WHO WILL BE THE DEMOCRATIC NOMINEE FOR PRESIDENT?

With a deadline of January 2, 2016, participants submitted their predictions for the 2016 Democratic and Republican presidential and vice-presidential nominees. Almost 70 predictions were submitted, from faculty and graduate students in the Woodrow Wilson School and Politics department, across the Princeton campus, and from political scientists and others across the country, including Georgetown, Cornell, NYU, Penn, journalists and practitioners.

Here are their predictions, in the aggregate:

WHO WILL BE THE DEMOCRATIC NOMINEE FOR VICE-PRESIDENT?
WHO WILL BE THE REPUBLICAN NOMINEE FOR PRESIDENT?

WHAT WILL BE THE REPUBLICAN NOMINEE FOR VICE-PRESIDENT?
Some verbatim comments:

I think Trump will come away with lots of votes, but the GOP won’t let him be the nominee, so there will be a brokered convention. He will run as a third party (helps the Dems) if that happens. The GOP establishment wants Rubio or Bush, but Bush is too handicapped at this point. The other person they don’t want anywhere near the general election is Ted Cruz. He might do well in some of the primaries/caucuses, but they will keep him out as well. That is my guess.

If Trump wins NH, we’ll have a brokered convention.

There might be a Trump/Carson ticket that runs as as an independent candidate and splits the conservative vote, guaranteeing a Democratic Victory. Hillary Clinton will get nearly all the superdelegates, making it impossible for Sanders to win.

Regarding the Democrats, it’s all but certain Hillary Clinton will be the nominee. As for her VP, her choice really could go one of two ways: Tim Kaine is a rational pick because of his experience, fluency in Spanish, and origins from a key swing state. Julian Castro (current HUD Secretary) would help to rally the Hispanic and youth vote, and any criticism of his freshness in governing could be tempered by the rebuttal that the republican nominee (Cruz, Trump, or Rubio) is equally, if not more, untested. I think Hillary Clinton will throw caution to the wind to some extent and decide to go for the excitement factor (which she lacks) by picking Castro. (If her team were strategic, they would then rely on Bernie Sanders to rally working-class white male voters that Tim Kaine would have otherwise attracted). (Not gonna lie though, it would be the ultimate troll to have her pick Al Gore as her running mate! I’m not brave enough to predict that one...) Making a prediction for the GOP is certainly more difficult at this point... but I do not believe Donald Trump will be able to actually get his supporters out to the polls to vote in the primaries, and that once he loses Iowa, he will lose his grip and appear increasingly unnerved on the campaign trail, sowing doubt among his supporters. After barely beating Cruz in a close race in New Hampshire, his campaign will begin to fade into irrelevance. Ted Cruz will one up Marco Rubio because of Cruz’s stronger ground game, superior fundraising, and support from a broader range of Republican voters (despite his challenges in winning over the establishment). He could opt to pick Nikki Haley (South Carolina governor) as his VP because of her executive experience and her gender, but given that he will surely carry her home state without her on the ticket and is a minority himself, he will likely choose someone who can help him secure the general election and will focus less on exciting the base (which he can easily do himself). Kasich would give him an advantage in Ohio and would appeal to independent voters who are looking for policy expertise and executive experience on the ticket. Kasich would also help to appease the Republican establishment because of his (relatively) moderate policy positions

I hope that it is Bernie v. Trump so that our parties finally get rid of the whole primary system.

If I'm wrong, and there is a good chance I will be, consider this merely a snapshot of what the data pointed toward as of January 1, 2016.

I’ll never get tired of this years-long, multi-billion-dollar circus that is American politics.

This is great! And I really hope I win!!!