

# Trump 'the unifier' heads for showdown with Clinton after Super Tuesday delivers victories

Daniel Bates in New York

DONALD TRUMP and Hillary Clinton were heading for a White House showdown today after a massive night in the US election campaign saw them tighten their grips on the presidential nomina-

RACE FOR THE WHITE HOUSE



tions. Mr Trump, the Republican front-runner, won seven out of 11 states on "Super Tuesday" in a sign that his views have achieved nationwide support. In a victory speech the billionaire real estate tycoon said that he had started a "movement" and called himself a

"unifier". But he now faces a civil war with the Republican establishment.

Among Democrats Mrs Clinton swept the South, taking seven states as she extended her lead over Left-wing rival Bernie Sanders, who took four states.

The results increase the chances that Mr Trump and Mrs Clinton will go head-to-head for the presidency later this year.

On Super Tuesday, voters from Alaska in the west to Massachusetts in the east choose their candidates - with a quarter of the total votes up for grabs for each candidate in one night.

Mr Trump tapped into deep anger at Washington to win in Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Massachusetts, Tennessee, Vermont and Virginia.

Evangelical senator Ted Cruz emerged as his main rival, winning three states - Oklahoma, Alaska and his home state of Texas - while Marco Rubio only came first in Minnesota.

The results meant that Mr Trump had secured 285 Republican delegates compared with 161 for Mr Cruz and 87 for Mr Rubio. Republicans need 1,237 delegates to win the nomination race.

Between now and March 15 nine states host contests, including Florida, Ohio and North Carolina. The only thing that could halt Trump is if the

'If we nominate Donald Trump as our candidate, it will be the end of the Republican party'

Marco Rubio, Republican contender

Republican establishment rejects him as its candidate, which could incur the wrath of the electorate.

Appearing at his resort in Mar-a-Lago, Florida, Trump was introduced by New Jersey governor Chris Christie as the "next President of the United States".

Mr Trump said he had achieved something that "nobody thought could be done" and had "expanded the party" by attracting new voters. He added: "I am a unifier. I would love to see the Republican party get together and unify and when we unify nobody, nobody is going to beat us."

He also claimed that Mrs Clinton's use of a private email server while Secretary of State was a "criminal act" that should stop her from running for the presidency. He said: "Once we get all of this finished I'm going to go after one person, and that's Hillary Clinton."

For the Democrats Mrs Clinton won in Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Massachusetts, Tennessee, Texas and Virginia. Mr Sanders took Colorado, Minnesota, Oklahoma and Vermont, his home state.

Mrs Clinton was almost halfway to the finish line with 1,001 delegates against Mr Sanders's 347. Democrats need 2,383 to win their nomination.

Speaking in Florida, which hosts a key primary in two weeks' time, Mrs Clinton told the crowd: "What a Super Tuesday!" before taking aim at Trump. She said: "I'm going to keep saying it: I believe what we need in America



Out in front: Donald Trump won seven out of 11 states on Super Tuesday, setting up a clash with rival Ted Cruz, above in Texas, and the Republican establishment. Top, Hillary Clinton in Miami and, right, Left-wing senator Bernie Sanders in Vermont

## Sun King rises

Jon Sopel LETTER FROM...



FLORIDA

NEVER let it be said that Donald J Trump is predictable. On the night of his greatest victory on this extraordinary journey, the playbook was obvious: you pack a giant ballroom with thousands of cheering supporters chanting U-S-A, U-S-A, holding Trump banners.

It would be an excitable sea of red white and blue - and the man of the moment, wooing the crowd in his inimitable style. At a stroke all the TV networks would have the desired images for the morning shows.

Instead there we sat huddled in the Mar-a-Lago resort, this chi-chi, one-

time privately-owned mansion in Florida, that is now a members' club owned by Mr Trump - and instead of supporters, he's chosen reporters. He's giving a news conference to a bunch of journalists who want to ask him pertinent questions.

