fly its fighter jets over proscribed areas inside Syria. We haven't heard how the details of that is going to work out.

But, you know, for all the details of this, I have a real sense of deja vu here. I mean some of the language Secretary Kerry says, you know, that Russia has the capability to pressure Assad to end the conflict and go towards a political process. We've heard this before.

COOPER: Yeah.

ROBERTSON: This was the predication for the peace deal earlier in the year and two years ago, when push comes to shove. And it's a huge push and a huge shove. Russia doesn't force Assad to that position of stepping aside for political transition. That is just one small point. There are a lot more.

COOPER: Yeah. Where is Syria in all of this? I mean, where is the government of Syria in this?

ROBERTSON: Well, according to this document, they're going to listen to Russia. But listening to Russia today through the words of Sergei Lavrov, you're going to wonder quite what you're listening to. He said part of this deal is going to expand the humanitarian effort, enhance the cessation of hostilities.

And I'm sort of standing here thinking really? Because Russia's been backing Assad on the ground to essentially thwarts the cessation of hostilities and keep the conflict going and thwart the effort to get humanitarian aid around the country.

There's another detail as well that's really interesting. This humanitarian aid in Aleppo, key part of that is the ceasefire details there, on a key road. Speaking to a source close to these talks at the beginning of the weekend, he said key for the United States was that Russia would get Assad to pull his forces back from that road. But the rebels, because they controlled the road back in February, wouldn't have to pull their guns back.

Well, guess what? Secretary Kerry today said he had agreed with what Russia had said that both sides should pull their guns back. You know what that effectively means is? That effectively means for all the stymieing and stopping the peace process by Russia and Assad, stopping the peace process over the past six months. They've gained territory on the ground. They have been rewarded for thwarting these peace efforts that Secretary Kerry is faithfully trying to push through it.

COOPER: Yeah, Nic Robertson, appreciate the reporting.

Just ahead, this week, Donald Trump seemed to be open to the idea of giving a break to undocumented **immigrants** who want to serve in the military. Welcome words extremely for veterans who are in Limbo in Mexico after being deported from United States. Take at look at that next.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

[21:42:44] COOPER: Donald Trump revealed a potentially news aspect of his **immigration** policy during the presidential forum just two nights ago. Listen.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Thank you. Do you believe that an undocumented person who serves -- who wants to serve in the U.S. Armed Forces deserves to stay in this country legally?

TRUMP: I think that when you serve in the Armed Forces, that's a very special situation and I could see myself working that out, absolutely.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

COOPER: Well, his words resonated with some veterans Kyung Lah met in Mexico. After serving in the U.S. military, they were deported and are now living in legal limbo. (BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

KYUNG LAH, CNN NATIONAL CORRESPONDENT: How many years has it taken to get to this point?

HECTOR BRAJAS, DEPORTED VETERAN: I was been deported since 2004. It's now a little bit over 10 years.

LAH: More than 10 years in Mexico to finally get into this line for a Mexican passport, the first in a very long series of steps to try and return to what he calls home. But not to Mexico, to America.

Hector Barajas has served five and a half years in the U.S. Army, honorably discharged. Life was tough after the military. Barajas was in a car when another passenger fired an illegal weapon. After a jail sentence, the country he called home since age seven, that he served as a paratrooper, where he had a family including a daughter, pulled his green card and deported him.

Is this what you thought would happen when you left the military?

BARAJAS: No, I never thought that I would be deported. And I didn't even know -- I thought **immigration** would be like for somebody like my uncle that's coming across and gets caught.

LAH: But it's not. U.S. veterans who run into legal troubles are also deported under current U.S. **immigration** laws. With Donald Trump now suggesting he'd look at undocumented military members with an open mind. It's a surprising and welcome turn for Barajas.

BARAJAS: I don't approve of what he said about Mexicans and **immigrants**, but I do approve of anybody wanting to get veterans home.

DANIEL TORRES, DEPORTED VETERAN: Will he do it? I don't know. I really don't think so.

LAH: Daniel Torres doesn't buy Trump's promise. Torres with the lance corporal in the U.S. Marines, fighting in ground combat in Iraq. He was honorably discharged.

How did the military figure out you were undocumented?

TORRES: Well after I got back from Iraq, I volunteer for one year deployment to Afghanistan.

LAH: That's when the military figured out his papers were fake.

Why did you lie to the military?

[21:44:59] TORRES: I wanted to be able to say that I have done something for the country, that I have done something, you know, to earn my place in the United States.

LAH: Lying was enough to get deported. He's pled his case in U.S. Court. And just this spring, became one of the few granted his U.S. citizenship. It's a path Barajas hopes others in his organization, the Tijuana base Deported Veterans Support House will travel.

LAH: Barajas has more than 300 deported U.S. vets in his database but according to the ACLU, there are thousands of other U.S. service men and women who could end up right here, deported out of the United States in this exact same situation.

Barajas now has new hope after years of fighting. He has a court date to argue for his citizenship. Step one, a Mexican passport.

Are you hopeful?

BARAJAS: I'm hopeful. I'm excited. I love my country. I love my daughter and I just can't wait to be home.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

LAH: And his court date is September 30th. So, we'll keep tabs on what happens there.

Now, we do know that thousands potentially could be affected by this, Anderson. What we don't know is exactly how many live in legal limbo, how many have already been deported?

We've heard the ACLU use the words countless. We know that here are at least 300 in this one border city here in Tijuana. What we don't know is exactly how many others live in this exact same situation. Anderson?

COOPER: Kyung Lah. Kyung, thanks very much.

Up next, 9/11 15 years later. Denis Leary is part of the award winning documentary that air Sunday on CNN. It's incredible documentary. We'll show you part of it and have our conversation in just a moment.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

[21:50:13] COOPER: Well, this Sunday, CNN Films presents an incredible documentary, "9/11 Fifteen Years Later". Producers captured the only known video from inside the World Trade Center during the attack.

I'm going to show you a preview though just to want to warn you some of it is tough to watch.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: It was just before 10:00, a little over an hour since the first plane hit.

Firefighters from all over the city were inside those towers, hundreds of them.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: I remember I'm filming Chief Pfeifer and he's on the radio.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

COOPER: That sickening rumbling of course was the other tower collapsing.

Denis Leary is going to introduce the film on Sunday night. I spoke to him earlier.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

COOPER: This film is so extraordinary that it really -- it takes you inside what happened through the eyes of the firefighters. Why do you think it's important for people to see it?

DENIS LEARY: I think it's a living document, right? My kids are 26 and 24 and they were very young when this happened and they were aware of it happening. But I think for them, this kind of movie becomes a forever document.

COOPER: Right. Well, it's also incredible when you think -- I mean, there's a generation of people who've grow up after that who don't have you know, who didn't live through it or who don't have a direct memory of it. And so, this kind of film, it becomes all the more important.

LEARY: Yeah, and it would have been powerful in its own right but the fact that they have footage inside one of the buildings. There are so many images in this thing that even now when I see it and I lose track of how long it's been but, you know, you -- it's still for me, is a very present memory and I live downtown so I see that building every day.

COOPER: I just remembered the days and week afterwards that sense of this extraordinary kind of bond between people in New York and remember being in a restaurant where I have getting breakfast and there were some firefighters there and everybody -- when came in, everybody stood up and applaud it. And it was just this incredible feeling like that I'd never had in New York before. I've seen it overseas in some war zones but sort of this sense of we've been attacked and people bonding together

LEARY: Yeah, it was -- I still remember that and also the streets, how the streets as we all went about whatever we had to do over the next few days after that, that was -- it was almost like a meeting ground.

COOPER: Yeah.

LEARY: Like you just go -- when you walked out of your apartment, even if you were just going to get a cup of coffee, it's all anybody talked about and also sharing stories about people who might be missing or stories that related to firefighters or police officers. So, I remember that feeling really well.

I also remember, you know, a few months later getting the finger from somebody finally and actually thinking to myself, oh, my God, you know, we're getting back to normal because it was almost like people don't understand that don't live here, what that felt like.

And also at the same time, a sense of pride about being a New Yorker and about how well we responded.

COOPER: Also the -- I mean, just you see in this film, just the extraordinary bravery of these firefighters and police officers and the first responders who, you know, I mean, they're rushing in and they're going up the stairs and all the lives that were saved as well I mean, there were the lives that were lost but thanks to them they got people out.

LEARY: That's the thing that people don't talk about enough. It's actually the most extraordinary fire service day in the history of the fire service. What those guys did that day, how many people they brought down or who were assisted down? How many people they brought out of those buildings? It's amazing. And we dwell on the people that we lost as we should.

But you think about -- and the evidence that we have, you know, certain radio interplay and stories that we have about what guys were doing that day, the last time another firefighter heard from them or saw them. It's really amazing.

COOPER: Also, at -- I mean great, not only risk, but obviously, in the aftermath of going through trying to find survivors ...

LEARY: Yeah.

COOPER: ... coming through the rubble, the wreckage, I mean, for days and days, breathing in that smoke, breathing in that toxic air and without masks, without respirators, without, you know.

[21:55:05] LEARY: Yeah. And then, you have stories like a friend of mine, Timmy Higgins, was one of guys who died that day, a firefighter and his family is all firefighters, his dad and his two brothers Joe and Bobby. So, they're looking for their brother at ground zero. As fireman I mean, that's like -- that deep.

COOPER: Do you worry that people will forget about that day?

LEARY: No, I don't. I tell you what, I avoided going to the museum and the plaza, you know to film the first day of the narration for this thing and I had to stand at the pools and deliver some narration and then go into the museum itself and --

COOPER: And that was the first time?

LEARY: First time for me, and I was very conflicted about that going down in the morning. But I have to say, the sound of the water and the waterfall and the pools made me feel calm and when I went into the museum, that, it's extraordinary. So, I think it's impossible for that to happen.

COOPER: For it to be forgotten.

LEARY: Yeah, ever. COOPER: And I certainly think a film like this is part of that remembrance as well.

LEARY: Oh, yeah, I think this is so powerful and it's a living document you know, It's -- I think forever I mean, I think the next generation of kids will watch this as well, so.

COOPER: Well, thank you so much.

LEARY: Thank you.

COOPER: Appreciate it.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

COOPER: This Sunday night, I mean, it really is an extraordinary film. I hope you watch "9/11 Fifteen Years Later".

Also Sunday, we have exclusive interview with Hillary Clinton on 9/11 terror and national security. That's Sunday morning. We'll be right back.

**NEW\_DOCUMENT\_HERE**

Anderson Cooper, Barbara Starr, Randi Kaye, Sunlen Serfaty, Jeff Zeleny, Tom Foreman, Jeffrey Lord

8302 speakers\_end

ANDERSON COOPER, CNN ANCHOR: Good evening. Thanks for joining us.

A busy Friday for both presidential campaigns. Donald Trump about to speak at a rally in Pensacola, Florida. We'll keep an eye on that.

Both he and Hillary Clinton spoke about an ominous sign that North Korea is getting better at nuclear technology, a test with massive explosive power, the equivalent of a 5.3 magnitude earthquake. We'll have more on that later in the program.

But we begin this hour with breaking news of the Trump campaign. Someone has just released his taxes. It is not Donald Trump.

CNN's Sunlen Serfaty joins us now from Pensacola.

So, Governor Pence just released his tax returns. What do they tell us and does this put any more pressure on Trump to do it?

SUNLEN SERFATY, CNN CORRESPONDENT: Yes. It absolutely does, Anderson, and Mike Pence releasing ten years of his tax returns and showing frankly, relatively modest numbers. These are not seven- figure salaries that we're talking here. The Pences in 2015, they had a tax rate of 8 percent. They earned $113,000.

And as you notice, it certainly puts the spotlight very much back on Donald Trump and his refusal to release his own tax returns and he's said that because they're under audit, but that argument has been weakened by a letter released from his tax counsel who has said that between the year 2002 and 2008, that they are not under audit anymore. So, meaning, essentially that they could be released. The Clinton campaign already picking up on this, drawing that contrast between the running mate saying that Donald Trump continues to make excuses not to release his -- Anderson.

COOPER: And Trump spoke earlier today at the Voter Value Summit in Washington. What was the message there?

SERFATY: Yes, this is a group of evangelical Christian conservatives and Donald Trump did his best to try to appeal to this group, he spoke about faith than he typically does. Here is a small part of what he had to say.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

DONALD TRUMP (R), PRESIDENTIAL NOMINEE: So, let me state this right up front. A Trump administration, our Christian heritage will be cherished, protected, defended like you've never seen before.

(CHEERS AND APPLAUSE)

Believe me.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

SERFATY: So, certainly, interesting comment there from Donald Trump and he really needs this group of evangelicals to show up in November and he admitted as such today, Anderson. He said, look, you guys could determine the election.

COOPER: He also continues to face some backlash in some quarters in his comments about Vladimir Putin and this that aired on Russian state television. Has he or the campaign responded?

SERFATY: Yes, this is really interesting. The Trump campaign is continuing to downplay how that -- the meaning and how that interview ended up airing on Russian television. They said this was a favor that Trump did for the interviewer Larry King and that they had no control where his podcast would end up and they did not even know or were aware that that's where it would end up.

But certainly the substance is raising eyebrows as well as you said, especially given the praise that he had of Russian President Vladimir Putin this week. Trump in the interview downplaying concerns about Russia meddling in the U.S. elections and really dismissing all of the reports that Russia had potentially some involvement in the DNC hack that was so notable just a few weeks ago -- Anderson.

COOPER: All right. Sunlen, thanks very much.

Now to the Clinton campaign and strong words from the candidate about what she calls the most important election in her lifetime. Hillary Clinton met today with the bipartisan group of foreign policy experts in New York and took questions from reporters.

Our senior Washington correspondent Jeff Zeleny joins us now with the latest. So, what did she have to say?

JEFF ZELENY, CNN SENIOR WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT: Well, Anderson, the presidential campaign, it was a domestic one rooted in the economy, suddenly is a global one and that was front and center today when she convened a meeting of national security experts from both sides of the aisle, a lot of familiar faces there from the George W. Bush administration, as well.

But she had some news on North Korea. She said it is time for a rethinking of the strategy, trying to distance herself a bit from the Obama administration. She said it was time to pressure China more. She said the U.S. has more leverage than some people might realize and it's also time she said for more sanctions on North Korea.

But she also focused her time, Anderson, on that interview that we've been talking about on state television in Russia that Donald Trump gave. She was asked about that and she was walking away from the podium, she came back to answer the question and this is what she said.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

REPORTER: Secretary Clinton, do you have a response on Donald Trump appearing on Russian-funded television?

(LAUGHTER)

HILLARY CLINTON (D), PRESIDENTIAL NOMINEE: Every day that goes by, this just becomes more and more of a reality television show.

[20:05:08] It's not a serious presidential campaign. And it is beyond one's imagination to have a candidate for president praising a Russian autocrat like Vladimir Putin, and throwing his lot in with him in the way that he has approved of his wish list and not even really understanding what Putin has already done like invading and occupying Crimea.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

ZELENY: So, clearly using that answer as another avenue for her to question Donald Trump's judgment. Anderson, she's been doing it all week long as they've been having a running audition for who would be the better commander-in-chief here, with the national security suddenly front and center in this race, with some 60 days to go before Election Day.

COOPER: And, Jeff, it's interesting. I mean, Secretary Clinton there again taking questions. It seems like she's taking more questions this week than she has over the last year, certainly.

ZELENY: Anderson, you're right. By our tally, that is certainly true. She did it today in New York, yesterday in front of her campaign plane, and the two days before that, as well.

