

# *Neo Politico*

The Youth Journal for  
Applied Politics

Issue 7      November/December 2015      U.S. Elections



## **Table of Content**

America's "Trump" Card in the Middle East: Foreign Relations and Controlled Interventionism by Devavrat Dave .....	4
The New Race to the White House: Cruz vs. Rubio by Narrelle Gilchrist .....	7
Martin O'Malley: The Man for the Middle Class by Mónica Martinez .....	12
Why We Should Listen To Bernie Sanders by Rylan Maksoud .....	14
Martin O'Malley for President by Joshua Zakharov .....	17

## Our Philosophy

Everything is political. Everything we do is implicated in, intertwined with, and swimming through spheres of politics. Whether it is the material politics of capitalism, where certain groups of people attain more wealth at the cost of others, or the black radical politics around the U.S., we are all participants in one way or another.

While it is true that everything is political, it is also equally a lie to say politics is everything for people. It is common to find high school students hating politics, either because of a deep resentment of a politician's subject-position or because of a perceived disconnect between politics and the student. It is an undeniable trend that high school students are gradually divesting from politics. Politics is seen as an external structure that denies the student any agency in changing politics.

However, though the downward trend is strong, we can do more to give students opportunities to garner agency. Whether the politics is engaged with the stability of American democracy or the progression of a feminist group, creating spaces for students to express their agency, their energy, their opinions can go a long way towards revealing their relation to the world.

We created Neo Politico to establish that space where any student, regardless of their prior experience, can voice their opinions on certain issues. Every opinion matters because everyone matters. We only hope that more students across the entire world can join us in increasing political engagement and producing a critical consciousness of the world.

# America's "Trump" Card in the Middle East: Foreign Relations and Controlled Interventionism

Author: Devavrat Dave from Heritage Hall High School, OK

Recently, Donald became a name associated with politics and the United States' presidency rather than simply a name associated with a cartoon duck. While he remains a controversial candidate, Donald Trump takes a pragmatic view of the world rather than engaging in ideological blather. His bold stance is one of the many reasons he is predicted to win the Republican nomination and the 2016 election. His views regarding the Middle East in particular are emblematic of this realistic approach to politics and international relations.

In the 21<sup>st</sup> century, one of the greatest issues has become dealing with the chaos in the Middle East. For example, the recent nuclear deal with Iran was a controversial issue often coated in complex rhetoric difficult for a common person to follow. However, Donald Trump's appeal lies in his ability to simplify seemingly complex issues such that they make sense to the average citizen. He aptly argues that permitting development of nuclear weapons in Iran is bad, especially because a radical terrorist regime could acquire them, causing securitization even amongst allies and potential future catastrophe.<sup>1</sup> The nuclear deal, while seemingly benevolent, is simply a catastrophe waiting to unfold. Trump articulates that Iran should not be allowed to develop nuclear weapons in the first place, which vastly decreases the probability of radical regimes acquiring nuclear weapons.

Even from a historical standpoint, Trump has been a genius when it comes to the Middle East. When it came to the Iraq War, contrary to popular belief, Trump actually avidly advocated not going to war.<sup>2</sup> However, he held his beliefs for practical reasons, whereas many others simply engaged in pointless arguing that Trump has come to criticize. He argued, in 2004, that the Iraq War would destabilize the Middle East. Trump was correct; even now America is spending millions in aid to resolve a problem that it created.

Perhaps Trump's expertise when it comes to the Middle East can even be applied to the question of terrorism and radical regimes such as ISIS. Trump occupies a smart middle ground in this matter. Many Republicans simply advocate huge expansion into the Middle East to "squash" the terrorists with the might of the US military. This is problematic for a litany of reasons. First, mass military expansion simply allows for the lives of more soldiers to be lost. Additionally, the cost of mass military intervention amounts to trillions of dollars which the United States simply cannot afford considering the current deficit. Finally, this large scale intervention simply legitimizes the recruiting message of many terrorist groups, which paint the United States as a large military machine seeking complete destruction of the Middle East. Mass intervention allows that message to be given some validity, furthering the terrorist cause. Conversely, many of those leaning far to the left on the political spectrum believe that the United States should be passive, only offering humanitarian aid. However, this is problematic for many of the same reasons. Aid in Iraq is still continuing to this day, and in total has cost the United States more than \$1.7 trillion.<sup>3</sup> Additionally, passivity simply allows for the terrorist regimes to continue their expansion without being challenged. Trump's stance is one of controlled interventionism, wherein he would only send a limited number of combat troops if advised to do so by ALL of his military advisors.<sup>4</sup> This resolves the problem of both cost and protecting American soldiers, because his military advisors would most likely only come to a consensus when they were sure that the soldiers would be safe, and even then, the number sent would be limited. Trump also says that the United States should no longer give aid money to areas directly controlled by terrorist regimes. This assists people living in controlled regions to finally realize that the terrorist cause lacks legitimacy, and revolt against it rather than being drawn towards it.

