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"QUALITY FIRST"

# Primary wrap-up

## The results: what the candidates say, what they imply

Associated Press  
MIAMI — President Ford has run his early primary election record to four-for-four with triumph in Florida, and he is in clear command of his Republican contest with Ronald Reagan as the focus shifts to Illinois.

Jimmy Carter, meanwhile, swept past George Wallace in Democratic balloting Tuesday in the state once claimed by the Alabama governor.

The ballot listed a dozen Democrats, but Pennsylvania Gov. Milton Shapp was the only one besides the top three to actively seek support. He got 31,024 votes, or 2 per cent of the total. That was slightly more than Arizona Rep. Morris K. Udall — who didn't campaign in the state but got 26,257. Three per cent of the voters — 37,348 — voted no preference.

Indiana Sen. Birch Bayh, who announced suspension of his campaign last week, trailed Udall with 8,552 votes, followed by Miami evangelist Arthur Blessitt, 8,171; pro-life candidate Ellen McCormack, 7,481; Sargent Shriver, the party's vice presidential nominee in 1972, 6,871; Sen. Robert Byrd of West Virginia, 5,910; former Oklahoma Sen. Fred Harris, 5,666; and Idaho Sen. Frank Church, 5,456.

With primary triumphs in New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Vermont and now Florida behind him, Ford turns his attention to Illinois. The White House said he will travel to the state for a two-day campaign swing before the primary there next Tuesday.

Florida's voter turnout on a day that began with scattered thunderstorms and ended under mostly sunny skies was a bit heavier than earlier predicted. About 56 per cent of the GOP's registered voters made it to the polls, about 52 per cent of the registered Democrats cast ballots.

Associated Press  
MIAMI — President Ford is rapidly deflating Ronald Reagan's Republican presidential bid, leaving his challenger in dire need of a comeback to pump it up again.

And Georgia's Jimmy Carter has climbed back atop the Democratic field with a victory that made a shambles of Gov. George C. Wallace's campaign.

So read Chapter Four, Florida's installment in the presidential primary election story. Now the test is in Illinois, next Tuesday.

Republican Reagan is far from finished, but he can't go on meeting Ford like this and losing, as he did in Florida Tuesday.

Yet he already is saying that he never considered Illinois one of his stronger states. The former California governor had better get to one soon if he is going to dislodge Ford.

Reagan insisted he is in the race to stay, until the day the delegate numbers guarantee Ford the GOP nomination. He said he does not think

that will happen during the primary season and forecast a showdown at the Republican National Convention next August.

After all, Reagan said in Rock Island, Ill., Tuesday night, he has gained almost half the Republican vote in each of his two direct primary tests with Ford.

But almost half is losing, and he needs a win. Reagan can keep running by coming close, but if that becomes the pattern, his campaign will become a hollow exercise.

The Ford camp was talking about bandwagons and trains pulling out, the traditional language of winners trying to convince GOP politicians to climb aboard now because there might not be room later.

Alabama's Wallace was the big loser on the Democratic side. Four years ago, Florida was the scene of a major Wallace triumph, a 42 per cent presidential primary victory over the whole Democratic field.

This time Florida belonged to Carter, and that undercut Wallace's Southern political base. And it could

Reagan 282,618 or 47 per cent. That translated to 43 national convention delegates for Ford, 23 for Reagan.

And among the Democrats: Carter 439,870 or 34 per cent. Wallace 392,105 or 31 per cent. Jackson 306,120 or 24 per cent.

Three per cent of the vote was cast in favor of sending uncommitted delegates to the Democratic conven-

**If Reagan continues his record of being a close second, his campaign will become a hollow exercise.**

tion, and that was more than any of the other nine candidates got.

Delegates were apportioned this way on the basis of statewide and congressional district showings: Carter 34, Wallace 26, Jackson 21.

Reagan claimed to have been delighted that he came close. But that was hard to sell in view of the optimistic forecasts once posted by his campaign manager, L. E. Thomas. "Two-thirds of the Republicans in Florida want Reagan," he had said early in the campaign. "I guess a campaign chairman shouldn't really be predicting such fantastic odds, but it's true."

If his figures were not prophetic, his comment about the risk of such a prediction was. Thomas toned it down later, and Reagan disavowed it altogether. But it was on the record, to be measured against Reagan's election night statement:

"I have to tell you that we are all delighted on our side . . . President Ford in these first couple of primaries has thrown the whole load at us, he has shot all the big artillery there is, used everything in the incumbency that he can, and we're still possessing almost half the Republican vote."

