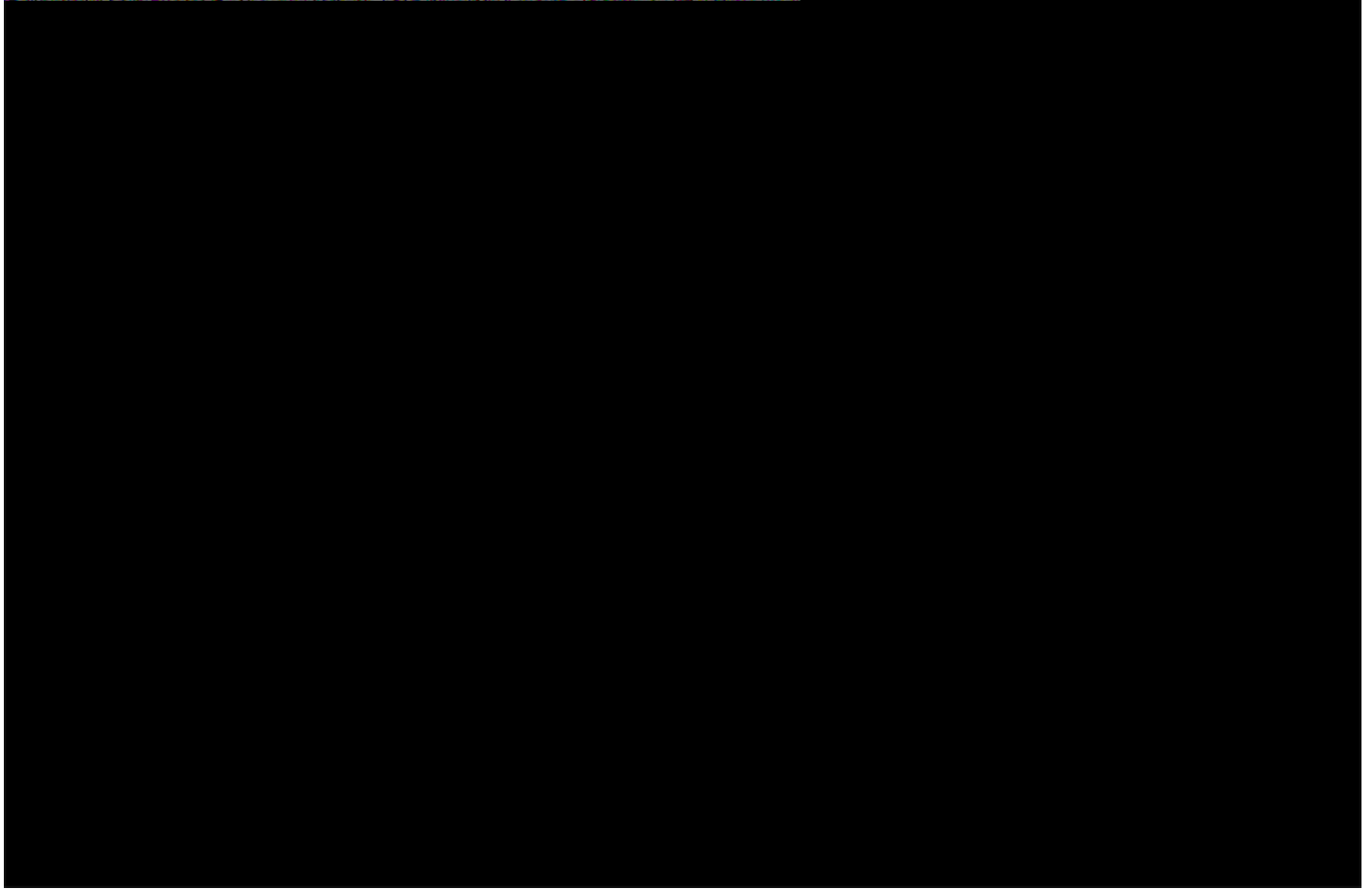


<http://www.cagle.com/carl-golden/2019/08/many-democrats-remain-undeterred-by-long-odds-and-low-numbers>

Many Democrats Remain Undeterred by Long Odds and Low Numbers

Carl Golden Aug 16, 2019 Updated 7 min ago



It is a personally wrenching decision, a public acknowledgement that one's beliefs and principles have failed to create a deep impression on the public mind and support has diminished to an unsustainable level.

Debating proposals to decriminalize illegal border crossings, end private health care insurance, and spend trillions of dollars on social welfare programs plays directly into President Trump's wheelhouse.

Even though the "Moderates need not apply" sign has been posted outside national party headquarters, Biden – the quintessential middle lane contender – has held the polling lead ever since he entered the race. The former vice president has littered the landscape with misstatements and non-sequitur's, raising concerns about his intellectual agility but he's been able to overcome them by remaining the candidate most favored to defeat Trump.

Shrinking the field by persuasion, appeals to loyalty, or emphasizing the overwhelming need to turn Trump out of the White House may succeed, particularly after the Iowa caucuses and certainly after the New Hampshire primary.

Force will not. The party boss days are long gone, replaced by the cult of self-interested personality. Pressure will be met with counter pressure, stubbornness and animosity. Voluntary withdrawal, leaving with dignity intact and pride in having given it one's best shot is the only way to cull the field and assuring that all involved will continue to talk to one another.

The immense personal difficulty in reaching the decision should not be minimized or dismissed. Belief in one's self is a powerful motivator, even though it occasionally clouds one's better judgment and blinds one to a reality seen and understood by others.

The political environment can be an exciting and exhilarating place, but it can also be a cold and cruel place, bringing down well-meaning individuals possessed of noble aims.

By next spring, trees will be in bud, temperatures comfortable, songbirds in full throat and five Democrats will remain standing.

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