Ultimately, Trump represents the best of both worlds when it comes to foreign relations. His ability to compromise but also stand firm in certain areas is one not found in many other candidates' ideas for foreign policy. He could be America's solution to the catastrophic problems within the Middle East, representing both a better present and better future, due in part to his ability to communicate complex

ideas effectively to the common American citizen.

# The New Race for White House: Ted Cruz vs. Marco Rubio

Author: Narrelle Gilchrist

Words roll off the tongue of the Cuban-American, his demeanor firm and reassuring, his supporters enthusiastic and loud. These words depict not one, but two GOP presidential candidates: Marco Rubio and Ted Cruz. Both Cuban-Americans are in their forties, possess formidable debating skills, have served only one term in the Senate, and suddenly have found themselves one step away from the top spot in the GOP polls, arguably with the best chance for the nomination. Yet, their similarities end there. Cruz has depicted himself as tough-on-immigration and the fiery anti-establishment candidate, while Rubio has positioned himself as the establishment favorite, a candidate who is defined by strength in foreign policy, ready for balanced immigration reform, and able to appeal to all demographics. Over the past few weeks, those differences have come into sharp contrast, and the race between them has only just begun. With Ben Carson fast fading, Donald Trump viewed as unviable for the general election, and no other candidate receiving double digits in the polls, the new race for the GOP nomination is between two Cuban-Americans – Ted Cruz and Marco Rubio – and each would have a remarkably different path to the nomination.

Ted Cruz is known colloquially as the “most hated man in the Senate.” His persona is defined by a stubborn, anti-establishment attitude, and he has spent his career in the Senate attacking career politicians and refusing to compromise. At a time when fed-up voters are time and again picking outsider candidates, that reputation holds immense advantages, and in fact positions Cruz as the alternative to Donald Trump. When, or if, Trump finally falls, his supporters will have to back someone, and it seems increasingly likely that that someone will be Ted Cruz. Compared to the other candidates, Cruz has been practically allies with Trump throughout the race. In September, the two men appeared side by side at a rally about the Iran Deal, undeniably linking Cruz with Trump in the eyes of both their supporters.<sup>5</sup> More recently, in

November, Trump mentioned Cruz as a possible choice for his vice-president, saying that Cruz “is agreeing with me one hundred percent.”<sup>6</sup> A few weeks later, Cruz asserted that, if he becomes president, not only would he build a wall along the Mexican border, but he would also hire Donald Trump to build it.<sup>7</sup> When Trump’s supporters are forced to choose another candidate, they will choose a man who has promised to attack the establishment and remain tough on immigration, never offering any form of amnesty, and the candidate that best fits that description is Cruz. Adding Trump’s supporters to Cruz’s current poll numbers would give the senator the support of over 40% of Republican voters, enough to win several primary states while the rest of the votes remain scattered amongst the ten establishment candidates.

Cruz’s ability to shore up support doesn’t end there. He has another benefit that Trump could never have: his ability to shore up Evangelical support. With a pastor as a father, Cruz has spoken openly about his faith in Iowa, talking about “the power of prayer” and pledging to form a “national prayer team.” So far, he has been successful in gaining the support of over two hundred of the most influential evangelical leaders.<sup>8</sup> Ben Carson has been consistently seen as the religious favorite, but as his questionable policy answers lead to his downfall, his evangelical supporters will likely switch to Cruz. After the fall of Trump and Carson, Cruz will lock down not just the angry, anti-establishment voters, but also the far-right, religious Republican base. With these two essential voting blocs on his side, the Texas senator could quite possibly *cruise* to the nomination.

Yet, the man that will undeniably stand in his way will be Marco Rubio, a candidate who resides on the other end of the spectrum. While Cruz shores up the far-right and anti-politician bases, Rubio will focus on the large bloc of moderate voters and the Republican establishment. Cruz’s strategy relies on the fall of Donald Trump, but Rubio has the much easier task of consolidating the disjointed support of the other establishment candidates. As Jeb Bush and Scott Walker have fallen, and none of the other

establishment candidates have gotten out of the starting gate, Rubio is arguably the new favorite of traditional Republicans. Currently the highest polling establishment candidate, Rubio has been endorsed by nine sitting members of Congress, while Bush, long assumed to be the party favorite, has only received two.<sup>9</sup> As Bush continues to struggle, a major Republican donor has already chosen to back Rubio, a sign that the Florida senator has replaced Bush as the establishment candidate of choice.<sup>10</sup> As the field winnows down, supporters of Bush, Kasich, Huckabee, Christie, and the other mainstream candidates will likely switch to Rubio, placing him within reach of the top spot in the polls.

