

Local voters favored Trump, Sanders



John Ferro, Poughkeepsie Journal 6:25 p.m. EDT April 20, 2016

Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders led in Dutchess and Ulster counties



(Photo: Patrick Oehler/Poughkeepsie Journal)

As she left her polling site Tuesday, Kahanna Skolnick said she had changed her mind.

Initially favoring former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton in New York's Democratic presidential primary, Skolnick, a 63-year-old New Paltz resident, said she now was supporting Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders.

"He is not part of the established wealth," Skolnick said. "I like that."

While Republican voters in Dutchess and Ulster counties overwhelmingly supported businessman Donald Trump on his path to a commanding statewide victory ([/story/news/local/2016/04/19/voters-talk-election-laws-health-care-polls/83222774/](http://story/news/local/2016/04/19/voters-talk-election-laws-health-care-polls/83222774/)) in the Republican presidential primary, local Democrats did not favor Clinton, who won New York's primary by 16 percentage points ([/story/news/local/2016/04/19/voters-talk-election-laws-health-care-polls/83222774/](http://story/news/local/2016/04/19/voters-talk-election-laws-health-care-polls/83222774/)).



THE POUGHKEEPSIE JOURNAL

Elections 2016

(<http://www.poughkeepsiejournal.com/elections-2016/?from=global&sessionKey=&autologin=>)

Instead, the majority of Democrats in both counties broke for Sanders.

Trump swept the 18th and 19th Congressional Districts on the way to collecting 89 delegates statewide, according to the Associated Press. Ohio Gov. John Kasich won four delegates.

READ MORE: [Trump promises winning for Dutchess, America \(/story/news/local/2016/04/17/trump-rally-poughkeepsie-primary-republican/83155698/\)](http://story/news/local/2016/04/17/trump-rally-poughkeepsie-primary-republican/83155698/)

Clinton won the 18th Congressional District, which includes the southwest corner of Dutchess, and collected 139 delegates. Sanders won the 19th Congressional District, which includes the remaining portion of Dutchess and all of Ulster, on the way to earning 106 delegates.

READ MORE: [Chelsea Clinton highlights Hillary's experience ahead of NY primary \(/story/news/local/2016/04/17/video-chelsea-clinton-highlights-hillarys-experience-ahead-ny-primary/83154594/\)](http://story/news/local/2016/04/17/video-chelsea-clinton-highlights-hillarys-experience-ahead-ny-primary/83154594/)

READ MORE: [Bernie Sanders storms Poughkeepsie \(/story/news/local/2016/04/12/bernie-sanders-poughkeepsie-marist-rally/82937880/\)](http://story/news/local/2016/04/12/bernie-sanders-poughkeepsie-marist-rally/82937880/)

Next up are primaries in Connecticut, Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania and Rhode Island on April 26.

Lee Miringoff, director of the Marist Institute for Public Opinion (<http://maristpoll.marist.edu/>), said Trump and Clinton are positioned to clinch their respective nominations, though Trump faces a more uncertain path.

Miringoff placed Trump's chances to clinch before the Republican National Convention in Cleveland at "50-50."

"What you could end up with is two candidates who are both upside down in terms of their favorability (ratings)," Miringoff said, "making for a very rough-and-tumble campaign, given the high-voltage personalities of Trump and Clinton."

Results from Tuesday's primaries remain unofficial, pending a count of absentee ballots. But so far, Sanders has outperformed Clinton in all but five of Dutchess County's cities and towns.

Clinton led in Beekman, Fishkill, LaGrange, Rhinebeck and the City of Poughkeepsie. The two were deadlocked in the Town of Washington.



Flanked by supporters, including former New York Mayor David Dinkins, Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton, second from left, celebrates after winning the New York primary election, Wednesday, April 20, 2016, in New York. (Photo: Kathy Willens/Associated Press)

Totals for [Ulster County](#) towns were not immediately available Wednesday.

Overall, Sanders received the support of 62.6 percent of Ulster Democrats who voted, compared with 37.4 percent who favored Clinton.



This map shows the town-by-town breakdown in Tuesday's Democratic presidential primary. (Photo: Irwin Goldberg/Poughkeepsie Journal)

In Dutchess, the race was closer, as 51.5 percent went for Sanders and 48.5 percent for Clinton.

Trump, who has several ties to Dutchess including a golf club he owns, garnered more than 64 percent of the Republican vote in both counties. He easily outpaced Kasich and Texas Senator Ted Cruz in every Dutchess town and city.

READ MORE: [As Trump runs, Dutchess has another connection to a presidential race \(/story/news/local/2016/01/19/trump-runs-dutchess-has-another-connection-presidential-race/78768006/\)](#)

Turnout was heavy, bolstered by New York's relevance in both primaries and by campaign stops in Poughkeepsie by Sanders and Trump, as well as get-out-the-vote appearances in Kingston and Poughkeepsie by Clinton's daughter, Chelsea.

Not including absentee ballots, about 22,700 Democrats in Dutchess and 19,500 Republicans — roughly 39 percent of each party's active electorate — voted.

That's a higher percentage than took part in last year's general election, according to Erik Haight, the Republican elections commissioner at the Dutchess County Board of Elections.



Republican candidate Donald Trump was favored in every town and city in Dutchess County in Tuesday's state primary. (Photo: Irwin Goldberg/Poughkeepsie Journal)

Dutchess issued 2,841 absentee ballots. As of Wednesday, the board of elections had received back 1,636.

"That," Haight said, "is a tremendously high number for a primary."

The local Democratic tallies mirrored those in the 2014 gubernatorial primary, when populist liberal Zephyr Teachout out-pollied incumbent Andrew Cuomo in Dutchess and Ulster, but lost the statewide battle by a wide margin.

Those results reflect party politics in the state's rural counties, where Republicans typically hold elected power, according to Gerald Benjamin, director of the Benjamin Center at the State University of New York at New Paltz.

"Where (Democratic) party activists are less likely to be governing, they are much more liberal," Benjamin said.

Sanders outperformed Clinton in every county north of Orange and Westchester, save for the counties that include the upstate cities of Syracuse, Buffalo and Rochester.

But Clinton dominated in the downstate counties.

"That's where all the people are," Benjamin said.

Meanwhile, Trump's resounding victory in his home state furthers his efforts to lock up a clinching total of delegates ahead of the convention.



Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump prepares to speak during a New York primary night campaign event Tuesday, April 19, 2016, in New York. (Photo: Julie Jacobson/Associated Press)

"He can also claim home-state affection, which is kind of important," Benjamin said. "If people from your home state reject you, it causes others to think twice."

Indeed, Trump was ahead in every one of New York's counties save one — Manhattan, where Kasich was the leader.

"Well," Benjamin said of Trump's showing in his home county, "the people who know him best are the most skeptical."

John Ferro: 845-437-4816; jferro@poughkeepsiejournal.com (mailto:jferro@poughkeepsiejournal.com); Twitter: @PoJoEnviro

Read or Share this story: <http://pojonews.co/1SujjY>

A promotional banner for Walmart. On the left, it says "GET \$10 BACK AT Walmart" with the Walmart logo. In the center, there are three bottles of beer. On the right, it says "FIND & SAVE" and includes logos for "Available on the App Store" and "Get it on Google play".