And when you ask her advisers why that is, they believe this is a new moment, but they also know this race is tighter than they had hoped it would be and they believe that it is time for her to be on offense. And if she is answering some of these questions, yes, the criticism that came up in the month of August about how she's sort of hiding and gone away, and it also gives her an opportunity to prosecute her case against Donald Trump, again, focusing on everything he says.

So one adviser tells me that she's going to now try and do a rebuttal for virtually everything he says going forward. She's also trying to do a bit more of a positive message on her own. We're going to see speeches next week on the economy and national service and other things.

But in this, by taking questions, you saw her walking back. She wants to engage in Donald Trump. She's trying to keep those voters who have skepticism about him skeptical and she believes that by engaging now, it's the best way to do it. Perhaps she wishes she would have done it before, but now she certainly is -- Anderson.

COOPER: All right. Jeff, thanks very much.

It's been a question that's been lingering for months and one just you heard Sunlen Serfaty talk about is Russia behind cyber attacks on the Democratic Party, in the election registration websites? It depends, of course, on who you ask.

As we mentioned in an interview that aired on Russian-backed television, Donald Trump said he thinks it's probably unlikely that the Russia is involved.

But CNN has learned FBI and Justice Department officials there is strong evidence that Russia is responsible, that's according to law enforcement and intelligence officials.

Now, as we mentioned, Trump said this a few days ago that Putin is a stronger leader than President Obama and Trump's running mate is rallying behind that sentiment.

He said this to our Dana Bash.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

GOV. MIKE PENCE (R), VICE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE: I think it's inarguable that Vladimir Putin has been a stronger leader in his country than Barack Obama has been in this country, and that's going to change the day that Donald Trump becomes president of the United States of America.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

COOPER: Whatever you make of Donald Trump, hard to get a handle on his comments on Vladimir Putin. He's given praise publicly and it seems to be reciprocated.

Tom Foreman tonight reports.

(BEGIN VIDEOTAPE)

TOM FOREMAN, CNN CORRESPONDENT (voice-over): Even as the Russian- staged military exercises in Crimea on land it annexed despite international outrage, Vladimir Putin is basking in praise from an American presidential contender.

TRUMP: He is very much of a leader.

FOREMAN: Donald Trump's most recent compliments came on NBC's Commander-in-Chief Forum.

TRUMP: Now, it's a very different system and I don't happen to like the system, but certainly in that system, he's been a leader. FOREMAN: The Trump-Putin bromance has been brewing for months. Trump admiring Putin's military moves in Syria in support of the Assad regime which the U.S. opposes.

TRUMP: And he frankly wants to fight ISIS and I think that's a wonderful thing.

FOREMAN: Trump seemingly inviting Russian hackers to go after his Democratic opponent, Hillary Clinton.

TRUMP: Russia, if you're listening, I hope you're able to find the 30,000 e-mails that are missing.

FOREMAN: Trump and his running mate, Governor Mike Pence, both praised Putin's, quote, "strength", but to some that strength looks awfully close to authoritarianism. Putin has cracked down on gays and lesbians in Russia, outlawing so-called gay propaganda, Russia says, to protect children.

Despite that, Trump cites Putin's popularity.

TRUMP: Well, he does have an 82 percent approval rating.

FOREMAN: That number came from Russia's only independent polling company which Putin just shut down ahead of looming elections. And as to the dismal state of Russian journalism, with dozens of reporters killed in mysterious circumstances under Putin's reign --

TRUMP: I'm totally against that, but I do hate them.

FOREMAN: Putin speaks well of Trump, too, saying he is a brilliant and talented person.

[20:10:02] And despite all the controversy, Trump appears pleased.

TRUMP: When he calls me brilliant, I'll take the compliment, OK? The fact is, look, it's not going to get him anywhere.

(END VIDEOTAPE)

FOREMAN: But that is the question. Would Trump's admiration for Putin give Moscow too much sway in Washington? Critics fear it certainly would and maybe already has.

While Trump says he is opening up new channels of communication with an old adversary from which everyone can benefit -- Anderson.

COOPER: Tom, thanks very much.

Joining me to discuss it all, CNN political commentator and Trump supporter Jeffrey Lord, former CNN Moscow bureau chief, Jill Dougherty, who is a global fellow at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, and Tony Schwartz, who is the ghost writer for Donald Trump's "Art of the Deal" and supports Hillary Clinton.

Jill, do you believe that Vladimir Putin is playing Donald Trump or at least attempting to play him?

JILL DOUGHERTY, FORMER CNN MOSCOW BUREAU CHIEF: You know, Anderson, I think he understands him pretty well. After all, remember, when Vladimir Putin was a KGB agent, part of his job was to recruit other people to really understand, to get them to understand him immediately and then, sometimes, you know, maneuver, play with them, play to them.

And so these comments like Donald Trump is bright, you know, interpreted as brilliant. It actually meant kind of flashy and colorful, these are all meant, I think, to, you know, set up Donald Trump, to believe that the relationship can be good, but I think that Putin understands Trump a lot better than Trump understands Putin.

COOPER: So was that actually a translation mistake that it wasn't calling him brilliant? It was saying, the word was actually bright as in flashy?

DOUGHERTY: Oh, totally. Oh, yes, the word in Russian is yarkiy. And yarkiy means bright, but it's kind of like the lights were bright. It's not intelligent. It has nothing to do with intelligence.

It's kind of like, oh, he's a colorful character. I mean, that's the best way I would translate it.

COOPER: Tony, what is it that you think about Donald Trump's personal they makes him respond to Putin like this?

TONY SCHWARTZ, HILLARY CLINTON SUPPORTER: Well, he is at heart a deeply, deeply insecure man and he is a sucker for flattery, and he is -- he reveres -- and let's not kid ourselves -- he reveres authoritarians because he dreams of being one.

COOPER: Jeffrey, do you think there's any truth in that?

JEFFREY LORD, CNN POLITICAL COMMENTATOR: No. I don't. The other thing I find absolutely amazing, Anderson, Mollie Hemingway had a great piece today noting four years ago when Mitt Romney said that Russia and Putin were a geopolitical threat, President Obama mocked him and said the '80s are calling. They want their foreign policy back.

You know, President Reagan had a very tough relationship with the Soviets, but he was the first to go on Soviet television in 1986 and address the Russian people. I mean, I just find a lot of this silly.

SCHWARTZ: Oh, come on.

LORD: Very political.

SCHWARTZ: Let me just say this to Jeffrey. You don't know Donald Trump very well. How much time have you spent with him? I lived with him day and night for 18 months. I know this man.

Here was one of his favorite phrases. "I love that guy. He's a killer. He's a killer." You don't know him. You -- anybody who does know him well knows who Donald Trump is, and no one who knows him well would doubt that to be a dictator and to be able to control everything would be his dream come true.

COOPER: Jeffrey, there have been some Republicans who have been concerned, particularly early on of some of Trump's staples sounding like doing things by executive fiat at the very least.

LORD: Well, you mean like President Obama who says he has a phone and a pen? I mean, this kind of stuff has been going on -- if you want to go down that direction, that's what the entire Obama administration has been about.

SCHWARTZ: Jeffrey, why don't you talk about your own guy? Why don't you talk about your own guy? Stop talking about Obama? What about Donald Trump? This is a man who wants to be a dictator.

LORD: Tony --

COOPER: Let him answer.

LORD: I am trying to answer Anderson's question and I am saying we've already seen hints of this with President Obama. Heavens, there have been articles out there for years that he's a wannabe fascist, for heaven's sakes.

You know, I just think his is ridiculous. Donald Trump, of course, has talked about how you need to work with Congress and not sign executive orders and run the government by executive order. He's talked about working with Congress.

COOPER: He has said also --

LORD: There is a constitution out there, Tony, whether Barack Obama and my Democratic friends want to recognize it or not.

SCHWARTZ: I'm not sure what Donald Trump knows what the Constitution says. I can tell you this, he's never read it because he doesn't read anything, as you know. He's not a person who reads. So the notion --

LORD: Tony?

SCHWARTZ: Yes?

LORD: Tony, let me just suggest something to you, when Franklin Roosevelt was elected president the people who knew him best who went to school with him and voted against him said one classmate wrote, "I can't understand all this fuss about Frank." In other words, they didn't get it.

The American people saw something in Franklin Roosevelt that the people who knew him best didn't get. I would suggest we've got the same --

SCHWARTZ: Jeffrey, you don't know this candidate so you're making statements based -- you don't know him personally, do you? You've spent almost no time with him.

LORD: Tony, I haven't spent nine years with him? No. Is that what you're asking? Do I know him? I certainly know him.

More to the point, Tony, this is about the American people's judgment of Donald Trump and they're in the process of making it. The Republican Party, millions of voters nominated him for president.

SCHWARTZ: Here's what I would say.

LORD: Case closed.

SCHWARTZ: Here's what I would say, Jeffrey, do the American people want someone who has already said he wants to abridge free speech abrogated?

(CROSSTALK)

SCHWARTZ: Stop with you mean like this or that? That's so silly. That's ridiculous. Talk about this man. What we're being asked to do.

LORD: Tony, the basis of this is that you're a liberal and you don't like the guy's politics.

SCHWARTZ: It has nothing --

LORD: Let's be honest about it.

SCHWARTZ: It has nothing to do with that. I don't like his character. I stood with this man --

LORD: OK, don't vote for him.

SCHWARTZ: Of course, I'm not, but I'm here to tell America that he is not the person who they think he is. If they want a dictator, if they want a person who does the kinds of things Putin does they should vote for Donald Trump. I'm encouraging people who want a dictator to vote Donald Trump. Everybody else should not.

COOPER: We're going to continue this conversation in just a moment. We're also keeping an eye on Pensacola, Florida, where Trump is speaking at a rally tonight that's getting under way.

Also ahead, the U.N. Security Council calling an emergency meeting after North Korea claims a successful test of a nuclear warhead that could be mounted on ballistic rockets. What we know about it when we continue.

TRUMP: We're going to bring back common sense. We are going to bring back something that the country has not had in a long, long time. We are going to start winning again.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

[20:20:52] TRUMP: For all Americans, Democrats, Republicans, independents, conservatives, liberals, even liberals who failed us in this corrupt, corrupt system, we are fighting --

COOPER: Donald Trump speaking live to supporters in Pensacola, Florida. We are keeping an eye on that, seeing if he brings up the back and forth about Russia and Vladimir Putin. We've been talking about it. As we reported, Hillary Clinton today joining in the chorus of voices, singing and kind of incredulous that Donald Trump has been praising Putin.

With me again is Trump supporter, Jeffrey Lord, former CNN Moscow bureau Jill Dougherty, and Tony Schwartz, who is the ghost writer for Trump's "Art of the Deal."

Jill, let me ask you, how are Donald Trump's comments about Putin actually playing in Russia?

DOUGHERTY: Oh, they're all over the map. I mean, they are ecstatic and I would have to say the coverage of what Donald Trump says actually, the things that come out of his mouth are -- play very well with what the Kremlin says, and so they don't even have to bring up their own propaganda or media strategy or whatever.

They just use the quotes by Trump and then it plays very well. NATO is weak. Obama's a wimp. We should let Russia have influence in where it wants to. You know, things that ultimately are what Vladimir Putin wants, but they're coming out of Donald Trump's mouth.

I mean, I remember an old phrase in the Soviet days, it was called a useful idiot. (SPEAKING RUSSIAN). Useful idiot, and they are people who mouthed what somebody else is saying, let's say the leader of another country or whatever, not knowing what they're actually saying, what the result of what they are saying is.

So, these are parroted back and accepted by the Kremlin and used in their media to great success. I mean, Donald Trump has become just a very popular guy because he says exactly what Putin himself says.

COOPER: Jeffrey, you talk about Ronald Reagan a lot who confronted the Soviet Union time and time again, not just directly and with his words, but on the growth fund all around the world. That was U.S. foreign policy.

And Donald Trump, I mean, seems to be embracing Vladimir Putin and seems to -- his claim that he had a relationship with Vladimir Putin and under questioning of George Stephanopoulos became clear and he's never actually met Vladimir Putin, he's never actually talked to him on the phone, just by saying that they had a relationship and then, he asked, you know, how do you define a relationship?

Do you -- I mean, I don't -- I'm not sure I see the comparison to Reagan in that have you heard Donald Trump in any way sort of talk tough to Vladimir Putin?

LORD: Well, I -- I think -- I mean -- I've heard him talk repeatedly about peace through strength which is exactly Ronald Reagan's mantra, and let's remember that all of my liberal friends of the day of the 1980s were criticizing Ronald Reagan for not talking to Soviet leaders. He used to joke, well, they keep dying on me. He never got together with a leader of the Soviet Union until he was in office five years.

So, yes, he was very tough on him when he needed to be, but he was also very open to a relationship with Mikhail Gorbachev.

COOPER: But you never really heard Ronald Reagan praising how authoritarian or how tough the leaders of the Soviet Union were. I mean, they were certainly tough leaders you could say --

LORD: Well, I mean, this business about leadership, Anderson, leadership is an interesting term. I mean, there are some pretty bad people in history who were, quote/unquote, "leaders". They took their countries and the world in the wrong direction, but they certainly led them there.

COOPER: Why praise that form of leadership? That's what I don't understand.

LORD: I don't think he is praising it.

SCHWARTZ: Well, he has praised him.

LORD: I think he's simply saying that the Russian people see him as a leader.

[20:25:00] I mean, he is a leader.

(CROSSTALK)

COOPER: Tony, go ahead.

SCHWARTZ: Yes, he says he sees him as a leader. He admires him. He's the one that thinks it's really, really important that he has high approval ratings, 82 percent approval.

Well, guess what? If your life is at risk when you say that you don't approve, you're going to approve. There seems to be no understanding on Trump's part that we are talking about a despot and dictator.

LORD: Whoa, whoa, Tony, let me ask you this -- let me ask you this, if this was the case then why was poor Mitt Romney mocked for saying these very same things that you're trying to say in 2012.

SCHWARTZ: Mocked for what?

LORD: I mean, Mitt Romney made this case, and he was mocked by President Obama, by the Democratic Party, by "The New York Times." they said oh, you know, that's just old stuff. This is a new era.

So, you're saying the Obama administration has failed in its foreign policy.

SCHWARTZ: You know what? I'm not a political commentator. I am an observer of a man, of a particular man whose judgment and character I have come to -- came to understand very, very deeply. And what I know about Donald Trump is that he likes tough guys, authoritarians, dictators, despots because that's what he aspires to. That's what I'm talking about. I'm talking about a character issue here, and that's a terrifying thought for every American including those who support Trump right now that the guy they support, when he takes office will use every possible means to consolidate his power so that he can make decisions.

Jeffrey, as you know -- as you know, he has made the statement I -- "only I can solve the problems." That's the statement of a singularly self-absorbed thinker.

COOPER: Jeffrey, I want you to respond ask then we've got to go.

LORD: Ii just think, Tony, with all due respect. That's silly. You oppose him politically, I understand that.

But the American people on the Republican side have come to their own conclusion about Donald Trump. They've made it. It's done. He's the nominee of the Republican Party.

SCHWARTZ: It's done?

LORD: And a lot of people want to vote for him.

COOPER: We'll see what happens some 60 days from now.

Jeffrey Lord, thank you. Tony Schwartz, good to have you on, and Jill Dougherty, as well.

LORD: Thanks, Anderson. Thank you, Tony.

SCHWARTZ: Thank you, Jeffrey, Jill.