The rise of Rubio comes with an undeniable theme: the Florida senator has the best chance against Hillary Clinton in the fall. Young, Hispanic, and a fresh face in Washington, Rubio would stand in sharp contrast to Hillary Clinton, who has been entrenched in Washington for decades. Incredibly articulate, Rubio has benefited from strong debate performances, and his widespread appeal has shown in his favorability ratings, which remain among the highest in the field.<sup>11</sup> This number is perhaps the most important, because it can predict future potential for support. Candidates who are viewed unfavorably by the general populace, such as Trump, aren't that likely to gain the support of undecided or independent voters, nor will they receive the supporters of the other candidates as they drop out. In contrast, a candidate with a high favorability rating, such as Rubio, has a strong chance of not just converting other candidates' supporters, but also attracting currently undecided voters and independents as Election Day draws near. Ultimately, Rubio may be seen as the candidate with the broadest appeal and the best chance to defeat Hillary Clinton, and that chance is what makes the prospect of a President Rubio not so far-fetched at all.

With Cruz and Rubio both poised with an excellent chance for the nomination, though for vastly different reasons, conflict between the two Cuban-Americans is inevitable. The two campaigns reside on opposite ends of the spectrum, just as their supporters do. While Cruz appeals to the voters seeking an

outsider, who are fed up with career politicians, Rubio looks to the establishment for his support. Where Cruz is defined by anger, Rubio is defined by optimism. Their vastly different campaign tactics bring to light important policy differences as well. Over the past few weeks, Cruz has attacked Rubio on his weak point, immigration. While Rubio takes a far more moderate stance when it comes to immigration, Cruz's positions on immigration align more with those of Donald Trump, and Cruz has frequently attacked Rubio for the bill he sponsored in the Senate, which provided a path to citizenship for illegal immigrants. Yet, if Rubio is viewed as weak in immigration, he makes up for it with strength in foreign policy. As arguably the most hawkish foreign policy candidate in the field, Rubio has stood to gain from increased focus on national security issues in the wake of the Paris attacks, and he has begun to attack Cruz for his centrist opinions on foreign policy. When Cruz voted to scale back the federal counterterrorism surveillance programs, Rubio cited the vote as a threat to national security at a time when a domestic attack by ISIS seems more likely than ever. The policy distinction between the two senators is another indication of the gap between their bases, as they appeal to vastly different, though equally large, blocs of voters.

The GOP presidential field today seems jumbled and large, but inevitably it may narrow down to two candidates: Ted Cruz and Marco Rubio. With the might of Trump's former supporters and evangelical base on his side, Ted Cruz will face only one barrier to the nomination: Marco Rubio, the candidate with widespread appeal and the support of the establishment. The fall of Trump is in no way inevitable, but if it does come to pass, the two Cuban-Americans will likely be next in line. Regardless, one fact is for certain: while other candidates have begun their decline, the race between Cruz and Rubio has only just begun.

Neo Politico  
Works Cited

Alvarez, Priscilla. "Ted Cruz and Donald Trump Forge an Alliance of Convenience." The Atlantic. September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2015. December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2015. <http://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2015/09/ted-cruz-and-donald-trump-forge-an-alliance-of-convenience/404554/>

Cohn, Nate. "Why Marco Rubio's Chances Are Rising." The New York Times. October 6<sup>th</sup>, 2015. December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2015. [http://www.nytimes.com/2015/10/06/upshot/why-marco-rubio-is-rising.html?\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2015/10/06/upshot/why-marco-rubio-is-rising.html?_r=0)

Everett, Burgess, and Seung Min Kim. "As Cruz Gains, GOP Senators Rally for Rubio." Politico. November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2015. December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2015. <http://www.politico.com/story/2015/11/ted-cruz-marco-rubio-gop-senators-support-2016-216195>

Glueck, Katie. "How Ted Cruz is Locking Up the Evangelical Vote." Politico. November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2015. December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2015. <http://www.politico.com/story/2015/11/ted-cruz-evangelical-vote-216080>

Henderson, Nia-Malika. "The Ted Cruz-Marco Rubio Smackdown." CNN. December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2015. December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2015. <http://www.cnn.com/2015/12/02/politics/cruz-rubio-2016-smackdown/>

Hensch, Mark. "Trump Names Cruz When Asked about VP Spot." The Hill. November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2015. December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2015. <http://thehill.com/blogs/ballot-box/presidential-races/260492-trump-names-cruz-when-asked-about-vp-spot>

Lawler, David. "Jeb Bush's Nightmare Week Continues as Key Donor Plumps for Marco Rubio." The Telegraph. October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2015. December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2015.  
<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/republicans/11967664/Jeb-Bushs-nightmare-week-continues-as-key-donor-plumps-for-Marco-Rubio.html>

"Republican Presidential Nomination." Real Clear Politics. December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2015.  
[http://www.realclearpolitics.com/epolls/2016/president/us/2016\\_republican\\_presidential\\_nomination-3823.html](http://www.realclearpolitics.com/epolls/2016/president/us/2016_republican_presidential_nomination-3823.html)