Why would he want to do that? Well, having travelled with Mr Trump to California, Texas, Iowa, New Hampshire, South Carolina - and now Florida, the one thing you learn is: there are no rules. And the unexpected will always win out over the expected.

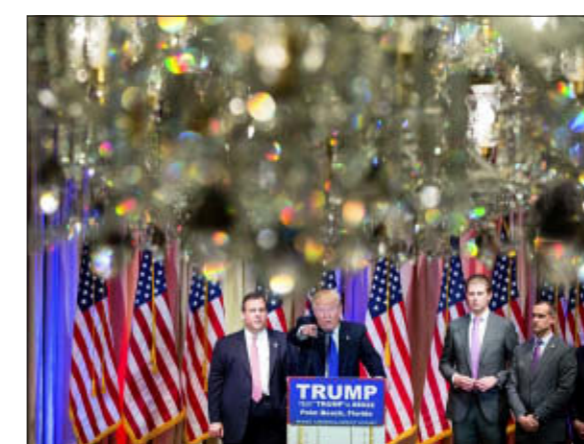
And so we sit in what looks like a small anteroom of the Palace of Versailles - all white and gilt, massive crystal chandeliers, cupids in the cornices, delicately inlaid floors.

And instead of Louis XIV with his powdered wigs, we await 2016's own Sun King, and his own equally exotic arrangement of hair. Just think how much thicker the ozone layer would be

## from a Florida Versailles to speak for ordinary Joe

cast by Democrats on the South Pacific island chain of American Samoa.

After keeping his campaign alive, Mr Cruz tore into Mr Trump and called him a "Washington dealmaker, profane and vulgar". He appealed for the other candidates to drop out, saying: "So long as the field remains divided Donald Trump's path to the nomination



remains likely and that would be a disaster for Republicans, for conservatives and for the nation."

In his speech, Florida Senator Mr Rubio refused to drop out and said that the "party of Lincoln and Reagan will never be held by a con artist". He told CNN: "If we nominate Donald Trump as the candidate for the Republican

WATCH THE VIDEO standard.co.uk/supertuesday

nation. He didn't crow and he didn't claim to be the nominee, but he clearly thinks the primary race is effectively over. Welcome to Donald the magnanimous.

The first two rows had been reserved for VIPs. They were coiffed, lacquered, expensively attired and perfumed - and that was just the men. The women were testament to the seductive power of plastic surgery. There were tucks, nips, lifts, implants galore. This was the Trump rich crowd.

But what has made him a phenomenon is his ability to speak to the anger of blue-collar America. The ordinary Joe who thinks the American Dream has passed him by.

He is their champion. A billionaire: the hero of the downtrodden. Just one of the many unlikely story lines in a totally improbable script.

Jon Sopel is BBC North America Editor

party, it will be the end of the Republican party." Senior Republican senator Lindsey Graham said that if Mr Trump wins then he will lose to Mrs Clinton.

The next votes are on Saturday when five more states decide their candidates: Kansas and Louisiana for both parties, Kentucky and Maine for the Democrats and Nebraska for the Republicans.

THE FANTASTIC iPhone 6 ON THE UK'S FASTEST NETWORK

Existing customers save a whopping £99.99

It's a No Brainer in store / Online / 0800 956 6000

Price until February 28th	Price from March 1st to February 28th	Price from March 1st to February 28th
£34.99 per month   1GB Data   No upfront cost	£34.99 per month   1GB Data   No upfront cost	£34.99 per month   1GB Data   No upfront cost

THE WORLD IS YOURS VIC 2016 SEASON

If You Kiss Me, Kiss Me 10 MAR - 16 APR

BLUE/ORANGE 12 MAY - 18 JUN

CUTTIN' IT 20 MAY - 11 JUN

Yerma 28 JUL - 10 SEP

THE EMPEROR 3 - 24 SEP

A MAN OF GOOD HOPE 6 OCT - 12 NOV

THE NEST 28 OCT - 26 NOV

ONCE IN A LIFETIME 25 NOV - 14 JAN 2017

BOOK NOW YOUNGVIC.ORG | 020 7922 2922