COOPER: Well, much more ahead, including North Korea's nuclear test, the underground blast was equal to a magnitude 5.3 earthquake. Why this blast was creating a lot more worry than the previous four have.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

[20:31:36] ANDERSON COOPER, CNN AC360 ANCHOR: As we said at the top of the broadcast North Korea conducted another underground nuclear test possibly twice as powerful as its last one. It happened overnight. Reaction from world leaders was swift and harsh. The U.S. presidential candidates also weighed in.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

HILLARY CLINTON, (D) PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDTE: I think it's clear that the increasing threat posed by North Korea requires not only a rethinking of the strategy, but an urgent effort to convince the neighbors, most particularly China that was not just a U.S. issue.

DONALD TRUMP, (R) PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE: It was announced that North Korea performed its fifth nuclear test, its fourth since Hillary Clinton became secretary of state. It's just one more massive failure from a failed secretary of state.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

COOPER: North Korea conducted the test on the 68th anniversary and the founding of the government and just hours after President Obama wrapped up the final Asian tour of his presidency. Barbara Starr tonight has the latest.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

BARBARA STARR, CNN PENTAGON CORRESPONDENT: North Korean state TV announcing the nation's fifth nuclear test, the second test this year potentially it's most powerful yet. The regime claims it tested a nuclear warhead that could be tested on a missile that could some day hit the U.S.

SEC. ASHTON CARTER, DEFENSE SECRETARY: The international community, United Nations Security Council and especially the other six-party powers must hold North Korea accountable for this latest act and heighten the pressure on North Korea.

STARR: A U.S. official tells CNN, North Korea has embarked on a rapidly developing and increasingly successful nuclear and missile test program, this time more than just worldwide condemnation.

In Tokyo, patriot missiles continue to sit outside the Japanese Defense Ministry ready to shoot down any possible North Korean missile. The South Korean government immediately gathered as South Korea's president Park called Kim Jong-un's regime, "fanatically reckless".

KIM HONG-KYUN, SOUTH KOREA SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE (Through Translation): This is a significant threat to world peace and security, and puts the Korean peninsula into a security crisis.

STARR: President Obama issuing an unusual long statement calling it a "grave threat" and with a very precise warning to Kim Jong-un that the U.S. maintains "the commitment to provide extended deterrents guaranteed by the full spectrum of U.S. defense capabilities."

That full spectrum language is reminding Kim that the U.S has its own nuclear weapons to protect Japan and South Korea. The test comes amid increasing numbers of successful missile tests, meaning if North Korea did successfully test a nuclear warhead the regime is now on the path to a nuclear attack capability.

BRUCE KINGNER, HERITAGE FOUNDATION: They clearly have a nuclear weapon. It's just a question of how many missiles they've been able to make it to.

STARR: President Obama says the world will not accept a nuclear North Korea, but even as the United Nations met to discuss potential new sanction, there is no agreement on what would stop Kim short of military attack.

The Pentagon may decide to send ships and aircraft to the region as a symbolic show of force, but the sheer size of this latest nuclear test has unsettled governments around the world.

[20:35:08] KINGNER: Another nuclear test by North Korea is worrisome and quite dangerous. Some experts are saying that it could have been 10 to 20 kilotons. That's significantly larger than previous nuclear tests.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

COOPER: Barbara Starr joins me now, along with Gordon Chang the author of "Nuclear Showdown: North Korea Takes On The World", he's also a columnist for the "Daily Beast".

Barbara you talked about the idea of sort of a symbolically sending ships. Any idea of how soon that could happen and what sort of, I mean impact of any that actually?

STARR: Well, sources are telling me that, you know, that kind of discussion is always going on. When it comes to North Korea, there's always options on the table. If they do this, what does the U.S. do in response? So they're always ready for that sort of thing.

There are a number of ships in the aircraft that are maintained out in the far pacific routinely. But now with this, the discussion inside the administration is do you in fact make a show of force. Or is he so unpredictable right now, Kim Jong-un, it's better to see if he can get the Chinese in to then they'll talk to him. Or try something on diplomatic fund. It's just very uncertain.

COOPER: Gordon, the former U.S. ambassador to South Korea, our Christopher Hill was on CNN today. And he was talking about that saying that the U.S. should look at the nuclear program in North Korea and, "What direct means we can take to either slow it down or kill it".

Which was a very strong language. How likely -- you know, what are the options?

GORDON CHANG, AUTHOR OF "NUCLEAR SHOWDOWN: NORTH KOREA TAKES THE WORLD": You know, that was an extraordinary interview because Chris Hill was very much a dove when he was in the Bush Administration and for him to talk or at least to affirm military options really are striking.

You know, I don't know if there's really a military option on the table at this point. But there are so many things that we can do short of that. So, for instance, we haven't been enforcing sanctions.

The administration has no secondary sanctions on China. And will you need to impose costs on Beijing because that's the really the only way that you can get them to be cooperative on North Korea.

COOPER: And why doesn't Gordon -- and why doesn't Beijing see this as -- as their problem, as well? I think -- I mean a nuclear North Korea?

CHANG: Well Xi Jinping, the Chinese's ruler, views the U.S. as his primary strategic adversary across the board. So he's not going to help the United States on anything even if it's in China's interest. And besides, you know, every time North Korea acts up we run to Beijing, we ask for help.

You know, it gives us another reason to be cooperative with China. It distracts us from things we want to do in the region and certainly it keeps us off balance. So you know, if -- you know, North Korea didn't exist, China would have to invent it. It's that beneficial for them.

COOPER: Barbara, Hillary Clinton saying that we actually have more leverage with the Chinese than we think.

STARR: Well, I think I agree with Gordon. I think everything we're hearing in Washington from government officials is they at least hope so. I mean there isn't really an option because if you're going to go the other way. If you really, you know, went the awful route of military action against the regime. You know, what would happen?

The thinking is that Kim does not really want to attack the United States. Because he knows retaliation would be massive. He knows he and his regime would be obliterated. So that's part of the message that the administration is certainly sending. So that the alternative is diplomacy, working with the Chinese, incentivizing the Chinese, how do you get them off dead center right now?

And I think Gordon would agree, one of the big unanswered questions, is it possible that the Chinese are actually helping them a bit with this ...

COOPER: Is a, how in control is Kim Jong-un and how much of a rational actor is he? I mean a -- you know is one thing off. He doesn't want his own regime to be eliminated but that implies that he is rational in his thought process. In the way he views himself and his regime.

CHANG: Well I think that he's rational but I also don't think he has a firm grip on power as most people think he does. You know, the U.S. intelligence community said that he quickly consolidated his grip after the death of his father in December 2011. But we've seen so many executions of senior officials and now high-level defections that neither regime right now is fluid and because of that, Kim Jong-un has a very different risk calculation than we do. He views the world in much different terms and so therefore, you know, what we think he should do -- he's doesn't look at it that way.

COOPER: Interesting. Gordon Chang, thank you so much and Barbara Starr, as well, thank you so much.

More breaking news tonight. But on another foreign policy front. The United States and Russia have reached a deal on the cease-fire in Syria. Secretary of States, John Kerry and the Russia's Foreign Minister announced the multi-step plan in Geneva. The pack calls for the Syrian Government and the opposition to respect in nationwide cease-fire starting at sundown on Monday. If that truce holds for seven days and humanitarian aid can get in, the U.S. has agreed to begin coordinated air strikes with Russia against a greed terrorist targets in Syria.

Just ahead, back to the campaign trail here at home where newly released photos show how Chummy Bill Clinton once was with Donald Trump and his then girlfriend Melania. That was back in 2000, now she could be obvious of there person -- the next first lady.

[20:40:05] Many questions are being asked about why she's keeping such a low profile since the Republican convention when it's crunch time for her husband?

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

COOPER: More proof tonight that the long and winding history that the Trumps and Clintons share is certainly complicated. The Clinton Presidential Library has released almost two dozen photos of Donald Trump socializing with Bill Clinton in 2000 at the U.S. Open Tournament with Trump's then-girlfriend Melania and sports illustrated swimsuit model Kylie Backs. They look like they're having a pretty good time.

Other photos taken at a political fund-raiser at Trump Tower. Of course a lot has changed since them to put it mildly. The Trumps and Clintons aren't exactly hanging out these days, trading verbal punches is more like it. Except for Melania Trump who hasn't been seen much in public since July.

Randi Kaye tonight reports.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

MELANIA TRUMP, DONALD TRUMP'S WIFE: My parents impressed on me the values that you work hard for what you want in life.

RANDI KAYE, CNN CORRESPONDENT: That was the last time Melania Trump said anything on the national stage, July 18th at the Republican National Convention in Cleveland. Why the silence since? Perhaps it has something to do with the blowback after her convention speech. Part of it had been plagiarized from Michelle Obama's 2008 convention speech.

[20:45:08] MICHELLE OBAMA, FIRST LADY OF UNITED STATES: The only limit to the height of your achievements is the reach of your dreams and your willingness to work hard for them.

M. TRUMP: The only limit to your achievements is the strength of your dreams and your willingness to work for them.

KAYE: The Trump campaign denied she copied a word. Instead, a Trump staff writer said it was all her mistake, and with that, Mrs. Trump quietly disappeared from the public eye. She hadn't even been seen on the campaign trail in nearly two months until this week in Philadelphia when she attended her husband's national security speech.

Has Melania Trump just been busy at home caring for the couple's young son Baron or is there something more going on here? After all, she's come under scrutiny for more than just her convention speech. Her website was taken down after it came to like that there was actually no record of her earning a college degree even though her website claimed she did.

And what about her path to citizenship? That, too, became an issue after the "New York Post" published nude photos of Melania Trump taken in the United States in 1995, but she told CNN she came to the U.S. as a Slovenian **immigrant** in 1996. Even with her husband's central issue being illegal **immigration**, no one from the Trump campaign has provided any record of how Melania Trump obtained legal status here.

In an interview earlier this year, Melania told Anderson Cooper she obeyed the law.

M. TRUMP: I came here on visa. I flew to Slovenia every few months to stamp it, and came back. I applied for green card and then after few years for citizenship.

KAYE: That only adds to the confusion though. Since the proper visa Melania Trump would have needed to work legally in the U.S. as a model would not have required a stamp every few months. In fact, it wouldn't require a renewal for at least three years. Melania recently took to Twitter to in her words set the record straight. Writing she has been at all times in full compliance with the **immigration** laws of this country. Mr. Trump addressed the issue last month.

D. TRUMP: By the way they said my wife Melania might have come in illegally. Can you believe that one? Let me tell you one thing, she has got it so documented.

KAYE: At that time, Donald Trump promised his wife would address the **immigration** controversy in a news conference, but one month later and still no date has been set. With just two months until the election, it's usually all hands on deck including spouses, though nothing indicates Melania Trump will be returning to the trail any time soon.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

COOPER: And Randi joins me now. I mean given that we're 60 days or so before this election I would find it highly surprising if they decided to have a news conference about, you know, Melania Trump's **immigration** issue.

KAYE: Yes, I think you're probably right. I mean he -- Donald Trump had promised it would happen. He mentioned this in the news conference and he said that she would address her legal status and her path to **immigration** here in the U.S. but that was a month ago today, Anderson. We haven't heard another word about it. So of course that's not surprising.

But he also said look, let it simmer and let's sit on it for a little bit. He seemed to be, you know, enjoying all he reporters' questions about it. But as you said, it's a month away, it's unclear -- two months away for the elections and its unclear if that news conference will happen before then. Then clear is she'll hit the campaign trail again. Before then, but this is a critical time but also as you know, she's always been the reluctant campaigner staying home with the son Baron. So she seems to just be sitting it out this point.

COOPER: All right, Randi Kaye. Randi thanks very much.

Up next what second graders think of the presidential race. They're not old enough of course to vote but they sure do have some opinions on the candidates and what the winner should do. You may wish one of these kids was on the ballot, their thoughts when we come back.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

[20:52:37] D. TRUMP: ... United States do something that was great and you put your chest out and you said that's great. When does it happen?

(END VIDEO CLIP)

COOPER: Donald Trump speaking to supporters in Pennsville, Florida right now, his second campaign stop today. He and Hillary Clinton just about everywhere, just about everyone seems engaged in this election, even kids. They are watching and as only kids can do, absorbing it all, and forming their own opinions.

Gary Tuchman spoke to a group of youngsters who weren't shy about sharing their thoughts on the presidential candidates. Take a look.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: When I point to it we can read it together.

GARY TUCHMAN: This is a two-room schoolhouse in Corolla, North Carolina, one of the smallest public schools in the state. The Water's Edge Village School.

And this is the whole second grade class. Nice to see you. Do you know that we are electing a president of the United States in this country right now?

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Yes.

TUCHMAN: You do? Do you know who's running for president?

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton.

TUCHMAN: And who's Barack Obama, by the way?

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Barack Obama is the president right now.

TUCHMAN: So why isn't he running?

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Because he already had two times.

TUCHMAN: How old do you have to be to vote? Do you know? UNIDENTIFIED MALE: You have to be 18 or up.

TUCHMAN: 18 or up. Are any of you 18?

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: No.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: No.

TUCHMAN: Oh I mean, how old are you?

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: 7.

TUCHMAN: 7.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: 7.

TUCHMAN: 7.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: 7.

TUCHMAN: 7.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: 7.

TUCHMAN: 7.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: 7.

TUCHMAN: 7.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: 6.

TUCHMAN: 6. Well 7 is the lucky number at this table. Have you heard anything on T.V. about Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump?

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Yeah.

TUCHMAN: Do you know they yell a lot?

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Yeah.

TUCHMAN: You do know they yell a lot at each other?

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Yeah.

TUCHMAN: Why are they yelling at each other, Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump?

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Because they're mad.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Because they don't want the other person to win.

TUCHMAN: What do you think Donald Trump does for a living?

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Building. TUCHMAN: Buildings, right. He made a lot of his money building buildings, like big buildings well-known buildings. And you know what, he says he has billions of dollars. Isn't that amazing? Do you know how much a billion is?

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Yes.

TUCHMAN: A billion is a thousand million.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Yeah.

TUCHMAN: What would you do with that much money, with billion dollars?

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Buy a Bugatti Veyron.

TUCHMAN: Buy a what?

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Bugatti Veyron.

TUCHMAN: A Bugatti, is that a car?

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Yes, Bugatti Veyron.

TUCHMAN: I don't even know what that is.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: It's the fastest car in the world.

TUCHMAN: So do you think it's time for the United States to have a lady president?

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Yes.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Yeah.

TUCHMAN: You do?

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Yes.

[20:55:00] TUCHMAN: I mean I'm not going to ask if you think Hillary Clinton should be that lady or not, but do you think that's an important thing for the United States to have a lady president?

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Yeah.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Yes.

TUCHMAN: Do you think it's an important thing for the United States to have a kid president?

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: No.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: No.

TUCHMAN: No? Like maybe someone who's 7 years old in second grade.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: No.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: No.

TUCHMAN: What's wrong with that?

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: You don't know how to do it.

TUCHMAN: Do you know who Hillary Clinton's husband is?

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Yes.

TUCHMAN: Who's Hillary Clinton's husband?

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Wasn't he one of the presidents?

TUCHMAN: He was one of the presidents. His name is Bill Clinton. So if Hillary Clinton would win, Bill Clinton would be the husband of the president, that's kind of unusual, right?

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Yeah.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Yeah.

TUCHMAN: What would be the best thing to do if you were president?

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Keep the laws how they are.

TUCHMAN: Keep the -- so you're happy with the laws?

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Yeah.

TUCHMAN: OK. What if we didn't have a president? What if we just all made our own decisions? Would that be a good thing or bad thing?

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Bad thing.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Bad thing.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Bad thing.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Bad thing.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Bad thing.

TUCHMAN: Bad thing, why do you think that would be a bad thing?

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Because it would start out really crazy and terrible and we would have car crashes.

TUCHMAN: We'd have car crashes. If Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump were sitting on this bench with me, what would you say to them?

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: I would say -- well, actually I would faint.