Riehl, Dan. "Ted Cruz on Immigration: I'll Appoint Trump to Build the Wall When I'm Elected." Breitbart. December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2015. December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2015. <http://www.breitbart.com/big-government/2015/12/02/ted-cruz-immigration-ill-appoint-trump-build-wall-im-elected/>

Stanley, Timothy. "It's Cruz and Rubio, not Trump and Carson." CNN. December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2015. December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2015. <http://www.cnn.com/2015/12/02/opinions/stanley-cruz-rubio-challenge-trump/index.html>

Schlesinger, Robert. "Last Men Standing." US News and World Report. October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2015. December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2015. <http://www.usnews.com/news/the-report/articles/2015/10/02/forget-trump-carson-and-fiorina-2016-will-come-down-to-cruz-v-rubio>

# **Martin O’Malley: The Man for the Middle Class**

Author: Mónica Martinez from Clear Lake High School, TX

Although he is casually cruising at 4.4% in the polls, his policies should write him out to be every young Democrat’s dream. Martin O’Malley should be given more consideration for the presidential election due to the lack of awareness he currently has in the public sphere.<sup>12</sup> This former governor of Maryland has the determination, gumption, and aptitude to be Commander in Chief. Martin O’Malley’s policies generate economic benefit, and enforce both public safety and welfare.

Primarily, O’Malley plans to increase American families median net worth by \$25,000. He takes a realistic approach by planning to cut the gender pay gap between full-time male and female workers, as over half of the labor force is female.<sup>13</sup> Through the usage of paycheck fairness laws, strong family leave policies, and easier access to affordable, quality healthcare, the pay gap would be reduced and therefore increase median net worth by \$25,000. Another reality is that a third of Americans do not have sufficient retirement funds, leaving this one third to work until death.<sup>14</sup> The policy will increase the number of families with adequate retirement savings by 50% in 8 years as well.

Another economic benefit O’Malley’s policies will beget is to restore the nation’s antitrust laws to secure America’s market competition. These laws were originally created to protect fair markets in which small business and farms operate, gaining maximum amount of profit for their services and products. Due to interpretations of these laws induced unprecedeted corporate consolidation, depressed wages, employment, and innovation. As a result of his policy, these negative effects will lessen.

Martin O’Malley does not only desire a vibrant economy, he cares about the daily well being of America’s citizens. Gun violence in American communities has only come to light in recent years. After unnecessary deaths by gun violence, the new president must take a definitive stance on gun policy to prevent further incidents. In 2015 alone, firearms killed more than 32,000 Americans.<sup>15</sup> In hopes of beginning to remedy this gun control issue, O’Malley would propose more federally regulated gun laws,

eliminate loopholes in current laws, and expand requirements for purchasing, reporting, and carrying guns.

O'Malley predicts this will cut death and injury by gun in half by 2025.

Not only does Martin O'Malley want to protect the American people, his policies will extend the American Dream to others. There is an unresolved immigration crisis without comprehensive interventional policy being put into action.<sup>16</sup> Policy in the past has ripped apart families and the threat of familial separation continues to loom upon the heads of 11 million undocumented people who simply have no better place to take refuge.<sup>17</sup> Because American politicians do not aid Central American countries enough to solve the roots of their issues, temporal steps must be taken. That is why O'Malley has intelligently structured immigration reform by executive action as one of his priorities to put 11 million people on the pathway to citizenship.

All in all, Martin O'Malley and the potency of his policies are underrated. He might be facing tough competition against Hillary Clinton, Bernie Sanders, and their campaign funds, but his plans for our nation certainly exemplify a thorough understanding of the issues America needs solved. From painstakingly revisiting laws that affect small business, to elaborate gun reform, and shots at healing the immigration ailment in America, Martin O'Malley deserves a chance to prove himself to America.

# Why We Should Listen To Bernie Sanders

Author: Rylan Maksoud from The Kinkaid School, TX

You may have heard of him for skyrocketing in the polls, or being the only real challenger to Hillary's coronation, or even his crazy socialist plan to turn America away from capitalism and embrace China's oppressive economic system. Even though he describes himself as a democratic socialist, Bernie Sanders does not want to shun capitalism nor make the United States look like China. His plan for America is based on the economic systems in many prosperous, capitalist countries around the world (Denmark, Finland, Sweden, and Norway), and would work here.

