

# Bruising Trump, Iowa Chooses Ted Cruz to Carry Right-Wing Mantle

By [Common Dreams staff](#) | [Common Dreams](#)



Far-right evangelical Sen. Ted Cruz from Texas has won the Republican Iowa caucus.

Sen. Marco Rubio (R-Fla.) was the first of the Republican candidates on Monday night to congratulate his colleague Sen. Ted Cruz (R-Texas) for his first place win in the Iowa caucuses – a victory most notable for relegating national frontrunner Donald Trump to a second place finish.

With close to 98 percent of the vote in, according to the *Des Moines Register*, Cruz had garnered 28 percent of the vote while Trump took 24 percent, and Rubio took a likely third place with 23 percent.

“The victory for Cruz,” [reports](#) CNN, “is the first time that

the conventional laws of politics have applied to Trump, a billionaire businessman who has built his campaign around the perception that he's a winner who can bring his unique skills to the White House."

And as the *Des Moines Register* [reports](#):

Ted Cruz delivered Donald Trump a body blow in Iowa, giving him an unexpected smackdown in the first-in-the-nation presidential vote.

Cruz, an anti-Washington crusader and proud thorn in establishment Republicans' sides, won enough support from evangelical conservatives and tea party voters to put him over the top, despite being 5 points down in the final Iowa Poll before the caucuses.

The 45-year-old Texas U.S. senator, who logged more than 150 events over 56 days in Iowa this election cycle, upheld the longtime theory that a traditional ground game and intense one-on-one retail politicking matter.

Iowa, a state where almost half of likely GOP caucus goers identify themselves as born-again or evangelical Christians, continued its trend of promoting a social conservative rather than the national front-runner.

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