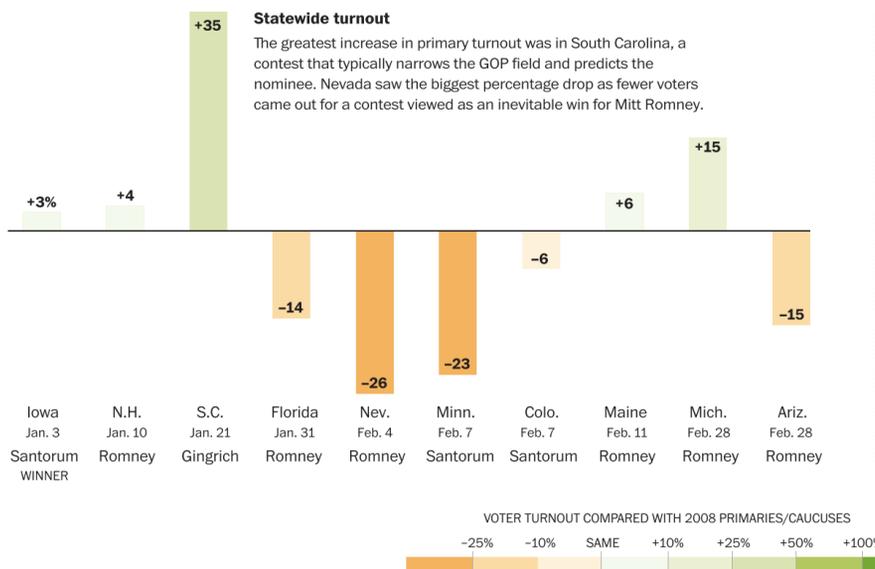


CAMPAIGN 2012

Taking apart GOP primary turnout

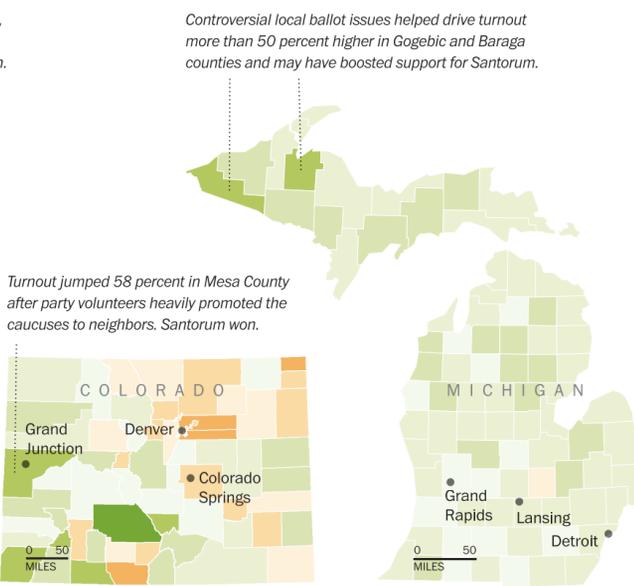
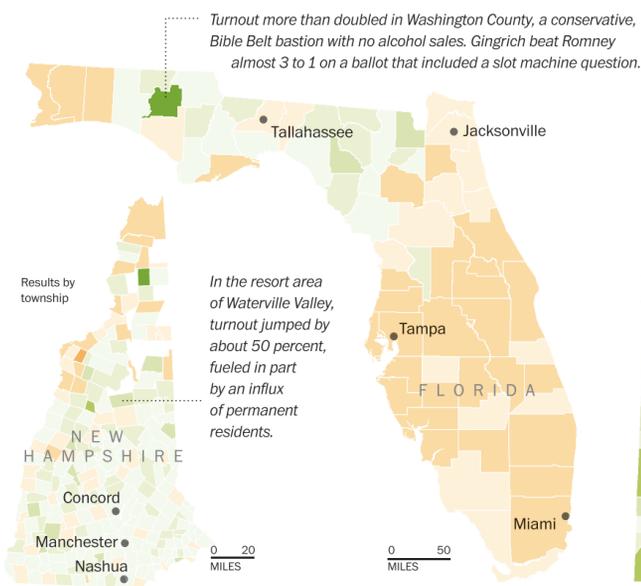
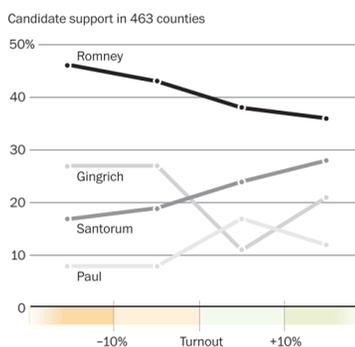
People will be more likely to vote on Super Tuesday if they think their vote will narrow the field and if they are passionate about a candidate. According to a Washington Post analysis of voter turnout in contests held so far, voters have flocked to the polls when it seemed someone could be eliminated. Lower voter turnout suggests a candidate's supporters may be overconfident or less enthusiastic. Here's how turnout in 2012 compares with 2008:

By Ted Mellnik and Patterson Clark



Turnout and candidates

Rick Santorum's support has tended to increase in counties where more people voted this year. Romney has usually fared best in large counties, where turnout often declined.