The first part of his plan is to bring a single-payer healthcare system (where the government acts as the insurer) to the United States. Critics of this system believe it would be too costly. On September 14, 2015, The Wall Street Journal ran a piece decrying Bernie Sanders' plan for that reason.<sup>18</sup> They cited Gerald Friedman, an economist at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, in claiming that a single-payer health care system would require \$15 trillion in additional federal government spending over 10 years. What the Wall Street Journal failed to include from Mr. Friedman's research is that the country, as a whole, would save \$5 trillion over 10 years by switching to a single-payer system, which he addressed in "An Open Letter to the Wall Street Journal on Its Bernie Sanders Hit Piece".<sup>19</sup> Not only would we save money by "reducing administrative waste, lowering pharmaceutical and device prices, and lowering the rate of medical inflation", but we would also ensure that nobody won't be able to see a doctor because they can't afford it, and we would achieve universal healthcare coverage. Also, the American people would be able to spend their money stimulating their local economy, instead of having some mega insurance corp take it every month. In addition, companies operating in the United States would have lower costs because they wouldn't have to pay for health insurance for their employees.<sup>20</sup> Another benefit would be that individuals would no longer be forced to stay with their employer for health benefits. In California in 2002, 179,000 people wished to switch employers, but couldn't due to their health care benefits, representing \$772 million

in lost productivity. According to PolitiFact, the United States is the only advanced country without universal coverage and its benefits.<sup>21</sup>

In addition to guaranteeing health care for all Americans, Bernie Sanders wants to make tuition at public colleges free. In Finland, Denmark, Ireland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden, Mexico, and Germany, this is already the case.<sup>22</sup> This would encourage students from families that can not afford the skyrocketing costs of tuition to apply to college and work hard at school. It would also correct the current injustice that you can only get a good education if you are wealthy. Students would be able to leave college debt-free and not forever have to make payments on their student loans, and the economy would benefit from a more-educated workforce. To fund this, Senator Sanders has proposed a 0.5% tax on stock trades, a 0.1% tax on bond trades, and a 0.005% tax on derivative trades. He has already introduced legislation to make this a reality, Senate Bill 1373. Contrary to claims by some pundits of certain economic destruction if this bill were passed, many countries around the world already have such a tax. The UK imposes a 0.5% tax on purchases of securities, and 39 other countries impose a financial transaction tax as well.<sup>23</sup>

Bernie Sanders also wants to stop big bankers from acting with impunity. He plans to do so by jailing those who have committed crimes after the 2008 bailout and breaking up banks that are too big to fail. "If a bank is too big to fail, it is too big to exist", in Bernie Sanders' words.<sup>24</sup> He's right. Banks that are too big to fail will engage in risky behavior that has a chance to bring the bank down, because they know that the government has to bail them out to prevent the collapse of the whole banking system. Bernie Sanders has already introduced Senate Bill 1206 that would direct the Secretary of the Treasury to compile a Too Big To Fail List of banks that are "systemically important" and whose "failure would cause a catastrophic effect on the United States or global economy without a taxpayer bailout." Capitalism would be allowed to run its course and banks that wish to engage in risky behavior will have potential failure as a disincentive. Hillary Clinton's plan merely gives regulators the power to determine that a particular bank engages in too risky behavior and to demand its breakup. It is an easy cop-out and would not result in any

change. The Obama administration had the power to send bankers to jail, as they were in other countries, but that failed to happen. Wall Street is just too powerful. Arguing against Sanders' plan to break up the banks in the CNN Democratic debate, Hillary Clinton said, "I represented Wall Street, as a senator from New York, and I went to Wall Street in December of 2007 — before the big crash that we had — and I basically said, 'cut it out! Quit foreclosing on homes! Quit engaging in these kinds of speculative behaviors.'"<sup>25</sup> Obviously, that didn't work, and she shouldn't expect it to work the second time around. Wall Street evidently doesn't believe she would crack down on them either. Over her career, four out of the five top employers for the largest contributors to her campaign have been Wall Street banks according to the Center for Responsive Politics.<sup>26</sup> These individuals would not invest their money into someone that would break their company up.

Despite his claims that he is a democratic socialist, Bernie Sanders has never suggested anything close to full socialism (defined as the collective ownership of the means of production).<sup>27</sup> Instead, he wants to implement the Nordic model in the United States. The Nordic Model is what is in place in Denmark, Sweden, Finland, Iceland, and Norway, countries that regularly top lists of the world's happiest countries.<sup>28</sup> The Nordic model is a system where free market capitalism can operate, but is restricted so that everyone can have some share of its benefits. It is this society that voters choose when they vote for Bernie Sanders in their Democratic primary.

# Martin O’Malley for President

Author: Joshua Zakharov from the Bronx High School of Science

At the dinner table, while listening to the Democratic debates earlier last month, I told my parents they should look out for O’Malley who, in my opinion, stood to gain the most in terms of name recognition. “Who is this again?” my dad would ask, every single time he came up to speak that night. I get the same reaction when I tell everyone I know that were he to be more popular, O’Malley would get my vote.

Today, we’ll find out who Martin O’Malley is, where he stands, and why he should win the Democratic Nomination.