TUCHMAN: You would faint? That's an honest answer. It's been great meeting all of you. And I hope that Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton come to your school some day so they can hear from some smart kids. So thank you very much.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: You're welcome.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: You're welcome.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: You're welcome.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: You're welcome.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: You're welcome.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: You're welcome.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

COOPER: Smart kids indeed. A program note, this Sunday at 9:00 a.m. eastern, don't miss the CNN exclusive interview with Hillary Clinton on the 15th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks. Terror and national security will be the focus, that's Sunday 9:00 a.m. at noon eastern.

Still to come in the next hour of "360". Donald Trump campaigning in Florida, key battleground state. He continues to come under fire for praising Russia's President Vladimir Putin. I'll ask one of his senior advisers about that and much more.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

D. TRUMP: ... very, very high price, for our country and for the world. Her policies ...

(END VIDEO CLIP)

**NEW\_DOCUMENT\_HERE**

Anderson Cooper, Sara Murray, Kayleigh McEnany, Joe Johns, Charles Williams, Mark Hertling, Amanda Carpenter, Christine Quinn, Stuart Stevens, Gary Tuchman, David Axelrod, Randi Kaye

8437 speakers\_end

[21:02:18] ANDERSON COOPER, CNN ANCHOR: Thanks for joining us for the second hour of "360". If you thought you heard it all in this election, one candidate says Vladimir Putin is more of a leader than the sitting president of the United States. And the head of the RNC is criticizing the other candidate, the first woman nominated by a major party because he thinks she didn't smile enough last night.

May I remind you, there are still two months to go. The first debate just a few weeks away. We've got the latest from both campaigns tonight after a series of comments from Donald Trump at the NBC Forum last night. Sara Murray joins us now.

So Trump spent a lot of today defending what he said, explaining what he said in the forum last night.

SARA MURRAY, CNN POLITICAL REPORTER: That's right. He did go after Hillary Clinton. He took another opportunity to take a couple shots at her for her use of a private e-mail server but he launched into a very lengthy defense today of his view of the war in Iraq. He again restated that he was opposed to the war before it began and this went on for quite awhile. But I want to play just a portion of it for you.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

DONALD TRUMP, (R) PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE: Before the war, much closer to the war, I gave statements that we shouldn't go in and shortly thereafter, immediately thereafter, and honestly, a lot of reporters said hey, right at the beginning, he made this statement. And that statement was a very major story in Esquire Magazine.

So I just wanted to set the record straight. There is so much lying going on. And Hillary Clinton lied last night about numerous things, including her e-mail but she also lied about this.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

MURRAY: Now, Trump has made a habit of making this claim but in reality, there is no public evidence that he opposed the war in Iraq before it began. And that's the earliest public comments we've seen from him are at 2002 on Howard Stern where he was asked whether he supported the war and he said yeah, I guess so.

We even saw Esquire put out an editor's note. They pointed to this story in 2004 in which Donald Trump in fairness was very critical of the war in Iraq but in the editor's note they point out this story published more than a year after the war began, nullifying Trump's timeline. It was very clear the editors were very annoyed to see Donald Trump holding something like this up as evidence that he opposed the war in Iraq before it began, when there is really no proof of that, Anderson.

COOPER: Right. And Cory Lewandowski and the Trump campaign also point to an interview he gave with Neil Cavuto they say before the war in January, I think in 2003 the war began in March. But in that -- even in that interview, Trump said well, perhaps we shouldn't go in, perhaps we should, he's not definitively saying one way or the other which is something he had said although in passing on the Howard Stern show before the war.

So Trump's reading from that Esquire interview, he cited a section about Osama bin Laden. What did he say?

MURRAY: Well, this is particularly interesting because of the timing, Anderson. Of course, as you know, we're coming up on to the 15th anniversary of 9/11.

[21:05:01] And as he was citing this, there's a portion of the article in which he says that if he had been president, he would have caught Osama bin Laden much faster, that the 9/11 attacks on the World Trade Center never would have happened.

So an interesting comment to sort of reiterate in light of how close that anniversary is and also in light of the fact that both candidates have sort of agreed not to make Sunday a political day and both of them have said they will not be on the campaign trail.

COOPER: Sara Murray. Sara thanks very much.

Hillary Clinton a short time ago spoke about her faith at the National Baptist Convention in Kansas City, Missouri. Earlier in the day she slammed Trump for his statements last night, saying he treats everything like a game, like he's living in his own celebrity reality T.V. program.

Joe Johns is here with the latest from the Clinton campaign. So a lot today -- Secretary Clinton spent a lot of time today expanding on what she said during the forum last night.

JOE JOHNS, CNN SENIOR WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT: Right. It's clear they were not happy with what has been described as the rushed feeling of the forum. They say the candidate was asked in-depth questions, not given enough time to answer. Campaign said there needed to be more follow-up questions to Donald Trump that didn't get asked. Even sending out a fund-raising letter talking about the fact-checking in the forum, suggesting they need more money to fact-check Donald Trump.

And then today, the campaign felt it needed to get Hillary Clinton out there talking in front of the cameras because Trump had the last word at the forum, hence the Tarmac News Conference.

And Hillary Clinton also at one point revising an answer she gave during the forum when she said we're not putting ground troops into Iraq or Syria ever again. Today, she said putting ground troops in would not be in the best interests in the fight against ISIS and the other terrorist groups. Anderson, that's a much more nuanced statement.

COOPER: She also did spend part of the day taking on Donald Trump?

JOHNS: Right. She ripped into Donald Trump for praising Vladimir Putin while criticizing the American president. She called Trump unpatriotic, insulting, and scary, and said it suggests Trump would let Putin do whatever he wants to do, then making excuses for him. She also attacked Trump for "trash talking America's generals."

And I think what's important to point out here is despite how tight the overall race is, polls have also suggested Donald Trump leads Hillary Clinton by a significant margin among former or active duty military voters. So that's an area where she needs to make up some ground as you pointed out earlier, it's because we're approaching the anniversary of 9/11 and it's on a lot of people's minds, Anderson.

COOPER: Joe Johns. Joe thanks for the reporting.

Clinton also said today that Trump is unfit, totally unqualified to be commander-in-chief after he is, Joe just mentioned, trash talk American generals. That was her characterization, by the way, of what Trump said.

Here's a sampling of what he had to say about the military.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

TRUMP: I think under the leadership of Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton, the generals have been reduced to rubble. They have been reduced to a point where it's embarrassing for our country.

We defeat somebody, then we don't know what we're doing after that. We lose it. Like as an example, you look at Iraq, what happened, how badly that was handled.

But if we're going to get out, take the oil. If we would have taken the oil, you wouldn't have ISIS because ISIS formed with the power and the wealth of that oil.

MATT LAUER, NBC NEWS: You've already said you know more about ISIS than those generals do.

TRUMP: Well, they probably be different generals, to be honest with you.

We've also got to make America strong again. And right now we are not strong. Believe me. We have a depleted military.

(END VIDEO CLIP) COOPER: Joining me now is Trump supporter, retired Navy Rear Admiral Charles Williams and CNN military analyst retired Army General Mark Hertling.

Admiral Williams, let me ask you, when Donald Trump says take Iraq's oil, take the oil, he's talked early on about sending in U.S. oil companies to take the oil, surround those oil fields with troops, and he's quoted the idea, you know, to the victor goes the spoils. From a military, from a diplomatic, strategic standpoint, does that make sense to you to take the oil of a sovereign nation?

REAR ADMIRAL CHARLES WILLIAMS, TRUMP SUPPORTER: Well, what I think he is saying is, as we did in World War I, we did in World War I think. There's a conference of nations who have been engaged in a fight and they sit down and they work out reparations, war reparations. This cost this country, our country, a lot of money to wage that war and to liberate Iraqis from Saddam Hussein. I think that's what he's referring to is there needs to be some kind of war reparation. We may have to go back in again to get rid of ISIS.

COOPER: But he's never actually said war reparations. He said take the oil. And to the victor goes to spoils. Is that a philosophy that should govern the U.S. military, the U.S. military?

WILLIAMS: There may be some Geneva Convention rules, and we had a nation rules, I don't know for sure. My take-away when he said that was he's talking really about getting some money back for the United States. And if it comes through oil, maybe the oil is shipped, it's -- there's revenue generated, and we get part of that revenue. I'm not sure how it would be worked out.

COOPER: Right.

WILLIAMS: But I think it's a war reparation, I think is what he's talking about.

COOPER: Because, General Hertling, I mean he has been very specific about taking the oil, about Chevron, other U.S. oil companies ...

[21:10:04] LT. GEN. MARK HERTLING (RET.), U.S. ARMY: Yeah. Let me jump on to it, Anderson.

COOPER: Right.

HERTLING: Let me -- I'm chomping at the bit here. It is a Geneva Convention violation. It violates two articles of the Geneva Convention. It would be a war crime. You leave when you attack a foreign nation and occupy it, you may take reparation but you leave the nation at its status quo. You don't steal its natural resources. That's number one.

Number two, I heard what Donald Trump said. It went on a long list of things that I've said I've heard him say on other subjects. And what's interesting is I -- for a guy who claims to be so outspoken and not politically correct in speaking the truth all day, I've heard multiple surrogates of Donald Trump explaining what he meant when he said I want to take the oil. This isn't an interpretive game. He's got to state what he means. Communications is a key element of a leader and he's failing miserably in this regard.

COOPER: Yeah. I mean in fact, Admiral Williams, in the past, when I have asked him well, won't the rest of Iraq, who are by the way our allies, won't they be upset that we are taking their oil. His response has been there is no Iraq, there are no Iraqis. That is not really a real country. Do you buy that as well?

WILLIAMS: I would still go back to -- if there was a conference of nations who have been engaged in this fight, work out a solution, and if the Iraqi people, the Iraqi government agree to with then I think he can do whatever that agreement is. And if it means taking small -- but people say taking oil, I'm not sure exactly what they mean.

(CROSSTALK)

COOPER: What he's saying specifically is -- no, he's saying Chevron, other U.S. oil companies, go in to the oil fields, have those oil fields surrounded by U.S. forces, that would be the U.S. forces on the ground, and take the oil. And give that money to wounded veterans here in the United States.

WILLIAM: Have you heard Donald Trump -- I have not heard him talk about an oil company, Chevron or Shell ...

COOPER: He said it to me multiple times.

WILLIAM: The Shell or Chevron.

HERTLING: Multiple times.

COOPER: Chevron. I believe Chevron ...

(CROSSTALK)

HERTLING: Investigate the guy you're supporting.

COOPER: I'm sorry. What, General?

HERTLING: Like so many other people, I would suggest the Admiral investigate and analyze the guy they're supporting. See the things that he said and then make judgments based on that. The guy continues to say these kind of things which institute war crimes, war crimes. Unethical, immoral, illegal behavior.

COOPER: And General Hertling, just to be clear, I mean you're saying this is somebody who served in northern Iraq. I mean if the idea of trying to convince the Iraqis that we should get some reparations which is something that was discussed early on, certainly, in the war, is saying to them you're not a real country, you don't really exist, is that a wise thing for a U.S. president to say?

HERTLING: No, I don't believe so. And in fact, that's exactly the opposite of what we're trying to do in Iraq. We're trying to help them get a government that represents the 19 million people that live there, the Shia, the Sunnis, the Kurds, the Ottomans, the Turks, the Assyrians, the Calibians. It is a very disparate nation. They certainly have some challenges but they've been trying to put together a government that in fact will represent their people.

And they actually need some of their natural resources to help them pay for some of the things like security forces, sewage, water, electricity, and oil is their biggest product. So taking their oil would actually run counter to what we're trying to do and establish a government that would support the people of Iraq.

WILLIAMS: I ...

COOPER: Admiral Williams -- sorry, go ahead.

WILLIAMS: I did not hear anybody say take a 100 percent of the oil and leave by Iraq with no oil. When you asked me to come on today, there was a conference -- there was a meeting yesterday that Matt Lauer hosted or conducted and I've listened to that earlier today and I didn't hear anything in that interview about Chevroncoming in and running the oil tankers.

COOPER: Right. Well, I can tell you in multiple interviews, I mean with me, he has said that from early on in the primary season and he continues to say take the oil.

But when you hear Donald Trump say that America's generals have been reduced to rubble, Admiral, did that give you pause at all or do you agree that that is the case?

WILLIAMS: When I made flag, chief naval operations for all the admirals in that were recently promoted, and he did a test called Meyers Brig and they looked at different personalities. One of them was risk. And he was very concerned because what he found that all these new flags were concerned, they were risk-averse. They got a very low grade on risk. And he said we can't have this. You got to be on the point in the end of the spear, you got to be aggressive, you got to push the envelope. So he was very concerned about that. And I think Donald Trump is concerned about that.

You know, if -- anybody who's at command knows, that when your boss loses confidence in you, you get relieved, you get fired. So Donald Trump finds people he doesn't have confidence in, I think he'll make a change. I think that's appropriate.

[21:15:03] COOPER: General, that idea that America's generals have been reduced to rubble, what do you think of it?

HERTLING: I totally disagree, Anderson. And what might be interesting is to ask Mr. Trump to name a single active duty general that's serving or admiral that's serving right now. And I would bet a month's pay that he couldn't do it right now. The issue is he doesn't know the generals. He's surrounded himself with a coterie of retired people who are telling him some things.

Truthfully, the cohorts that I've been serving with, I retired three years ago but the men and women I've served with are extremely capable. They are not risk-averse. And in fact, they have been in combat for the last 14 years and have learned how to mitigate risk to give themselves the best advantage.

We are challenged with the environment right now. We are dealing with a terrorist fight which is a much more complex and difficult fight than America has ever fought before. But I would suggest that the leadership of America's Armed Forces are -- is in very good hands right now in all elements of the service.

And I would agree, if a commander-in-chief or the Secretary of Defense finds an admiral or general that has done something wrong, they should relieve them but that's not the case. What's happening right now -- they're have been some generals who have been asked to retire early or relieved from their positions because they weren't living up or violating standards but for the most part, the several hundred generals and admirals that are serving in the nation's military today, serving the 1 percent of the American population that are wearing the cloth of the country are pretty damned good.

COOPER: Yeah, Admiral Williams, I mean I would think given the fact that we have been at war now for more than a decade, there is a whole class of officers and generals who have been facing risk every single day of their service. And so, I mean to say that they're risk-averse, do you think you can really be risk-averse given that we've had now ongoing wars in Iraq and Afghanistan for so long?

WILLIAMS: Well, that's what the test showed but they had results and they briefed the flag officers.

COOPER: When was that, though?

WILLIAMS: That was around 2001.

COOPER: OK.

WILLIAMS: But the other thing I would point, Anderson, there was a four-star general and the command back then was (inaudible). He was a marine. And I remember he complained about Congress and he said, "I need this. I need these resources, this equipment. I can't get it." And I said, General -- I was only six that time. I said, "Did you ever put those four stars on the table and say if you can't give me what I need or don't believe in me, then you should get somebody else?" And his answer to me was, "Look, let me explain it to you. There's a lot of political correctness. The one stars want to be two stars, the two stars want to be three stars, three stars want to be four stars and the four stars want to be chairman of the Joint Chiefs." So there was political correctness to be not too far out there, to be risk-averse. So I think that exists.

COOPER: Admiral Williams, appreciate you being on. General Hertling as well, thank you.

