

Fresh starts for Clinton, McCain in New Hampshire primary

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MANCHESTER, N.H. -- Powered by women voters and the Democratic faithful, Hillary Rodham Clinton rallied to a surprise victory Tuesday in the New Hampshire presidential primary, echoing the 1992 comeback that launched her husband to the White House. Barack Obama, the winner five days ago in the Iowa caucuses, finished a close second, spinning their race forward to a showdown 11 days from now in Nevada.

In the Republican race, John McCain capped an improbable comeback by marching to victory over Mitt Romney and trouncing the victor in Iowa's caucuses, Mike Huckabee.

Independent voters, free to cast their ballots in either party's contest, made the difference for McCain but failed to push Obama past Clinton. She became the first female candidate ever to win a major-party primary and took a significant step toward becoming the nation's first female president. Sen. Clinton's travails -- while less personal than her husband's -- were no less formidable. After finishing third in last week's Iowa caucuses, she faced polls that gave Obama a double-digit New Hampshire lead, and a sense -- even among insiders -- that her campaign was verging on collapse.

From the beginning, New Hampshire's Democratic primary was a fight between Clinton and Obama. Edwards, who finished second in Iowa, was never a strong factor here. Clinton shifted tactics upon arriving Friday, becoming more accessible to voters and reporters, and more pointed in her criticism of Obama. His elegant words, she said over and over, were no match for her Washington expertise.

Instead, the New York senator got 39% of the vote to 36% for Sen. Obama of Illinois. Former Sen. John Edwards of North Carolina received 17%, and New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson 5%, with 96% of the precincts reporting. On the Republican side, the New Hampshire results further scrambled the most unpredictable GOP contest in generations.

The race heads to Michigan on Jan. 15, and South Carolina and Nevada on Jan. 19, with no clear front-runner. Sen. McCain of Arizona had 37% to former Massachusetts Gov. Romney's 32% and former Arkansas Gov. Huckabee's 11%. Former New York Mayor Rudolph W. Giuliani had 9%, and Rep. Ron Paul of Texas had 8%.

New Hampshire has long hosted the nation's first primary -- giving the tiny state a huge say in picking presidents -- and on Tuesday residents embraced their opportunity with gusto. Turnout was expected to set a record of about 500,000 voters, meaning nearly four in 10 residents went to the polls.

1. In paragraph form, identify and introduce all the Republican and Democrat presidential candidates that participated in the New Hampshire primary election.
2. Assuming the initial projected turnout participated in the elections, how many votes did each candidate receive?
3. In accordance with information obtained from the passage above, how many people reside in New Hampshire?
4. Which candidate had the highest number of overall votes? Which candidate had the least votes?
5. What is the difference in votes amongst each of the presidential candidates?
6. Use number sentences to describe at least two possible ways that each candidate reached his or her votes.
7. Identify the percentage that is halfway between each pair of candidates: Clinton - Obama; McCain - Huckabee.
8. How has the state of New Hampshire proven to be a key ingredient in the selection of the next U.S. President?
9. As obtained from the passage above, in paragraph form, explain at least eight ways using the "Traditional Writing Guidelines" simplifies the paragraph writing process. Be specific.
10. As obtained from the passage above, in paragraph form, explain at least six ways using the "Preliminary Reading Guidelines" simplifies understanding of the material. Be specific.
11. In complete sentences, using contextual clues only, explain the meaning of the italicized words: *caucuses*, *formidable*, and *gusto*. Additionally, use each in a sentence to demonstrate further comprehension.
12. In paragraph form, explain at least five legitimate and educational purposes behind *The Daughtry Times*®.