Martin O’Malley is best known as the former Governor of Maryland and Mayor of Baltimore, and his achievements in those positions were nothing short of impressive. He began his tenure as mayor with a message and a goal to decrease violent crime in Baltimore’s poor urban neighborhoods. Conventional methods, he argued, were ineffective in achieving this – so, to better deal with the situation, O’Malley initiated a new, statistics and fact-based approach called CitiStat, a low-cost means to track and report data on crime and on the performance of other government bureaus in upholding their duties. This diagnosing and addressing problems approach was able to empirically reduce crime rates in Baltimore over O’Malley’s tenure, and was even adopted in other large cities (namely Washington, D.C.). O’Malley also set himself in favor of funding for K-12 education and school safety, both of which he was also able to improve. His policies as Governor didn’t waver a bit. In addition to implementing CitiStat across Maryland as a new system, StateStat, to improve government efficiency and target crime rates, O’Malley was also able to close a maximum-security prison in the state. As Governor, O’Malley was able to demonstrate himself to be accommodating towards undocumented immigrants, passing legislation to qualify many for in-state tuition at Maryland’s public colleges and speaking strongly against deportations and strong legal discrimination

against undocumented immigrants. He also came out as a friend of research and scientific advancement, passing over \$100 million in stem cell research over six years and boosting NIH funding by over 3%.

O'Malley's stances, for the most part, are strongly liberal and democratic, to the left of Hillary Clinton and to the right of Bernie Sanders. So far, though, I'm sure you only see him as an average Democratic candidate. Let's begin by stacking him against Hillary Clinton. Firstly, O'Malley is a much stronger opponent of corporate influence in government and corporate immunity from law, supporting measures like reinstating Glass-Steagall to separate commercial and investment banking and the prosecution of bankers responsible for the financial crisis. Clinton, however, is a recipient of major corporate donations from numerous financial giants not limited to Goldman Sachs, JP Morgan, Citigroup, and more, and fails to express the same rhetoric that O'Malley does in terms of regulating corporations that control a vast amount of American wealth. He is also an active member of the war on poverty, decrying economic injustice and touting welfare programs to grow and secure the middle class. O'Malley is also markedly less hawkish than Clinton, standing more in favor of a negotiated settlement between Israel and Palestine, the US and Iran, and seeking a more collaborative rather than empirically ineffective confrontational stance.

Strong as his views may be, they aren't quite as strong as Sanders'. Sanders, as we all know, advocates even higher tax increases to pay for social programs including full college tuition, health care as a right for all Americans, breaking up the big banks, just to name a few of his stronger ideas. Though these ideas sound almost ideal to us, that idealism is the problem – even if these ideas are economically feasible, convincing a majority-Republican Congress (and especially the Freedom Caucus) to pass them or not to override a veto is nigh-impossible. A candidate like O'Malley, however, is a candidate that can compromise. On gun control, for example, O'Malley was able to pass a comprehensive bill to ban 45 different types of assault rifles and implement better identification, background checks, and safety training measures for gun owners, all while compromising with and winning over Maryland's rural and Appalachian

population. This was the same population O’Malley was able to expand healthcare coverage in and win over to pass the DREAM Act and be the first state to do so (relatedly, Sander’s voting record on immigration is liberal but mixed, while O’Malley was able to pass successful pro-immigration reforms in his state).

Martin O’Malley is a politician that can compromise with and win over those within his own party and across parties and succeed in passing the bills he sponsors, all while sticking to a firm set of Democratic values and never sacrificing the interests of the poor, rural, and underrepresented to do so.

That being said – if he continues not to poll so hot and lag in endorsements, Bernie’s getting my vote.

<sup>1</sup>"Donald Trump on War & Peace." On the Issues: Every Political Leader On Every Issue. August 8, 2015. Accessed October 25, 2015.

<sup>2</sup>"Donald Trump in Sunday Political Talk Show Interviews During 2015" On the Issues: Every Political Leader On Every Issue. August 8, 2015. Accessed October 25, 2015.

<sup>3</sup>Trotta, Daniel. "Iraq War Costs U.S. More than \$2 Trillion: Study." Reuters. March 14, 2013. Accessed October 25, 2015.

<sup>4</sup>"Donald Trump on War & Peace." On the Issues: Every Political Leader On Every Issue. August 8, 2015. Accessed October 25, 2015.

<sup>5</sup>Alvarez, Priscilla. "Ted Cruz and Donald Trump Forge an Alliance of Convenience." The Atlantic. September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2015. December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2015. <http://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2015/09/ted-cruz-and-donald-trump-forge-an-alliance-of-convenience/404554/>

<sup>6</sup>Hensch, Mark. "Trump Names Cruz When Asked about VP Spot." The Hill. November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2015. December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2015.

<http://thehill.com/blogs/ballot-box/presidential-races/260492-trump-names-cruz-when-asked-about-vp-spot>

<sup>7</sup>Riehl, Dan. "Ted Cruz on Immigration: I'll Appoint Trump to Build the Wall When I'm Elected." Breitbart. December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2015.

December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2015. <http://www.breitbart.com/big-government/2015/12/02/ted-cruz-immigration-ill-appoint-trump-build-wall-im-elected/>

<sup>8</sup>Glueck, Katie. "How Ted Cruz is Locking Up the Evangelical Vote." Politico. November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2015. December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2015.