Coming up, Donald Trump doubling down on his comment about sexual assault in the military which is basically what do you expect when you put men and women together. That was a tweet he sent out. Obviously that comment is drawing criticism. We'll talk about that next. Also later, a third party meltdown and incredibly cringe-worthy moment from the Libertarian candidate. And also there's a warrant out for the Green Party candidate to be arrested. We'll explain all of that ahead.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

[21:21:29] COOPER: Well Donald Trump's Twitter history is back in the news. He's batting away the criticism, doubling down on the controversial stance on sexual assault. At the forum last night, Matt Lauer asked Trump about it. Listen.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

LAUER: In 2013, on this subject, you tweeted this, "26,000 unreported sexual assaults in the military, only 238 convictions. What did these geniuses expect when they put men and women together?"

TRUMP: Well, it is a correct tweet. There are many people that think that that's absolutely correct. And we need to have strength and we need to ...

LAUER: So, this should have expected? And doest that mean the only way to fix it is to take women out of the military?

TRUMP: Well, it's happening, right? And, by the way, since then, it's gotten worse. No, not to kick them out but something has to be happen. Right now, part of the problem is nobody gets prosecuted. You have reported and the gentleman can tell you, you have the report of rape and nobody gets prosecuted. There are no consequence.

When you have somebody that does something so evil, so bad as that, there has to be consequence for that person. You have to go after that person. Right now, nobody's doing anything. Look at the small number of results. I mean, that's part of the problem.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

COOPER: Joining me now are CNN political commentators, former Ted Cruz's communications director Amanda Trump -- excuse me, Amanda Carpenter ...

AMANDA CARPENTER, CNN POLITICAL COMMENTATOR: Thank you.

COOPER: Not a Trump supporter. Trump supporter Kayleigh McEnany and Clinton supporter and former New York City Council speaker Christine Quinn.

Amanda, I'm wondering what, you know, I saw the tweet you sent out. You said that Trump, "seems indifferent to sexual assault in the military." Why is that what you took away?

CARPENTER: Well, he is saying, you know, what did do geniuses expect, it sounds like he's saying rape happens, deal with it.

And for someone who's auditioning to be commander-in-chief, to tell women that you should accept a certain amount of risk of rape as a condition of military service, that's demoralizing. That is a bad signal for a commander-in-chief to have sent.

COOPER: Kayleigh, is that what you took away about he said?

KAYLEIGH MCENANY, TRUMP SUPPORTER: No, I took away the exact opposite. In fact, I look he sent out that tweet in 2013, that's before he was at all in the public light and what he said was his real concern, not just 1 percent of folks who have been sexually assaulted either -- or those cases are prosecuted. They're either not reporting it or it's getting to the point of being reported and not being prosecuted. So he was concerned about this when he was not a candidate, when there was nothing in it for him.

COOPER: Let's just look at the tweet that he had sent out that you just referenced there. We can put it on the screen. "26,000 unreported sexual assaults in the military, only 236 convictions. What did do these geniuses expect when they put men and women together?" Christine, how do you read that?

CHRISTINE QUINN, CLINTON SUPPORTER: Well, I don't read it that way. And look, I do agree with Donald Trump that not enough is being done, but I don't think he understands that the right way to do it is out of the chain of command as Senator Gillibrand has said.

But that said, I think the more important part of the tweet is -- Amanda's right, the dismissive way he talks about what happened, almost as if it was a joke. And then to say what did you expect, that's to imply that women, because they want to serve their country, should expect the potential of the heinous crime of rape and sexual assault. When in fact, there's no evidence that bringing men and women together in the military do that. It's also offensive to the vast majority of men in the military who are not committing rape and sexual assault.

But I just think if you look at that and what Donald Trump has said about sexual harassment in the workplace, the way he's spoken about women, if you're not a 10 you don't matter.

[21:25:02] He just doesn't appreciate in my opinion at all the realities of being a woman in America and to say you expect it, which is something that is so devastating where he doesn't appreciate the issue.

COOPER: Kayleigh?

MCENANY: No. What he is saying is that any time you bring men and women together, there's a risk that there's going to be sexual assault. Of course, you look at college campuses. And the military should be prepared. That when you let women into active combat, you need to ensure that there are protections for these women. You need to ensure that, you know, they're independent JAG officers overseeing all these cases that maybe JAG officers oversee pretrial situations.

You know, he is concerned about this. And he said when you bring men and women together, you need to have a plan for when things go wrong that women are protected. There's nothing wrong with that.

COOPER: Amanda, I know you want to get in.

CARPENTER: Yeah. Well, one point on that. You know, when Donald Trump said -- posted that tweet, he was weighing in on a very active political debate. And it's what Christine brought up. It was Kirsten Gillibrand bill which Ted Cruz actually worked with her on co- sponsored it to take prosecutions for sexual assault in the military out of chain of command and to put it into an objective third party. That's something Donald Trump doesn't seem willing to support. He seems to like the system as it is.

MCENANY: That's not true. That's not what he said.

CARPENTER: And that's a question that's still ongoing. Well, we can ask him. Does he want to have sexual assault prosecuted within the chain of command or to an objective third party?

(CROSSTALK)

COOPER: He said last night there should be some sort of court system in the military ...

MCENANY: Yeah.

COOPER: ... which there is.

CARPENTER: Which is that ...

QUIIN: But that's not ...

CARPENTER: ... system isn't working ...

MCENANY: He's referring to ...

CARPENTER: ... clearly, that he's not talking intelligently ...

QUINN: Right.

CARPENTER: ... about this debate.

(CROSSTALK)

MCENANY: He's referring to the Heritage Foundations who has looked into this and said they don't want it outside of the military. They find that there are ways there are ways to protect women inside the military chain of command.

QUINN: Two things. One, the Heritage Foundation's research is incorrect. And I think what Senator Gillibrand did in a bipartisan way and is pushing to do really speaks to the reality of we need to take it out of the chain of command.

Donald Trump is correct in the sense of saying the chain of command has failed but he's incorrect about understanding the complexities of the solution. But I just want to go back to this idea that any time you put men and women together, there's the rape -- the risk of rape and sexual assault.

Rape and sexual assault are about power and control and violence. It's not about sexual attraction between men and women. It's about power, control and violence. And I think that statement by Donald Trump fails to understand this crime and its pervasive nature in society.

MCENANY: I was thinking you're so happy to have a Republican candidate for the first time talking about this issue, bringing it to the forefront, concerned about it before he was ever a presidential candidate. That's advocate you should be thrilled that Donald Trump is concerned about this.

QUINN: I'm not thrilled that he doesn't understand that the chain of command will not be the answer. It's been part of the problem. And I'm not thrilled when anyone, regardless of party, says that bringing men and women together, what did do geniuses expect, you should have known this was coming. That is victim blaming and I find it offensive.

COOPER: I want to also switch to something that RNC Chairman Reince Preibus tweeted out last night. He said, "Hillary Clinton was angry and defensive the entire time, no smile and uncomfortable. Upset that she was caught wrongly sending our secrets." That tweet has been deleted. Clinton responded with another tweet saying, "Actually, it's just what taking the office of President seriously looks like."

It's interesting because we went back and looked at the forum. It's not as if Donald Trump was actually smiling throughout. In fact, it was just at the beginning and at the end of the forum. By our count, Trump actually smiled less than Hillary Clinton did.

Does that tweet raise any questions to you? Because it's something that Clinton, you know, brought up. She was asked about and said, you know, in fact, let me show our viewers what Clinton said about it, the RNC.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

HILLARY CLINTON, (D) PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE: I'm going to let all of you ponder that last question. I think there will be a lot of PhD thesis and popular journalism writing on that subject for years to come. I don't take my advice. And I don't take anything seriously that comes from the RNC. We were talking about serious issues last night.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

COOPER: I was wrong. Actually, the RNC did not delete that tweet. But does that raise questions for you? I mean that women being told to smile more when nobody says the guy smile.

MCENANY: No. Hillary Clinton was visibly irritated having to account for her misused of classified information. And I think that's fair. It's been pointed out by nonpartisans. And in fact, Hillary Clinton's referenced Tim Kaine smile before, behind that smile is a backbone of steel and we didn't even raise an eyebrow when she brought up Tim Kaine's smile. I think this is why just 23 percent of women call themselves the feminist because, in my generation, millennial women, we're strong. We don't like the victim card. We don't like when Hillary Clinton used it against Bernie Sanders, and Rick Lazio, and now Reince Priebus.

COOPER: OK.

MCENANY: We're strong.

QUINN: You know what? I'm pretty sure that myself as a 50-year-old woman and Hillary Clinton as a 68 or 69-year-old woman, we're pretty tough, too.

COOPER: We got to leave it there. Kayleigh McEcany, thank you. Christine Quinn, Amanda Carpenter as well.

[21:29:58] Just ahead, we're going to hear from a group of veterans who watched last night's presidential forum with our Gary Tuchman. Did the candidates' answers sway any of their votes?

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

COOPER: A lot of people still digesting some of the remarks made during last night's commander-in-chief forum. Hillary Clinton, Donald Trump didn't appear together. They took questions from the same live audience, and military members and veterans onboard a decommissioned aircraft carrier in New York.

Gary Tuchman watched the forum with a group of veterans in Virginia. Here's his report.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

CLINTON: ... my voting to give President Bush that authority was, from my perspective, my mistake.

GARY TUCHMAN, CNN NATIONAL CORRESPONDENT: 11 veterans, six from the navy, three army, one marine and one from both the navy and the marines.

TRUMP: I may love what the generals come back with.

TUCHMAN: So who do they think came across more presidential?

Well, we have four Democrats on the front, one, two, three, four, and independent here. Five Republicans in the back, one, two, three, four, five, independent there.

Who thought during this program Donald Trump did the best? Made you feel the safest? Everyone in the back. Five Republicans, one independent.

[21:35:50] Who thought Hillary Clinton did the best? One, two, three, four, five. You know, we didn't arrange rows like this. It just worked out that way. You all sat down at the chair.

Some levity after the program ended. But earlier in the evening, a very different atmosphere here in Virginia Beach. There was some criticism when Hillary Clinton talked about e-mails.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: As commander-in-chief, the buck stops with you. Yeah. Leadership starts at the top.

TUCHMAN: In contempt and sarcasm from the Republican vets when Clinton spoke more generally.

CLINTON: But I will also be as careful as I can in making the most significant decisions any president and commander-in-chief can make.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Like Benghazi?

TUCHMAN: As for the Democratic veterans, when Donald Trump spoke, contempt was often conveyed without even saying a word.

LAUER: And you also said this, "I can promise you this, I will always tell you the truth."

TRUMP: It's true.

LAUER: So let me read some of the things you said.

TUCHMAN: But the Democrats in the group did speak out when they felt Trump spoke too vaguely and simplistically.

LAUER: So is the plan you've been hiding this whole time asking someone else for their plan?

TRUMP: No.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: There is no plan.

TUCHMAN: A prevailing feeling among the Democrats?

VERNARD T. HINES, U.S. ARMY VETERAN SUPPORTING CLINTON: Well, when they asked him what is your plan, say something.

TUCHMAN: And among the Republicans? One common theme emerged.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: I wouldn't want my life in her hands.

TUCHMAN: And what about the independents? Army Veteran Steven Jones says he feels safer with Clinton than Trump.

STEVEN JONES, U.S NAVY VETERAN SUPPORTING CLINTON.: She's got clear and concise outlines for what she wants to do and how she plans on doing it.

TUCHMAN: The other independent is Army Veteran Gene Swisher. He doesn't feel comfortable with Trump's positive talk about Vladimir Putin.

TUCHMAN: Is that enough to disqualify him from you voting for him?

GENE SWISHER, U.S. ARMY VETERAN SUPPORTING TRUMP: I've only got two choices and that's a lesser of the two choices.

TUCHMAN: So you're voting for Donald Trump because more so because you don't like Hillary Clinton?

SWISHER: That's correct.

TUCHMAN: Opinions for the most part reinforced by this town hall.

ANTIONE HINES, U.S. NAVY VETERAN SUPPORTING CLINTON: He's a citizen statesman. He embodies leadership.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: I would trust another CEO, another person inside the room, another general or another commander rather than him.

TUCHMAN: So other people on this panel here (inaudible) Donald Trump.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: I trust him more than I would trust Donald Trump.

TUCHMAN: What do you think, guys? Do you take that as a compliment?

A night of considerable disagreement ending with laughter among 11 people who have served their country with distinction.

Gary Tuchman, CNN, Virginia Beach, Virginia.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

COOPER: I appreciate them all taking the time to do that. It doesn't look like last night's forum changed certainly any minds in that group. There are still plenty of undecided voters. And with 61 days to go, this is the final stretch for winning them over.

Joining me again tonight, CNN's senior political commentator and former Obama senior advisor David Axelrod and former Romney campaign adviser Stuart Stevens.

Stuart, we're about two months obviously from election day, what does Trump do at this point to get undecided voters behind him?

STUART STEVENS, FORMER ROMNEY CAMPAUGN ADVISER: I think he has to reassure them and he also has to talk I think, about in more specifics some policy about what he would do. You need to know more what you're going to get with a Trump presidency.

Right now, Trump has a certain number of votes. But, you know, he's not doing nearly as well as Mitt Romney did with certain key groups of Republicans like white women. These are the -- and more educated voters. These are the key to winning a state like Pennsylvania. It's ultimately one of the keys to winning a state like Virginia. The north of Virginia voters. And in Florida, in Cincinnati suburbs. These are the voters he has to talk to.

And you can't sort of take this Breitbart approach. These aren't people who read Breitbart. And they want to know what's they're getting when they buy a president. And I think Trump, it's just kind of what, you know, famous box of chocolates. You don't know what you're going to get every bite.

COOPER: David, I mean two months out, obviously it's crunch time. Where do you think Hillary Clinton's campaign needs to focus resources right now?

DAVID AXELROD, FORMER OBAMA SENIOR ADVISER: Well, I think it's the sort of the converse. I mean she's in a good position right now. She leads in virtually every battleground state in large measure because of what Stuart is saying, Trump's weakness among particularly college educated whites although also among minorities.

So I think her goal has to be to spend time or her mission has to be to spend time in those states and perhaps doing more campaigning in some suburban areas than a Democratic candidate normally would to try and keep block him from making gains in those areas.

I'd also add this. It's not just what she and he will be doing, but what their respective organizations will be doing. And I think in any close battleground state where the vote may be separated by a few points, the fact that her campaign has invested for a year and a year and a half, a major effort in identifying voters and doing the analytics that go along with that and in developing a sophisticated field operation is going to make a difference of a few points. And I'm not sure in the last 60 days if Donald Trump can make that up.

[21:40:15] COOPER: David Axelrod, Stuart Stevens, guys, thanks.

Just ahead, Donald Trump has stirred up a controversy among Democrats certainly over his **immigration** policies. So, I'll ask the nation's first Hispanic U.S. Attorney General, Alberto Gonzalez, what he thinks about Trump's **immigration** plans. All to get his take on last night's presidential forum.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

COOPER: Former U.S. Attorney General Alberto Gonzalez has not yet endorsed either a presidential candidate. Appointed by President George W. Bush, he was a key architect of the administration's controversial counterterrorism policies. He's the first Hispanic to serve as U.S. attorney general. And he just published a memoir, "True Faith and Allegiance", a story of service and sacrifice in war and peace.

Gonzales watched last night's presidential forum. He joins me tonight.

Judge Gonzales, I'm curious by your reaction to what Donald Trump said at last night's commander-in-chief forum. He said U.S. military generals have been "reduced to rubbles.'' Said about Vladimir Putin that he's a leader far more than our President.

[21:45:01] Do you believe Trump passed the commander-in-chief test? ALBERTO GONZALEZ, FORMER U.S. ATTORNEY GENERAL: You know, obviously the voters are going to have to decide that, Anderson. The one thing I would remind your viewers is that lots of things are said during a campaign and then when someone takes the oath of office and becomes president you know, oftentimes, they have to back off of what they may have campaigned on.