New Hampshire Jan. 10 **+4%** ▲
— Romney wins —
In the first primary, and the first race with a role for independent voters, Romney carried more than two-thirds of cities and towns. Turnout increased by almost 10,000 voters, or 4 percent, as voters sought to break the virtual Romney-Santorum tie from Iowa the previous week.

Florida Jan. 31 **-14%** ▼
— Romney wins —
While Newt Gingrich lost statewide, several small Panhandle counties he carried had sharp jumps in turnout. In the populous counties that powered Romney's win, fewer people voted. Overall, turnout dropped by 262,000, including a drop of more than 43,000 in Miami-Dade County.

Colorado Feb. 7 **-6%** ▼
— Santorum wins —
Santorum carried two-thirds of Colorado counties, most of them won by Romney in 2008. Turnout dropped 35 percent in Romney's best county, Conejos, and also fell in the Denver area, where Romney ran strong.

Michigan Feb. 28 **+15%** ▲
— Romney wins —
As Romney and Santorum appeared headed for a showdown, turnout increased in every Michigan county except one. Santorum made a strong showing in Grand Rapids, and took 52 of 83 counties overall. But Romney amassed an unassailable 49,000-vote margin in just three counties around Detroit.

Sources: Analysis of data from Associated Press and state election authorities

THE WASHINGTON POST

Romney has an emotional moment at GOP forum in Ohio

Candidate calls for recognition of the sacrifices made by troops and to 'care for them'

BY AARON BLAKE

Mitt Romney got a little choked up during a presidential forum Saturday in Ohio. The former Massachusetts governor was asked questions by two citizen panelists whose sons made major sacrifices in Iraq and Afghanistan — one whose son died in Iraq and one whose son suffered a severe brain injury during his time in Afghanistan.

Romney, who has been criticized on the campaign trail as showing too little empathy with average voters, at one point appeared to break up a little bit.

"We need to recognize that those who serve this country in uniform have a special place in our hearts," Romney said. "And we have to care for them. And the American people feel that."

As he was saying "that," Romney's voice seemed to crack. But the camera was on the panelist, who was already crying, so Romney's expression wasn't visible at that moment.

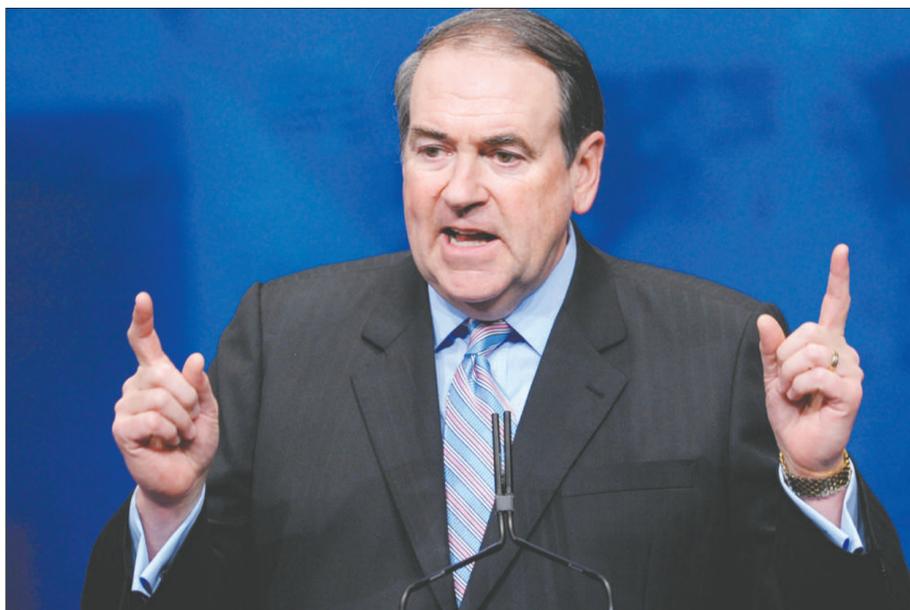
Romney's campaign confirmed that the candidate became emotional and that his voice did indeed crack.

"Governor Romney was very moved by his story and clearly grateful for the sacrifice," said an aide who was granted anonymity to discuss the situation candidly.