<http://www.politico.com/story/2015/11/ted-cruz-evangelical-vote-216080>

<sup>9</sup>Everett, Burgess, and Seung Min Kim. "As Cruz Gains, GOP Senators Rally for Rubio." Politico. November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2015. December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2015. <http://www.politico.com/story/2015/11/ted-cruz-marco-rubio-gop-senators-support-2016-216195>

<sup>10</sup>Lawler, David. "Jeb Bush's Nightmare Week Continues as Key Donor Plumps for Marco Rubio." The Telegraph. October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2015.

December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2015. <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/republicans/11967664/Jeb-Bushs-nightmare-week-continues-as-key-donor-plumps-for-Marco-Rubio.html>

<sup>11</sup>Cohn, Nate. "Why Marco Rubio is Rising." The New York Times. October 6<sup>th</sup>, 2015. December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2015.

[http://www.nytimes.com/2015/10/06/upshot/why-marco-rubio-is-rising.html?\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2015/10/06/upshot/why-marco-rubio-is-rising.html?_r=0)

<sup>12</sup>"RealClearPolitics - Election 2016 - 2016 Democratic Presidential Nomination." RealClearPolitics - Election 2016 - 2016 Democratic Presidential Nomination. May 30, 2015. Accessed November 29, 2015.

<sup>13</sup>"Data & Statistics." Data & Statistics. 2015. Accessed November 29, 2015. [http://www.dol.gov/wb/stats/stats\\_data.htm](http://www.dol.gov/wb/stats/stats_data.htm).

<sup>14</sup>Porter, Eduardo. "Americans Aren't Saving Enough for Retirement, but One Change Could Help." The New York Times. March 3, 2015.

Accessed November 29, 2015.

<sup>15</sup> "2015 Toll of Gun Violence." Gun Violence Archive. 2015. Accessed November 29, 2015.

<sup>16</sup> "Central America's Unresolved Migrant Crisis." The New York Times. June 15, 2015. Accessed November 29, 2015.

<sup>17</sup> Yu-Hsi Lee, Esther. "STUDY: There Are Now 11.7 Million Undocumented Immigrants." Think Progress. September 23, 2013. Accessed November 29, 2015.

<sup>18</sup> Laura Meckler, "Price Tag of Bernie Sanders's Proposals: \$18 Trillion," last modified September 14, 2015, accessed October 14, 2015, <http://www.wsj.com/articles/price-tag-of-bernie-sanders-proposals-18-trillion-1442271511>.

<sup>19</sup> Gerald Friedman, "An Open Letter to the Wall Street Journal on Its Bernie Sanders Hit Piece," last modified September 15, 2015, accessed October 17, 2015, [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/gerald-friedman/the-wall-street-journal-k\\_b\\_8143062.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/gerald-friedman/the-wall-street-journal-k_b_8143062.html).

<sup>20</sup> Behzad Mohit, "Universal Health Care Can Save Our Economy and Keep 1.7 million Jobs in the U.S.: Part III," last modified May 25, 2011, accessed October 22, 2015, [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/dr-behzad-mohit/universal-health-care-can\\_b\\_201154.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/dr-behzad-mohit/universal-health-care-can_b_201154.html).

<sup>21</sup> Jon Greenburg, "Bernie Sanders: U.S. 'only major country' that doesn't guarantee right to health care," Politifact, last modified June 29, 2015, accessed October 19, 2015,

<http://www.politifact.com/truth-o-meter/statements/2015/jun/29/bernie-s/bernie-sanders-us-only-major-country-doesnt-guaran/>.

<sup>22</sup> Bernie Sanders, "Make college free for all," Washington Post, last modified October 22, 2015, accessed October 23, 2015, [https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/bernie-sanders-america-needs-free-college-now/2015/10/22/a3d05512-7685-11e5-bc80-9091021aeb69\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/bernie-sanders-america-needs-free-college-now/2015/10/22/a3d05512-7685-11e5-bc80-9091021aeb69_story.html).

<sup>23</sup> Stephany Griffith-Jones, "Why critics are wrong about a financial-transaction tax," last modified May 19, 2014, accessed October 18, 2015, <http://www.politico.eu/article/why-critics-are-wrong-about-a-financial-transaction-tax/>.