But clearly, the president of the United States words matter and when you say something there have to have -- there has to be consequences to that and you have to be careful about what you say. Obviously, the military plays an important role in our society and the commander-in- chief is a constitutional office and, you know, when you have someone who understands that.

COOPER: One of the things your book addresses is your time as one of President Bush's top advisers in the aftermath of 9/11. I mean, I'm wondering, 15 years later, do you think Trump is the person best equipped to deal with the threat of terrorism? Because polls show on that subject, he is leading on Secretary Clinton.

GONZALES: Yeah, there's no question about the fact that president -- that Secretary Clinton has more experience in foreign policy. I mean, obviously, given her role as secretary of state and as a senator on the Foreign Relations Committee.

The question that I would ask and I think all voters should ask is whether or not based on that experience, has she exercised legitimately good judgment? You may have experienced something but may do a terrible job or have done a terrible job but if the sole qualification is experience as in foreign policy or national security, then obviously she's got that over Donald Trump.

I think there are a lot more unknowns with respect to Mr. Trump. He's a lot more unpredictable. Now, that can be good sometimes in the foreign policy area but I would say consistency and predictability is probably better with respect to our enemies who know what the consequences are going to be when they do something, but also, it's reassuring to -- for our allies to understand what the United States is going to do in response to a threat or an incident.

COOPER: I haven't had a chance to ask you about this before and I'm wondering because you were attorney general before, you were White House counsel, served time in the Texas Supreme Court, obviously. If someone had suggested that you couldn't do your job because of being a Mexican descent that you couldn't be fair because of your heritage as Trump had said about Judge Curiel in the Trump University case, what would you have said to that?

GONZALES: Well, that would be wrong. I mean, I wrote an op-ed about this. I wrote that Donald Trump was right to expect affair and impartial hearing before a neutral judge, but to say that someone is impartial solely because of their race I think I wrote was improper and I think it would be improper.

You know, the Hispanics would take the same kind of oath as, you know, a white person or African-American to discharge their duties with fidelity to the law, to the constitution. And so, that would be wrong as far as I'm concerned.

COOPER: At this point, have you endorsed, I mean, I've heard a couple things you've said but you said both are flawed candidates. Are you publicly endorsing anybody?

GONZALES: You know, I'm still gathering information. I'm handicapped by the fact that I don't know Hillary Clinton that well or Donald Trump that well as individuals which I think is very, very important.

The truth of the matter is when I'm asked this question I said, you know, I think American voters while they may care what I think, they have an obligation to do their own research, to learn about these candidates and decide who is best for this country, who's best for them and their families.

You know, we still have three debates to go. We still have time to gather up information and that's what I'm doing, although let me emphasize that I'm a lifetime Republican and I support the Republican Party but I also have to admit that I'm an American first and at the end of the day, I'm going to make the decision based on what I think is best for America and best for me and my family.

COOPER: The book is called the "True Faith and Allegiance", a story of service and sacrifice and war and peace. Judge Gonzales, thank you. Pleasure to talk to you as always.

GONZALES: Thanks for having me.

COOPER: Up next, what is going on with the third party candidates? Gary Johnson of the Libertarian ticket today asked what is Aleppo? And there's an arrest warrant out for Jill Stein of the Green Party for the graffiti she left behind in one town. More on that kerfuffle in a moment.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

[21:52:41] COOPER: Breaking news, new polling shows a tightening race and one of the third party candidates has reached double digit support. Take a look at this. Gary Johnson of the Libertarian ticket now has 15 percent support in North Carolina, 14 percent in Ohio, according to the polling by Quinnipiac University. That's a new milestone for the candidate.

But for Johnson to be included in the first presidential debate later this month, he needs 15 percent in national polling. He's only at 7 percent in the latest CNN Poll. What he did today is likely not going to help. Watch this.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

MIKE BARNICLE, MSNBC HOST: What would you do if you were elected about Aleppo?

GARY JOHNSON, LIBERTARIAN PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE: And what is Aleppo?

BARNICLE: You're kidding? JOHNSON: No.

BARNICLE: Aleppo is in Syria. It's the epicenter of the **refugee** crisis ...

JOHNSON: OK, Got it, got it.

BARNICLE: OK.

JOHNSON: Well, with regard to Syria, I do think that it's a mess.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

COOPER: Tonight, Randi Kaye looks at Johnson's trouble understanding what Aleppo is and the difficulties link to the other third party candidate Jill Stein.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

RANDI KAYE, CNN CORRESPONDENT: It was a simple question but the answer was disastrous. Libertarian Party candidate Gary Johnson hardly hiding his embarrassment about the Aleppo gaff later when speaking with Bloomberg's Mark Halperin.

JOHNSON: ... but not remembering or identifying that that's Aleppo, guilty.

MARK HALPERIN, CNN CORRESPONDENT: Does that mean you know and how you know?

JOHNSON: I'm incredibly frustrated with myself.

HALPERIN: Right.

KAYE: Frustrated? No doubt. Though he tried to explain he'd been caught flat-footed.

JOHNSON: I understand the significant, I -- believe me, no one is taking this more seriously than me. I feel horrible. I have to get smarter and that's just part of the process.

KAYE: Johnson later tweeting about his mistake. "Started my day by setting aside any doubt, I'm human hashtag what is Aleppo? My statement."

From there, Johnson were now to release an official statement again trying to explain his confusion. "Yes, I understand the dynamics of the Syrian conflict, I talk about them every day but hit with what about Aleppo, I was immediately thinking of an acronym not the Syrian conflict.

Hillary Clinton quick to take a swipe at Johnson's Syrian flipped up.

CLINTON: Well, you could look on a map and find Aleppo.

[21:55:01] KAYE: Another third party candidate with her sight sits in the Oval Office, better hope deputies in North Dakota don't find her first. An arrest warrant has been issued for Jill Stein in Morton County after she was charged with a misdemeanor for criminal trespass and criminal mischief.

Stein's in hot water for spray painting construction equipment during a protest against the Dakota access pipeline. Stein tweeted out this photo of her spray painting adding, "The Dokota Access Pipeline is vandalism on steroids."

JILL STEIN, GREEN PARTY PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE: We are here at the barred gates of American debates.

KAYE: This wasn't Jill Stein's first brush with the law. Four years ago in 2012, Stein was arrested for protesting outside Hofstra University during a presidential debate. Third party candidates weren't invited.

STEIN: Well, we're here to stand our ground for the American people who have been systematically locked out of these debates for decades.

KAYE: Stein later told Democracy Now she and her running mate were handcuffed and held for eight hours.

In a race where the two leading candidates have such a likeability problem, Johnson and Stein may have finally had a real opening but voters in the end may only remember their most forgettable moments.

JOHNSON: I guess people will have to make that judgment for those that believe this is a disqualifier, so be it.

KAYE: Randi Kaye, CNN, New York.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

COOPER: We'll be right back

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

[22:00:07] COOPER: Hey, that does it for us. Thanks for watching.

"CNN TONIGHT with Don Lemon" starts now.

**NEW\_DOCUMENT\_HERE**

Anderson Cooper, Sara Murray, Brianna Keilar, John King, Gloria Borger, Dana Bash, Kirsten Powers, Jeffrey Lord, Hilary Rosen, Maria Cardona, Ana Navarro, Gary Tuchman, Drew Griffin, Suzanne Malveaux

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[21:00:10] ANDERSON COOPER, CNN ANCHOR: Thanks for joining us for a second hour of "360".

Coming up, the latest from both campaigns as Hillary Clinton takes questions from reporters on her plane. Donald Trump's stance on **immigration** still very much seems to be in the air. Also a look at the relationship between Trump and former Fox News Chief Roger Ailes now that Fox has settled a sexual harassment lawsuit from a former anchor for $20 million and an apology.

We begin this hour on the Trump campaign trail. He finished up a rally a short time ago in Greenville, North Carolina. Sara Murray joins us from there now.

So Trump talked a lot about Hillary Clinton's e-mail server, the FBI report tonight. What did he say?

SARA MURRAY, CNN POLITICAL REPORTER: Well, he was really building on his message of national security today and trying to point out that the way Hillary Clinton dealt with her e-mail server is, in his view, disqualifying in her pursuit of the presidency and in true Donald Trump fashion, he used some pretty colorful language to describe her use of a private e-mail server and various communications, devices, calling it shady behavior.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

DONALD TRUMP, (R) PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE: They used hammers to destroy phones so they couldn't be turned over, and by the way, who uses 13 different iPhones in four years? Who? The only people who use that many phones are usually involved in very, very and I mean very shady activity.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

MURRAY: Now, our new CNN/ORC Poll shows Donald Trump is actually trailing Hillary Clinton by a few points when it comes to that commander in chief test but obviously, those are numbers the Trump campaign believes they can turn around.

COOPER: He also talked in more detail about his plan to sort of get his generals to defeat ISIS.

MURRAY: Right. And he has on it a pretty short time frame. As he was talking here in North Carolina he said he will convene these generals and he will give them 30 days to come up with a plan for how to defeat ISIS and in talking to the campaign a little bit more about this, they were explaining that they don't feel like there's a clear mission right now for the generals about the different milestones they need to hit in order to defeat ISIS and how exactly they would do it. Trump says he's going to approach that much differently than Hillary Clinton would if he is president.

COOPER: All right. Sara Murray, thanks very much.

After managing to stay mostly under the radar with the press for months, not doing news conferences or many interviews, Hillary Clinton is giving reporters more access with nine weeks to go until Election Day. She's using the question/answer sessions to keep hitting hard at questions about Donald Trump like why won't he release his taxes for one.

Briana Keilar reports.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

BRIANNA KEILAR, CNN CORRESPONDENT: Hillary Clinton taking questions from reporters for the second day in a row on the new plane she now shares with the press after avoiding a formal press conference for nine months.

HILLARY CLINTON, (D) PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE: Had so much fun yesterday. I did want to do this again. Adventures on the plane.

KEILAR: With polls showing the race tightening, Clinton has become more accessible and more consistently on offense. Clinton criticizing Donald Trump for not releasing his tax returns.

CLINTON: Truly, the list goes on and on. The scams, the frauds, the questionable relationships, the business activities that have stiffed workers, refused to pay small businesses. So clearly, his tax returns tell a story that the American people deserve and need to know.

KEILAR: She spent the day in battleground Florida.

CLINTON: His whole campaign has been one long insult to all those who have worn the uniform to protect our most cherished American values.

KEILAR: And her campaign is out with a new ad.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Donald Trump compared his sacrifices to the sacrifices of two parents who lost their son in war.

KEILAR: Highlighting Trump's comments about the military and veterans.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: What sacrifice have you made for your country?

TRUMP: I think I made a lot of sacrifices. I built great structures. I've had tremendous success. I think I've done a lot.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Those are sacrifices?

KEILAR: Clinton is trying to convince voters they can't trust Trump to lead on the world stage but most voters don't trust her, period, and they trust Trump more.

A new CNN/ORC Poll shows 50 percent of voters say Trump is the more honest and trustworthy candidate compared with to 35 percent who say Clinton is. Vice President Joe Biden telling CNN's Jeff Zeleny, Clinton needs to open up.

VICE PRES. JOE BIDEN, (D) UNITED STATES: Let them see your heart a little more. And she has the heart.

KEILAR: She also, it appears, has allergies.

CLINTON: Every time I think about Trump I get allergic.

KEILAR: Her coughing fits have happened a few times now on the trail including Monday. And Donald Trump, the first nominee in modern history to openly engage in wild and false conspiracy theories, is questioning her wellness. Tweeting today, "Mainstream media never covered Hillary's massive hacking or coughing attack yet it is number one trending. What's up?" Just the pollen count, says Clinton and she's upped her antihistamine.

[21:05:06] CLINTON: Now, the advice of course is just don't talk. You know, that's not going to work.

Brianna Keilar, CNN, Washington.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

COOPER: Well, Brianna mentioned there in her report, the new CNN/ORC Poll that shows Clinton trailing behind Trump on the issue of trustworthiness. That nationwide poll shows a virtual tie among likely voters nationwide but the state by state picture, the path to 270 electoral votes, that's a different story.

For that we turn this hour to CNN "Inside Politics" anchor John King breaking it down by the numbers. So let's look state by state. What do they look like at this point?

JOHN KING, "INSIDE POLITICS" ANCHOR: Anderson, if you're Donald Trump you like the trend line of this race, you like that it's coming your way but if you look at this map, we'll start with this one, pretty simple. Donald Trump has to turn some of this blue, this is the Obama/Romney race, has to turn several of these blue states to red.

At the moment, the only one he can claim a lead in is Iowa. Only six electoral votes. All the big ones, Hillary Clinton. They may be small leads but Hillary Clinton has a lead right now.

So, Anderson, as we look at it very tightening national race without a doubt, if you look at this map, even if Hillary Clinton lost one, two, three, four, five of these tossups which include Ohio, North Carolina and Florida, we have it right now, if the election were today, she would win with at least 273 electoral votes. Donald Trump, the race is improving but at the state by state level he's got business to do.

COOPER: So if you had to pick one state to watch, what would it be?

KING: The state where Hillary Clinton was today, the State of Florida. Why? Because it's the biggest prize. It's 29 electoral votes.

And yes, can I give you a path of Donald Trump winning without Florida? I can do that but a lot of people would question my competency if I did. It's just very, very hard. But if Donald Trump can win Florida, it gets him into play. Now that would get him at 220. If Donald Trump can win Florida, hold North Carolina, it was a Romney state and get Ohio, then he's in play. He still has to do more. But if you take Florida out of the equation, even just put it back for tossup, 29, without those, the math is almost impossible.

COOPER: Trump was in Virginia today. Obama carried it twice, obviously Clinton has a healthy lead, plus her running mate is from the state. Does Trump have time to pull ahead there?

KING: Actually makes sense to try now. We'll see what it looks like a month from now but it makes sense to try now. On average, the Clinton lead is about five points. Some polls have shown it bigger. But if you average out the recent polls, it's five points.

Let me show you something on the map here. First I want to go back to where we started. This is the Clinton advantage at the moment, 273 to 191, according to the CNN projections. Here's Trump's plan A. Trump plan A, win Florida, hold North Carolina, again, Romney won in 12, win Ohio which requires a flip, and then Trump wants to flip Pennsylvania. If Trump does that, those four states, he wins. But that -- this is why he was in Virginia.

Let's just assume Jeffrey Lord won't like this, but Jeffrey Lord's state stays blue, Pennsylvania stays blue. And how does Trump do it? This is plan B in the Trump campaign. Try to get Virginia and get Iowa. That gives him 272 and the presidency.

Again, he's behind in Virginia right now. It's a tough state if you look at the demographics but still pretty close. Five or six points, makes sense for Trump to give it a run now. Because if plan A doesn't work, he may need it for plan B.

COOPER: All right. John King, thanks.

Coming back to the panel. We'll start out with our nonpartisans reporters and analysts. Gloria Borger, I mean, it is so fascinating when you look at the national numbers, the national, you know, all the states and then you start to actually look at the battleground states which is really where the rubber meets the road.

GLORIA BORGER, CNN CHIEF POLITICAL ANALYST: Right. And, you know, John just laid out the scenarios. So I think the path for Hillary Clinton is a lot easier than the path for Donald Trump right now. And everybody understands that. But if a lead really starts shifting, then the battleground states start shifting also. And they usually shift all at the same time. So I think that you have to keep a look at the national numbers only insofar as it affects the states and there are about 20 percent undecided voters out there so nothing succeeds like success. You see a winner out there, you're like, OK, maybe all ...

COOPER: That was my question, Dana, which is how many minds are already made up and how many people are there actually out there still to win over?