The forum — which was hosted by former Arkansas governor Mike Huckabee in Wilmington, Ohio, and aired on Fox News Channel — was one of relatively few chances for three of the GOP contenders to meet in one place. After a furious debate season, there are no more such matchups on the calendar.

Romney, former senator Rick Santorum (Pa.) and former House speaker Newt Gingrich (Ga.) each took questions individually at the forum, which featured one panel of Fox News contributors and one of Ohio residents. Rep. Ron Paul (Tex.) did not participate.

Gingrich, who spoke first, was pressed on



Former Arkansas governor Mike Huckabee hosted the GOP presidential candidates' forum in Wilmington, Ohio.

Super Tuesday contests

- Alaska caucuses
- Georgia primary
- Idaho caucuses
- Massachusetts primary
- North Dakota caucuses
- Ohio primary
- Oklahoma primary
- Tennessee primary
- Vermont primary
- Virginia primary

how he could promise that gas prices would drop to \$2.50 per gallon if he were to become president. He said that a number of analysts have shown how it can be done, and then suggested that, under President Obama, gas prices could rise much higher than they are today.

"The question is whether you want to be with [U.S. Energy Secretary Steven] Chu and Obama at around \$9 or you want to be with Gingrich somewhere between \$2 and \$2.50," he said.

At one point, a citizen panelist took issue with Gingrich's remarks that people on unemployment get 99 weeks worth of benefits "for doing nothing."

Santorum used his time to reiterate his stance against bailouts and government reg-

ulation. He pointed to Pittsburgh, near where he grew up in Pennsylvania, as an example of a city responding to economic hardships by rebuilding.

"This is what has to happen when capitalism fails — to allow it to fall and come back up again stronger," Santorum said.

Although the candidates didn't appear together, they did get a chance to interact on camera at the end of the forum, between their closing statements. As Romney was walking offstage, he grabbed Santorum's shoulders playfully.

"I'm not leaving," Romney joked as Santorum tried to change places with him in front of the camera.

blakea@washpost.com

Election 2012

Excerpted from washingtonpost.com/election2012

Romney super PAC looks for impact beyond Super Tuesday

The major super PAC backing Mitt Romney is once again dumping huge sums of money into the upcoming primaries and caucuses.

In the past week, the PAC has reported more than \$6 million in expenditures, more help than all the other candidates in the race are getting combined. But the PAC's leaders, mostly veterans of Romney's 2008 campaign, are already preparing for a GOP nominating race that extends past the 10 states that vote in the upcoming Super Tuesday.

To date, the Restore Our Future super PAC has spent nearly \$1 million in Alabama and more than \$500,000 in Mississippi, two Southern states that hold their primaries March 13, according to Federal Election Commission records.

Both are states in which the former Massachusetts governor faces a competitive race against former senator Rick Santorum (Pa.) and former House speaker Newt Gingrich (Ga.), both of whom have proved popular among Southern conservatives.

With Romney not exactly a natural fit in the Deep South, why would it make sense for his supporters to spend money there?

It all comes down to delegates.

In Alabama, if one candidate wins 50 percent of the statewide vote, that candidate gets all of the state's at-large delegates; the same holds true for the state's seven congressional districts. That means that for the Romney camp, preventing Gingrich or Santorum from getting too strong a footing in the state is key.

Mississippi's 40 delegates are awarded proportionally, so the greater share of the vote Romney is able to get there, the more delegates he'll net.

— Felicia Sonmez and T.W. Farnam

Election 2012

Excerpted from washingtonpost.com/election2012

Obama to speak at Barnard

Barnard College announced Saturday that President Obama will deliver the keynote address at the women's liberal arts school in New York on May 14.

The announcement comes a day after Obama stepped into the escalating battle over religious-affiliated institutions and contraception, a fight that Democrats have cast as one over women's rights. Republicans have argued that the debate is instead one over religious liberty.

"This is an extraordinary honor for Barnard and we are thrilled to welcome President Obama for this important moment in the lives of our graduates and their families," Barnard President Debora Spar said in a statement. "His commitment to empowering women is so meaningful to our students, who aspire to lead and make their mark on the world. No doubt, the President's words will make this year's Commencement truly unforgettable."

The announcement — which the New York Times reports followed a request from the White House — comes as Democrats have raised \$1.6 million in the wake of Rush Limbaugh's incendiary remarks about Georgetown University student Sandra Fluke and as Democrats have sought to cast Republicans as out of touch with women heading into the November election.

According to the Times, the newspaper's executive editor, Jill Abramson, had been scheduled to deliver the commencement address at Barnard but that "those plans changed with the call from the White House."

— Felicia Sonmez

washingtonpost.com Primary tracker

From where they've been on the campaign trail to where they've won, the Republican Primary Tracker has up-to-date results, analysis and delegate counts:

wapo.st/primaryHQ