<sup>24</sup> Manny Schewitz, "Bernie Sanders: 'Too Big To Fail Banks Are Too Big To Exist'" Read more at:

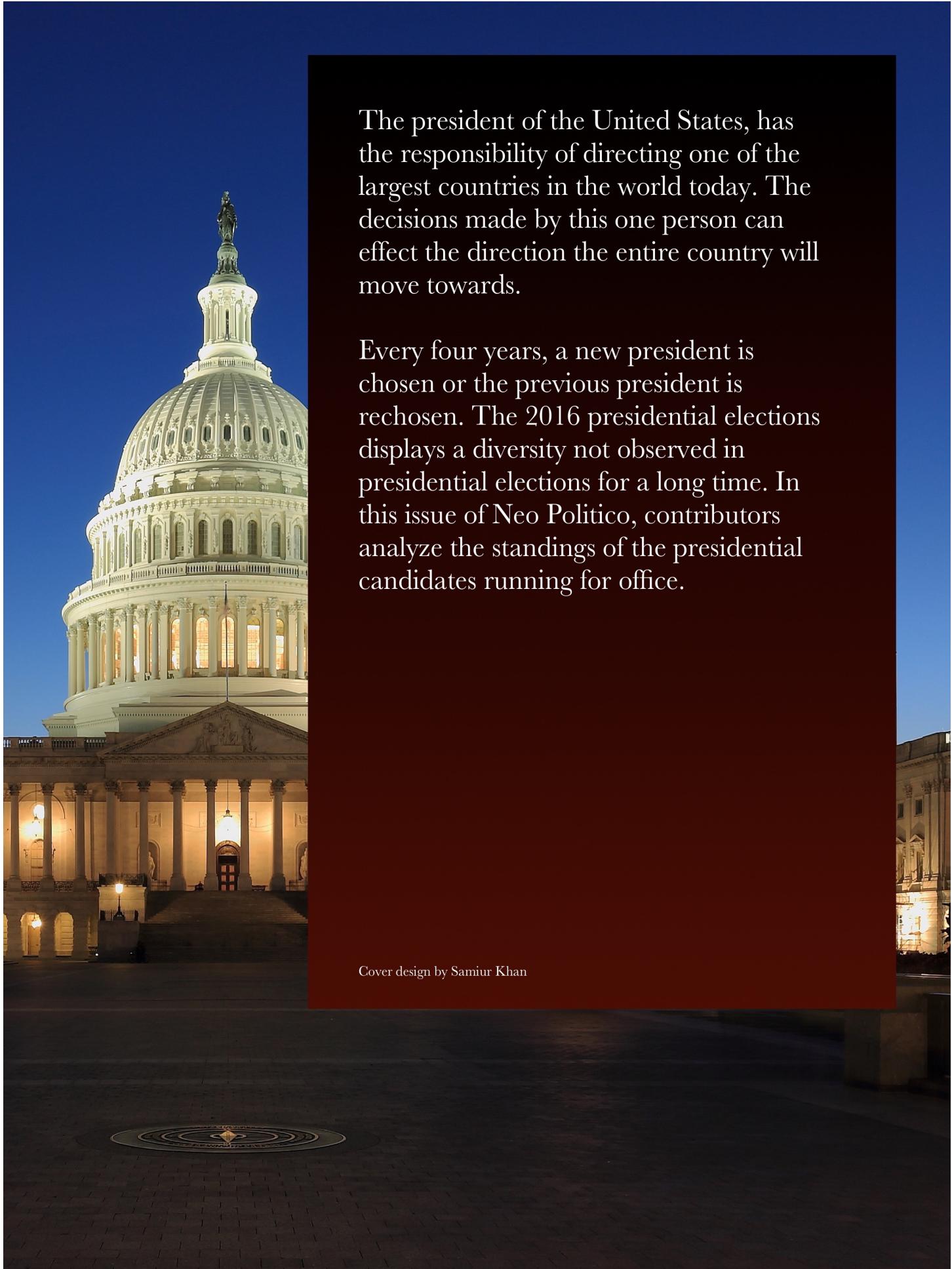
<http://www.forwardprogressives.com/bernie-sanders-too-big-to-fail-banks-are-too-big-to-exist/> " last modified May 21, 2015, accessed October 18, 2015, <http://www.forwardprogressives.com/bernie-sanders-too-big-to-fail-banks-are-too-big-to-exist/>.

<sup>25</sup> CNN, "CNN Democratic Debate – Full Transcript," last modified October 13, 2015, accessed October 18, 2015, <http://cnnpressroom.blogs.cnn.com/2015/10/13/cnn-democratic-debate-full-transcript/>.

<sup>26</sup> Center for Responsive Politics, "Hillary Clinton," Opensecrets.org, accessed October 22, 2015, <https://www.opensecrets.org/politicians/summary.php?cycle=Career&cid=N00000019>.

<sup>27</sup> "Socialism," in Merriam-Webster, [Page #], accessed October 23, 2015, <http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/socialism>.

<sup>28</sup> Brodwin, Erin. "The Happiest Countries in the World, According to Neuroscientists, Statisticians, and Economists." Business Insider. Business Insider, Inc, 23 Apr. 2015. Web. 8 Nov. 2015.



The president of the United States, has the responsibility of directing one of the largest countries in the world today. The decisions made by this one person can effect the direction the entire country will move towards.

Every four years, a new president is chosen or the previous president is rechosen. The 2016 presidential elections displays a diversity not observed in presidential elections for a long time. In this issue of Neo Politico, contributors analyze the standings of the presidential candidates running for office.

Cover design by Samiur Khan