DANA BASH, CNN CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT: Well, you know, according to the polls, and certainly ours, it seems that there are a number of undecided voters. Certainly, the sense is given where we are and who the candidates are and what we know also based on lots of polling, what people think about the candidates, a lot of those people are probably thinking, you know, who do I hold my nose for and vote for, because people aren't thrilled with the choices on the main ticket.

But the thing to keep in mind with all of those states that John was pointing out is the ground game. And just for example, Pennsylvania is obviously very key for Donald Trump if he doesn't win Virginia or Colorado or some of the other states John was pointing out.

I was just calling around getting ready to work on a story in Pennsylvania and I got like four layers deep in the Clinton team on their field operation there, just trying to find the answer to a basic question, the press operation, so on and so forth.

And on the Republican side, on the Trump side, there are a handful of offices. They are working with the RNC and they do have a Senate race there which means there's a lot more resources than in a state like Virginia, where there isn't. But there is a big difference.

[21:10:02] That combined with the very, very stellar stable they have of Barack Obama, Michelle Obama, Elizabeth Warren, so on and so forth to get out the vote.

COOPER: Right. And I guess, Kirsten, the Trump campaign comes back and says well, look, we have enthusiasm on our side. We have folks -- this is an unprecedented race, we have folks waiting in line who have, you know, been doing this for months. They're going to bring people to the polls. There's a whole sort of hidden voters who are going to come out.

KIRSTEN POWERS, USA TODAY COLUMNIST: That's an untested business r model in politics. You know, so it's possible it could happen. And I think that, you know, a lot of people were surprised at how well he did in the primary states with very little ground game but you need more of a ground game in a national race than do you in a primary race.

And PBS NewsHour had -- they did a survey and they found that Hillary has three times as many paid staffers and 15 in battleground states. Kind of, you know, we had a couple reports about how there had been one office in Florida, for example, for Trump. That's probably not going to do it. You know, she's going to need a better ground game because her people are less enthusiastic, but he's getting some kind of ground game.

COOPER: Although I can hear Trump people saying, well, look, she's got a bloated staff and he's lean and mean.

KING: You need a wave. You need a wave. And Donald Trump had a wave in the primaries. There was a wave among Republican voters. There were also 17 candidates, let's be honest, but there was a wave among Republican voters that we don't like what we got, we want something really different.

In the general election, you see high negatives for both of these candidates. High unpopularity. Huge baggage for both for these candidates.

The Trump campaign is going to have to pick. Hillary Clinton has, you know, they are outgunned and outmanned if you want to, you know, get a little Broadway line there. She's got more money, she's got more staff on the ground. They did this in 2012. Mitt Romney was never down more than three points in the final days of the 2012 campaign. Look what happened on Election Day. Barack Obama won 332 electoral votes. That is kicking their butts on the ground.

BORGER: And now ...

COOPER: I'm sorry. We got to get a break. John King, by the way, throwing in a Hamilton reference.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Nice, Anderson.

BASH: Well done, Anderson.

COOPER: I know. Dana also a Hamilton fanatic. We'll get the other side of the table after a quick break.

Also ahead tonight, Donald Trump changing his position on **immigration** or seeming to again, or at least holding the door open. Now he seems to be saying there could be a path to citizenship or legal status for the **immigrants** who are in the country illegally. The question is whether his supporters know where he stands or even if it really matters at this point to a lot of them. We try to find out coming up.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

[21:15:47] COOPER: Well, there's still two months until the Election Day. Anything can happen, really, but the race seems to be very close right now according to the new national CNN/ORC polling. Let's not forget the first debate happens in just a few weeks.

Back now with the panel. I mean, Jeffrey, we're talking about kind of state by state polling, the path to 270 electoral votes. How concerned are you about the ground game compared to Hillary Clinton's ground game ... JEFFREY LORD, TRUMP SUPPORTER: Oh, it's important. I mean, there's no question it's important. And I've been checking on this in my own area of Pennsylvania. There's a Trump headquarters five miles from my house. I spoke to the guy ...

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: The guy.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Guy.

LORD: What?

COOPER: The guy.

LORD: The guy. The guy who heads it, thank you very much. That was good. I know they're out there door knocking as we speak and making phone calls and doing all of this. They've got a lot of people.

COOPER: They don't want ...

LORD: Right. I mean, they are very intent on doing this. They know what they're about and this is all to the good.

One of the other things I would add, I see that Elizabeth Warren is coming into Philadelphia in a few days. Philadelphia is a Democratic city. Why in the world would you send Elizabeth Warren there unless you were somewhat concerned that you're not going to get your margin out?

COOPER: Hilary, why would you do that?

HILARY ROSEN, DEMOCRATIC STRATEGIST: Look, this is ultimately a base election, right? We want to pretend we're growing the map, both, you know, Donald Trump wants to pretend he's growing the map. He's really not. Hillary Clinton is bringing out the Obama coalition. This is about getting our vote out in the most thoughtful, technical way possible. That's why, you know, my money's still on Hillary Clinton because they have built a campaign district by district, data point by data point. They know where every voter is and they know where the voters they need to go get registered are. They're going to be out there in early voting.

The Trump campaign and the RNC is so far behind where the Democrats are this year finally for the first time, it's really exciting. And that is how this campaign is going to be won on a state by state basis.

JACK KINGSTON, SENIOR TRUMP ADVISOR: One of the things, though, that Mitt Romney lost because so many evangelical Christians and Reagan Democrats stayed at home. They did not vote or did not participate. Donald Trump is connecting with them. They will show up.

But the other thing I want to point out is still the right track, wrong track. That favors the party that's not in power.

COOPER: Right.

KINGSTON: And right now, that's giving some wind to Donald Trump and it's very, very important.

And just one more point. Hillary Clinton, there's nothing new there. Going back to that excitement factor. While I agree it's not a business model for a campaign, the reality is people want a change and there is an excitement factor. And when you look at Hillary Clinton, she's been in public office for 30 years. There's nothing really new. Nothing to get excited about. Just kind of regenerated old ideas. And I'm not saying those don't work a lot of times but I don't think they're going to pull her through this time.

MARIA CARDONA, 2008 SENIOR CLINTON CAMPAIGN ADVISER: But there's a couple other factors to keep in mind. You talked about right track, wrong track. A lot of that is progressives who don't think that the country is going in the right track because of the Republican opposition that Obama has had for so many years.

If you look at the Gallup poll that just came out on what Obama has done in the past eight years, right now, the majority of Americans believe that their life is better under eight years of the Obama Administration and Obama's policies. As long as he continues that trend and he is still over 50 percent in terms of popularity, that is going to be critical for her and he's going to be a big asset to her going around.

The other couple of things are, there are some fundamentals that continue to be a benefit to Hillary Clinton in all of these polls. College educated women. She is leading Donald Trump by 23 points. And that, I mean, Mitt Romney as you know won them by six and still lost the election. So that is going to be critical.

BASH: That's true, but she has a big deficit with married women. That Donald Trump is doing, is doing well but she's not doing as well as she should be ...

CARDONA: And men.

BASH: ... given where the numbers are and, you know, given what we've seen historically.

CARDONA: Sure, but if you still look at the number overall, it benefits Hillary Clinton.

COOPER: John?

[21:19:59] KING: You have two flawed candidates, there's no question about that. You have some dysfunction between the Trump campaign and RNC. We'll see if they can figure it out in time. We know Hillary Clinton, she disappeared in August, it hurt her in the polls without a doubt but she raised $143 million.

I'm a Red Sox fan, I stay up late night watching baseball games. Donald Trump is running ads all the time on New England Cable network to get to Red Sox fans who live if New Hampshire. They're effective. He was missing the entire summer. Now he's there.

The Clinton campaign has been gone because they backed off in a lot of states. I suspect they're going to be back up pretty quickly. But this one's for your staff, Anderson, more than anything. You can have the fundamentals of a campaign working in your favor but now big papi, David Ortiz of the Boston Red Sox came out today, he says he's against Donald Trump, all the things he says about Latinos and **immigrants**. You can run $100 million of ads in New Hampshire. David Ortiz ...

KINGSTON: President Obama's popularity is only up now because he's been gone. He's been out of sight. All coverage has been on this election ...

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: He'll be back.

KINGSTON: ... on Donald Trump. The people again, I want to get back to the economy, people out there are hurting. And the people often on -- in the Washington circuit don't understand Middle America, they're looking for jobs. They want a change.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: That's a very important point.

(CROSSTALK)

ROSEN: But, you know, one of the things that is going to be Hillary Clinton's biggest challenge in talking about Donald Trump is to be talking about the economy.

You know, Gloria, you did a great documentary on Donald Trump this week and everyone should see it out there if you haven't, I'm sure it's on demand. But it was so illustrative compared to the Hillary Clinton documentaries, the people who criticized Donald Trump are the ones who knew him the best, who did business with him, who said he's not on their side, he's not going to help them.

COOPER: OK. We're going to take a break. Just ahead, some die-hard Trump supporters weigh in on the confusing messages Trump has been sending about -- sending out about a court tenet of his **immigration** plan. Are mixed signals giving them pause or it's a part of strategy? We'll be right back.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

[21:25:50] COOPER: As we've been talking about the last few days haven't done much to clarify Donald Trump's **immigration** plan. If anything there may be more confusion than ever over the promise he made to deport all undocumented **immigrants**, a promise he made without reservation during the primary season and one that many consider the core of his campaign in addition to building a wall.

When asked about it this weekend, he said he isn't ruling anything out, so what are some Trump die-hard supporters making of all this vagueness, I guess you could say? Does it actually concern them? Gary Tuchman went to find out.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

GARY TUCHMAN, CNN NATIONAL CORRESPONDENT: They wait for hours in the hot North Carolina sun to see Donald Trump. These are among his most loyal supporters.

JAMES PRINCE, TRUMP SUPPORTER: Well, I believe he's going to pull the country back to what it used to be.

TUCHMAN: What did it used to be?

PRINCE: I think it used to be for the truth and the American way.

TUCHMAN: Donald Trump's **immigration** proposals are widely seen here as a way to get back to that America of yesterday. Despite the fact that his **immigration**plan isn't entirely clear. Regarding people in the U.S. illegally, Gladys Suesle says ...

GLADYS SUESLE, TRUMP SUPPORTER: They don't deserve to be here.

TRUMP: You can call it whatever the hell you want. They're gone.

TUCHMAN: And Suesle says she also like that Donald Trump last Wednesday said people who are in the U.S. illegally must go back to their home countries and apply if they want to come back legally.

He did say that during his speech in Arizona last week. But this weekend, he said I'm not ruling out anything, we're going to make that decision into the future, OK.

SUESLE: Good.

TUCHMAN: Regarding people in this country maybe not having to go back. Does that bother you that he changed his mind?

SUESLE: No. I am going to wait to see what he says definitively. I'm not going to second-guess him. I will not do that.

TUCHMAN: But the fact that he goes back and forth, that doesn't trouble you?

SUESLE: I don't care. No. He will make a definitive thing.

TUCHMAN: While critics may slam Trump for his ever-changing plans, here his sometimes evolving positions on issues like **immigration** are defended.

PAUL LOFTIN, TRUMP SUPPORTER: I thought being negotiable. He got to stand (inaudible). In that position you have to be negotiable to a certain extent. That's one reason why I like Donald Trump. He's a businessman. The guy wrote the book "The Art of the Deal". I mean, that should tell you right there the man's got brains. He's smart.

TUCHMAN: But what about this particular **immigration** issue that helped define his candidacy?

His promise when he started running was everyone who's here illegally is going back to their home country. You think he still stands by that?

DELORES HARRIS, TRUMP SUPPORTER: I think he's going to do everything to make people legal here.

TUCHMAN: But you think he still stands by it like he did when he first said it?

HARRIS: I mean, he's talking about words. I mean I might express it one way today and another way tomorrow but I still mean exactly.

TUCHMAN: Does it worry you that he won't keep that promise if he becomes president?

HARRIS: I trust that man.

TUCHMAN: And for many here, that's what it comes down to despite his verbal somersaults, they trust Trump and they intensely distrust his opponent.

CATHERNE EDSON, TRUMP SUPPORTER: If you look at any candidate, they're not going to be able to say or do everything that they're going to say or do. Again, I ...

TUCHMAN: But does it bother you about Trump because he was so definite, so definitive about everyone who's not here legally going back? Does it bother you?

EDSON: Does it bother me? Not as much as Hillary Clinton bothers me.

TRUMP: You know what, folks, she doesn't have a clue. Not even a clue.

And for many here, that's what it comes down to despite his verbal somersaults, they trust Trump and they intensely distrust his opponent.

TUCHMAN: And that dislike of Clinton certainly gives a sometimes ambiguous Trump leeway among his fans.

DANIELLE ELKS, TRUMP SUPPORTER: Changing a position doesn't mean that you're weak.

TUCHMAN: It means what?

ELKS: It means that you're becoming better educated on the facts.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

COOPER: Gary joins us now. Did Trump mention **immigration** in his speech tonight?

TUCHMAN: He did talk about **immigration**, Anderson, but not about the issues he's wavered on. Instead he talked about suspended the Syrian **refugee** program if he becomes president. And also, that southern border wall and he declared that Mexico will pay for it once again and that was his biggest applause line of the night as it often is at Donald Trump rallies. Anderson?

COOPER: Yeah. Gary, appreciate the reporting tonight. Thank you. A lot to talk about. Joining me is Reverend Ramiro Pena, pastor of Christ -- excuse me, Christ the King Baptist Church in Waco, Texas, member of the National Hispanic Advisory Council and a Trump supporter, also, CNN political commentator, Republican strategist Ana Navarro. Pastor Pena, thanks for being on the program.

Last week after Trump spoke in Phoenix, you sent the campaign an e- mail which was subsequently leaked to the press saying that you felt he lost the election with that speech.

[21:30:05] What made you say that and what makes you continue to support him?

REV. RAMIRO PENA, NATIONAL HISPANIC ADVISORY COUNCIL: Well, sure, that night I had really high hopes. First let me thank you for having me.

But I had really high hopes for hearing some other things that night and being one in that peculiar position of being involved and giving a lot of meaningful input. I had hopes for other things that might be said and when those hopes were dashed for the moment, I was disappointed. And again, that was a private e-mail I sent to my friends at the RNC and the campaign. To let them know how I felt and that I was disappointed in that moment.

COOPER: And yet, you are still, you continue to advise him. I mean do you think he'll listen to you?

PENA: Well, you know, I said to the campaign I was going to take a couple days to pray about it and think about it, and I did. And after doing so, and a lot of reflection and talking to friends, it became clear that I still had a responsibility and an opportunity to have an influence. And my exchange with him before has been a really thoughtful one. He's not afraid of ideas. He invites people around him that have different perspectives and I think that reflects a great strength of character on his part. So I was glad and I felt a responsibility to continue on and have as much influence as I could on the things that I care deeply about.

COOPER: Ana, the fact that Trump, his campaign now seem to be suggesting he may in fact support a way for non-criminal undocumented **immigrants** to get some form of legal status after he certainly seemed to close that door during his speech last week in Phoenix, "The Washington Post" saying his speech would have meant -- what he said in that speech would have meant, you know, some six million undocumented **immigrants** would have been -- had to leave the country. I mean, is he trying to play both sides of the fence here? Is he trying, no pun intended, is he trying to just keep it kind of open so some voters will, you know, think one thing, other voters will think another?

ANA NAVARRO, REPUBLICAN STRATEGIST: Anderson, I frankly think he doesn't know what he's doing.

Here's the bottom line. This guy does not have the basic policy knowledge to be able to formulate and articulate basic **immigration** policy. **Immigration** policy is intricate. It is complicated. I don't think that if you asked Donald Trump what 245(i) is or what B visa is or what an A visa is, he can answer. He might be able to tell you what seasonal workers are because he's brought in a lot of them for his property.

