

“So, we’ve watched him evolve,” Mullen said. “We’ve watched him grow. We’ve watched him take a leadership position. And from the beginning, there’s been something special about him—whether it was from his incredible charisma, his incredible intelligence or just passion for doing the right thing for our country. He’s the whole package.”

Mullen and his wife were not the only out-of-towners who came to observe the caucus. Bob Henderson and Myles Roach drove from Davis, California, in support of Bernie Sanders.

“He’s consistent with his message,” Henderson said. “He supports Medicare for All. He supports the people. He’s a man of the people, you know?”

Roach added that he appreciates Sanders because he’s “not funded by rich billionaires who want to keep the status quo,” and, in Roach’s estimation, is the candidate who “sees crises like Flint, [Michigan] and the fires that have ravaged California—and sees that corporate greed is causing those things.”

“He wants the American people to have more of a voice in the government and have a real opportunity to make policies that will cater to our interests and not just the rich people’s,” Roach said.

For Warren supporter Michael Moberly, the momentum he’s seen friends and peers put behind Sanders has been a concern.

“I, unfortunately, feel it has washed out some of [Warren’s] message,” he said.

“I think her classic, Democrat ideas like childcare credits and lower prescriptions rates and things like that—you know, I don’t think anyone’s listening to that. I also think people are still really burned about him losing last time. I think people are mad, and that’s what it looks like. I don’t think that fear or anger should make people do things, but I think it’s happening now.”

As noon drew closer, conversations petered out and caucusgoers moved to their precincts’ designated rooms for voting.

For precinct 1018 (of which this reporter is a member), the process went fairly smoothly, resulting, after first and second alignments, in only two viable candidates—Sanders, with a marked lead, and Warren in second place.

These results only partially foreshadowed those of the state as a whole. While Sanders’ win in precinct 1018 was repeated across the state, leaving him with 46.8 percent of the votes, it was Joe Biden rather than Warren who took second place in the state.

The fully reported results of the caucuses show Sanders with a wide 26.8 percent margin of votes over Biden, who took a decisive second place position with 20.2 percent. Former South Buttigieg trailed in third with 14.3 percent. Warren’s 9.7 percent earned her fourth place. And Tom Steyer and Amy Klobhuchar took fifth and six—earning 4.7 percent and 4.2 percent, respectively.

The next primary contest takes place in South Carolina on Feb. 29.

## Here comes the sun



An array of solar panels bakes in the afternoon sun off of Raggio Parkway, outside of the Desert Research Institute. These cells are part of the larger array powering both the Truckee Meadows Community College campus and DRI.

PHOTO/MATT BIEKER

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