Ford said simply that he was overjoyed — and that it was not the time to answer questions about the possibility that Reagan might be forced from the race.

Among the other assessments and portents of Florida:

— Wallace, in Oak Park, Ill., said that while he would rather have won,

**Carter said the Democratic race is now between him, Jackson and Udall.**

he felt good about the outcome. "Florida is not exactly a so-called Southern state," he said. "It's a fine state, it's a cosmopolitan state." He didn't talk about geography when he won it in the last campaign.

— Carter said the outcome "let him, Jackson and Rep. Morris K. Udall of Arizona as the contenders for the Democratic nomination."

— Udall, vacationing in Tucson, Ariz., said he looks forward to competing with Carter in Wisconsin and New York on April 6. He said the Florida vote demonstrates "the burning need for progressive forces" to coalesce behind one candidate — him.

**Carter doubts that Wallace will be a real factor in democratic politics now.**

be the beginning of the undoing of Wallace as a force in national Democratic politics.

Florida was Carter's third presidential primary win, with New Hampshire and Vermont.

"I don't see anybody ahead of me now, but we still have 30 or 40 states left to go," the former Georgia governor said. He was heading for Chicago today, to campaign for next week's match against Wallace, former Oklahoma Sen. Fred R. Harris and Sargent Shriver.

Carter said he doesn't consider the Wallace campaign finished by Florida. But he also said that he doubts the Alabama governor will be a real factor in Democratic politics now.

Sen. Henry M. Jackson of Washington ran third among the Democrats, his Florida gamble a failure. He did, as he noted, gain about a quarter of the state's national convention delegates. But he failed in what clearly was an effort to block Carter's climb.

Nonetheless, Jackson claimed a good omen in his Miami area plurality, saying that is the kind of populous territory a Democrat must capture to win nomination and the White House. He called Florida no more than a way station and challenged Carter to the test of New York's April 6 primary.

"No one will win the Democratic nomination unless he can carry the big city, industrial areas of the country, and that's what I can do," said Jackson, who won last week in Massachusetts with 23 per cent of the vote. Carter ran fourth there.

With the Florida vote counted completed, this was the outcome: Ford 318,844 or 53 per cent.

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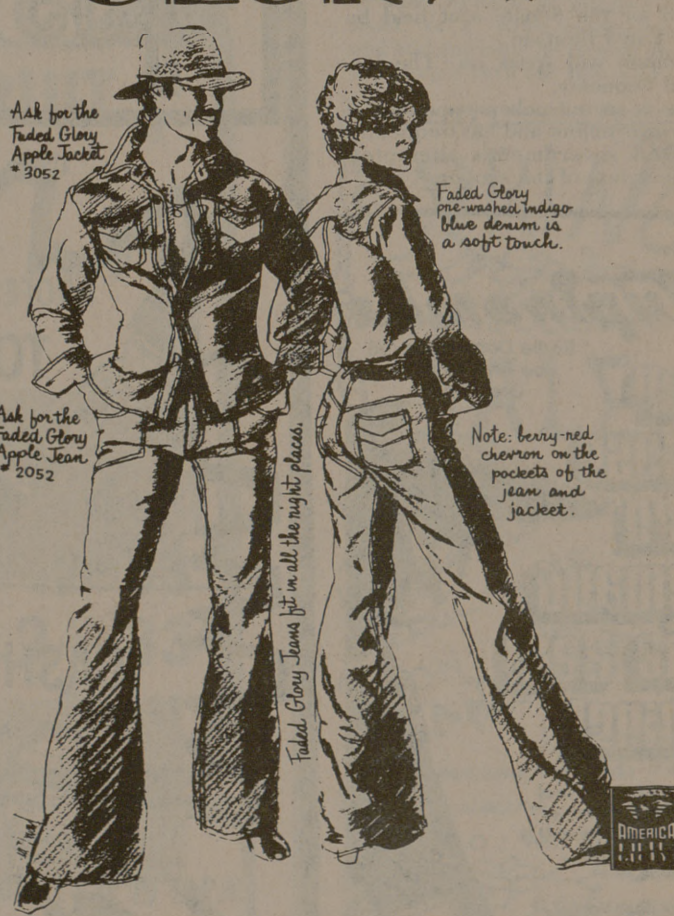
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