But I think that the people you just interviewed -- that Gary interviewed are right. Policy does not matter. It doesn't matter on either side. If you are a die-hard Trump supporter, it doesn't matter that he shifts around.

At this point, it is easier to interpret ancient Sanskrit than it is to figure out what Donald Trump is saying on **immigration**, he had said so many things. And it also doesn't matter, policy, to people like me who oppose him because this is all based on persona, character or lack thereof, personality ...

COOPER: Right.

NAVAROO: ... and the things that he has already said and not said that go beyond policy. I think the scrutiny level on policy is lower on him than on other candidates.

COOPER: Pastor, do you feel you know, I mean, obviously where he is on the wall is obvious, a number of these issues. Do you feel, as a Trump supporter, you know exactly what he wants done with the 11 million or however many undocumented **immigrants** are in this country, most of whom, you know, have not committed crimes while they're here, are working, want to stay here, do you believe you know 100 percent what Donald Trump plans for those people?

PENA: I agree with Ana. This is an extremely intricate and complex issue. And I think he's working through the issue. And I think he is listening to great advisers including some of the members of his Hispanic Advisory Council, Rudy Giuliani among others, and he is working through the issue. It is highly complex. And I believe at the end of the day, he's going to come to a very good place. He is a man that cares very deeply about his family, about families in America, about Latino families.

COOPER: Right. But I guess ...

PENA: He doesn't want to see Latino families destroyed. And I think he's working through those issues that are extraordinarily important.

COOPER: But as a Trump supporter, it doesn't concern you that he was very clear during the primary season, all 11 million, they got to go, the good ones can come back. That's clearly, it seems to be shifting or, you know, maybe he's rethinking things. It doesn't concern you that he doesn't necessarily have a position that he has been able to very clearly state? You think that's OK, that's just part of the learning process?

PENA: Well, I think on the contrary, I'm very encouraged that he's working through the issue in a serious way.

[21:35:00] He is what may appear to be ambivalent or moving from place to place, may appear that way, but I think that's simply the fact that he is working through very complex issues. He cares deeply about them. And if it was just as easy and pat as some would make it seem to be, you wouldn't hear these kinds of things.

But I think what you're seeing reflected is someone that's working through, chewing on, reflecting in a very thoughtful way the complexities and the great ramifications of the policy decisions he ultimately needs to put in place ...

NAVARRO: But you see, what should bother all of us, though ...

PENA: ... worked on by some very thoughtful people, it seems to me.

COOPER: Ana, I want you to respond and then ...

NAVARRO: What should bother all of us, though, is that this man has been anything but deliberative or thoughtful for the last year. He has been offensive. He has shot from the hip. He has spoken in slogans and sound bites. Very offensive racist and hostile sound bites for awhile. For a year, he has done that. It should be horrifying to supporters, to opponents, to any American that it is nine weeks before an election, about four weeks before absentee ballots go out in so many states, and this guy is still thinking and working through the main issue that he has based his campaign on. It is horrifying. You know, being the commander in chief of the United States is not a learn as you go job.

COOPER: We got to leave it there.

PENA: I would disagree that's the main issue. He's working through jobs, the economy, tax reform, regulatory reform, trade reform, the tax code, education, choice ...

COOPER: OK.

PENA: ... the Supreme Court nominees. There are many issues he's working on. It's an oversimplification that this is the only issue.

COOPER: Pastor ...

PENA: And I think he's doing a great job, working on all of that.

NAVARRO: I didn't say it was the only issue. I said it was the one he based his campaign on.

COOPER: Pastor Pena, I appreciate it. Ana Navarro, I appreciate it as well.

PENA: Thank you, Anderson. Thank you for having me.

COOPER: Thank you very much.

Just ahead, a donation Donald Trump made to a group backing Florida's Attorney General broke IRS rules, resulted in fine. But Donald Trump denies he made the donation to put the brakes on a fraud investigation of Trump University. Drew Griffin drills down on the facts.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

[21:40:59] COOPER: Hey, welcome back. Donald Trump spent part of Labor Day weekend denying made a political donation to sway Florida's Attorney General from investigating fraud allegations against Trump University. Here's what he said.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

TRUMP: I've just known Pam Bondi for years. I've a lot of respect for her. Never spoke to her about that at all. And just have a lot of respect for her as a person and she's done an amazing job as the attorney general of Florida. And she's very popular.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

COOPER: Well, that's what Trump said to reporters he invited on to his plane yesterday. In the past, though, he has, of course, boasted about giving donations to politicians over the years with the idea that he'd get favors in return.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

TRUMP: I've given to Democrats. I've given to Hillary. I've given to everybody. Because that was my job. I got to give to them. Because when I want something, I get it. When I call, they kiss my ass, OK? It's true. They kiss my ass. True. True.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

COOPER: Well, Trump says that is not what happened with Pam Bondi. His campaign has confirmed that Trump paid a $2500 fine resulting from the donation to a group backing Bondi. That's because it came from Trump's foundation and that's against IRS rules.

Now, the revelation of the fine is rekindle allegations that Trump paid off Bondi to avoid an investigation into Trump University. Tonight, Drew Griffin lays out the facts.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

PAM BONDI, FLORIDA'S ATTORNEY GENERAL: It is my great honor to introduce to you ...

DREW GRIFFIN, CNN SENIOR INVESTIGATIVE CORRESPONDENT: Florida's Attorney General Pam Bondi is a huge supporter of Donald Trump.

BONDI: The next president of the United States of America, Donald Trump.

GRIFFIN: Bondi is also the Florida attorney general whose office decided not to pursue a case against Donald Trump. And the decision was made almost exactly at the same time Trump made a $25,000 donation to Pam Bondi's political PAC.

TRUMP: I've just known Pam Bondi for years. I have a lot of respect for her. Never spoke to her about that at all. GRIFFIN: Trump on his plane this weekend denies any connection. Pam Bondi also forcefully denies any connection, calling it bullying by the Clinton campaign.

BONDI: I will not be collateral damage in a presidential campaign, nor will I be a woman bullied by Hillary Clinton.

GRIFFIN: So what did happen? Here are the facts. Pam Bondi took office in 2011. Trump University was already out of business. Prior to her taking office, Florida's Attorney General's office received 20 complaints against Trump Institute, a business affiliated with Trump, but it, too, was out of business. Since Pam Bondi took office, up until the decision was made, Florida received just one complaint against Trump University.

According to a spokesman for Florida's Attorney General, it wasn't enough to justify Florida filing suit. Instead, staff doing due diligence reviewed the complaints and the New York litigation and made the proper determination that the New York litigation would provide relief to aggrieved consumers nationwide. In other words, Floridians could join New York's lawsuit.

The spokesman also told CNN, Pam Bondi had nothing to do with it. The decision was made by staff. In fact, the spokesman says Pam Bondi didn't even know there were complaints against Trump.

But around the same time the Florida Attorney General's office was deciding to not pursue a case against Trump, Pam Bondi was pursuing Donald Trump himself for a political donation. It was September of 2013. Trump's foundation donated $25,000 to Bondi's political action committee. Bondi's Attorney General's office never pursued the case. Did one follow the other? Pam Bondi again today on Fox Business News says no.

BONDI: Of course asked Donald Trump for a contribution. That's not what this is about. She was saying he was under investigation by my office at the time and I knew about it. None of which is true.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

[21:45:02] COOPER: Drew, Trump says many states looked at Trump University and decided against filing any lawsuits. Just one state, New York, chose to sue him which he says is political. Is that correct that many states looked at it, decided not to sue?

GRIFFIN: It is true. Many states had complaints and even preliminary investigations against Trump University, Anderson, but they did not pursue lawsuits in Texas, it's because Trump agreed to stop operating in the state. In other states, like Maryland and Massachusetts, the attorney general there decided not to pursue a case after Trump agreed to stop using the name university.

I don't think any of those decisions exonerate Trump's operation but it does show attorneys general across the country were deciding if it was worth it or not to file a lawsuit. And Florida, remember, by the time Pam Bondi would have made her decision, Trump University had been out of business for several years.

COOPER: And a quick update, Trump University is still being sued, cases are still moving forward, correct?

GRIFFIN: Correct.

COOPER: Correct.

GRIFFIN: Three lawsuits, two class action suits in California and then that $40 million lawsuit filed by the attorney general of New York, all three moving ahead towards trial, Anderson.

COOPER: All right, Drew Griffin. Drew, thanks.

Well, up next, a settlement by Fox in the sexual harassment case against Roger Ailes charges. The ousted Fox News chairman denies. But now Ailes is said to be helping the Trump campaign and that, of course, a Trump scrutiny. Details ahead.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

[21:50:10] COOPER: An unprecedented move by Fox. The network apologizes as giving former anchor Gretchen Carlson $20 million of a sexual harassment claim she made against Roger Ailes. The ousted Fox chairman has denied the charges against him. Sources say Ailes is now helping the Trump campaign.

The question tonight, should Trump take advice from Ailes? The two have known each other obviously for decades. Suzanne Malveaux tonight reports.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

SUZANNE MALVEAUX, CNN NATIONAL CORRESPONDENT: The relationship status between Donald Trump and Roger Ailes, well, you could call it complicated.

TRUMP: He's a very good person. I've always found him to be just a very, very good person.

MALVEAUX: Trump heaped praise for Ailes after the founder of Fox News was hit with allegations of sexual harassment from former Fox Anchor Gretchen Carlson.

TRUMP: It's very sad because he's a very good person. I've always found him to be just a very, very good person. And by the way, a very, very talented person. Look what he's done. So I feel very badly.

MALVEAUX: Trump even followed up with an attack on Ailes' accusers.

TRUMP: I can tell you that some of the women that are complaining, I know how much he's helped them and even recently, and when they write books that are fairly recently released and they say wonderful things about him and now all of a sudden they're saying these horrible things about him. MALVEAUX: But for a time during the campaign, things seemed strained between the two.

MEGYN KELLY, FOX NEWS ANCHOR: You've called women you don't like fat pigs, dogs, slobs and disgusting animals.

MALVEAUX: His very public war with Fox News over what Trump saw as mistreatment by Fox anchor Megyn Kelly put the powerful men at odds.

TRUMP: Megyn Kelly is a lightweight. This is the lightweight. This not a reporter. This to me is just a lightweight. Megyn Kelly shouldn't be in the debate. I don't care about Megyn.

MALVEAUX: Ailes repeatedly defended Kelly saying Donald Trump's vitriolic attacks against Megyn Kelly and his extreme, sick obsession with her is beneath the dignity of a presidential candidate who wants to occupy the highest office in the land. Eventually, the two men agreed to a truce.

TRUMP: Roger Ailes is a special guy. He's a good friend of mine and we just spoke two minutes ago. I mean, Roger Ailes is a great guy. And no, I have no problem.

MALVEAUX: And for weeks, Trump appeared almost exclusively on Fox News. And in July, just days after Ailes was out at Fox, Trump coyly fuel speculation that he could play a role in his campaign.

TRUMP: I don't want to comment but he's been a friend of mine for a long time and a lot of people. I think he's going to run my campaign.

MALVEAUX: In mid-August pictures and reports emerged of Trump quietly holding meetings with Ailes and top campaign staff. But the Trump campaign notably distanced themselves from the controversial figure.

KATRINA PIERSON, TRUMP CAMPAIGN NATIONAL SPOKESWOMAN: I don't know what they're talking about in private conversations, but he's definitely not playing a role informal or formal in the campaign. There's a lot of people that give Donald Trump advice but that doesn't mean they're part of the campaign.

KELLYANNE CONWAY, TRUMP CAMPAIGN MANAGER: Mr. Trump speaks to many different people. Roger Ailes is a genius when it comes to television, when it comes to communicating with people, but so is Donald Trump.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

MALVEAUX: Multiple sources tell CNN that Ailes is giving Trump advice directly. The first presidential debate, it is now just 20 days away, and Trump, when asked about Ailes role, says he is not his debate coach. So, the questions remains, what type of role does Ailes play? Anderson.

COOPER: Suzanne, thanks very much.

Back with the panel, John King, Kirsten Powers, Dana Bash, and Gloria Borger. I mean, if it was Mitt Romney back in 2012 taking advice from Roger Ailes, who, you know, after what had happened to Ailes at Fox, it would be a whole different story, but it's interesting it doesn't seem to certainly matter to Trump supporters.

BORGER: Right. If it were Mitt Romney, we'd all be scratching our head and going, really? Because ...

KING: Probably Mitt Romney wouldn't take advice at this moment from Roger Ailes.

BORGER: He wouldn't. Well, but he did get his endorsement, remember that. No, he wouldn't take advice from him.

KING: With all this public, if this were happening right now.

COOPER: Mitt Romney wouldn't have?

BORGER: He would never do it. But we've kind of become sort of used to this or immune to this in a certain way. And look, Roger Ailes could help Donald Trump in these debates. He's pretty good at it.

BASH: And that's why he's helping.

BORGER: Yeah, exactly.

BASH: And that's the bottom line. That is why he's helping. Yes, they are friends and they have been friends, I'm told, by many people who have talked on the phone obviously during his Fox years, but ...

BORGER: Right.

BASH: ... since he was fired from Fox. And Roger Ailes has attended at least a couple of Donald Trump's Sunday debate sessions.

As Suzanne said, maybe he's not a debate coach but he doesn't have a coach. I'm told that he is working with him on the thing that Roger Ailes made his name on, which is ...

COOPER: Right.

BASH: ... the one-liners.

BORGER: Debate lines.

BASH: And sort of channeling Donald Trump into something that is authentic to him but that is more palatable and memorable in terms of ...

COOPER: And Kirsten, I mean, we understand the Clinton campaign is essentially kind of doing a deep dive on trigger points for Donald Trump as well.

POWERS: Right.

[21:55:00] COOPER: So, it makes sense to have somebody from a purely debate standpoint, I would assume that the Trump campaign ... POWERS: Yeah. If you take out all of the scandal that's associated with him that it would make perfect sense to have him. But in any other situation, this would not be considered acceptable, considering the fact that Fox News has come out and apologized ...

COOPER: Correct. Fox has made a statement is -- right.

POWERS: So, for Trump who -- when I interviewed him right after all the news broke and I asked him about his defense, I interviewed him for my "USA Today" column. At that time, he's sort of feigned ignorance, you know. It didn't think it really had happened.

But at this point, the Fox News has come out, and basically, acknowledged that it's happened. And so, it's a different situation.

COOPER: And also, it's interesting that Trump was racing questions. I mean, I guess he was referencing Gretchen Carlson about reachingly publishing a book, clearly Fox has now apologized.

KING: Do not be surprised, they're debating this is in Clinton campaign, does she raised it in a debate saying what kind of people do you associate yourself with, try to get to the suburban woman argument? Did they raise it in the campaign ad, putting Roger Ailes and with other things Donald Trump has said?

In my first experience, Roger Ailes, back in 1988, my first campaign that "Michael Dukakis and the Tank" ad, and the Willie Horton ad, he knows what he's doing when it comes to framing campaign debates. That's a long time ago, but can he be helpful to Donald Trump? Yes. Can he also be hurtful to Donald Trump? He could be.

BORGER: He also supplied the line to Ronald Reagan which, you know, decimated Walter Mondale during the debate.

COOPER: And about not using the ...

BORGER: You send an experience plans, exactly.

COOPER: I want to thank everybody in the panel. We'll be right back.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

[22:00:06] COOPER: Hey, thanks for watching. Hope you have a good night. I'll see you tomorrow night.

"CNN TONIGHT" with Don Lemon starts now.