

JACKSON CITIZEN PATRIOT

ELECTION 2016

Debate: Snyder should resign

Democratic presidential contenders attack Snyder before taking on each other on trade, Wall Street

By Nancy Benac and Catherine Lucey
The Associated Press

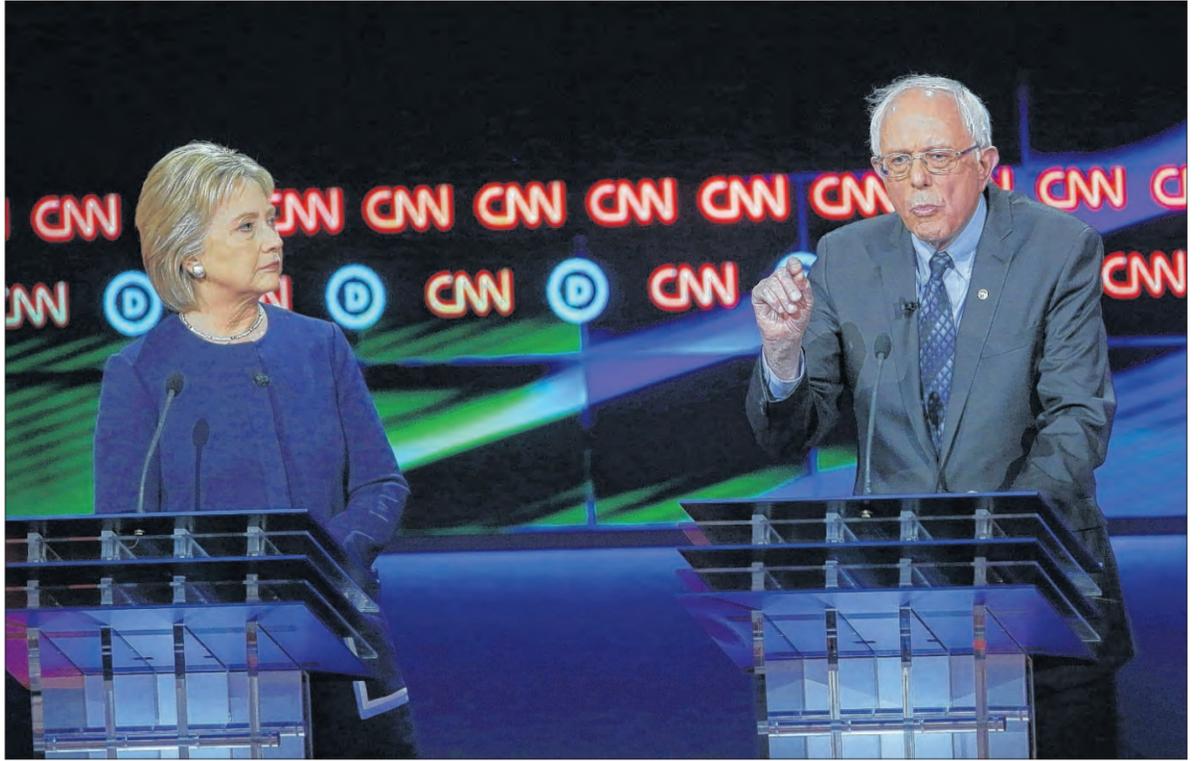
FLINT — Hillary Clinton joined Bernie Sanders in calling for Michigan's Republican governor to resign over his handling of the Flint water crisis as the Democrats opened their seventh presidential debate Sunday in a city that was in tough shape even before residents learned their drinking water was tainted.

The Democratic candidates faced off in devastated Flint two days before Michigan's presidential primary, eager to highlight their differences on economic policy.

Clinton said only she had a "credible strategy" for raising wages, and Sanders hammered at her past support for trade deals that he said had "disastrous" consequences for American workers.

An emotional Sanders opened the debate by relating that he felt "literally shattered" by the water crisis in Flint and renewing his call for Gov. Rick Snyder to resign.

Clinton, who had not previously made that call, added emphatically: "Amen to that," and then said Snyder should "resign or be recalled."



Democratic presidential candidate, Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vermont, right, argues a point Sunday evening as Hillary Clinton listens during a Democratic presidential primary debate at the University of Michigan-Flint in Flint. (AP)

HOLD THEM ACCOUNTABLE

Both candidates promised tougher federal oversight of water systems, if elected. And, asked if anyone should go to jail, both called for holding people accountable at every level of government.

On economic policy, in recent days, Clinton emphasized her plan for a "claw-back" of tax benefits for companies that ship jobs overseas, using the money to encourage investment in the United States.

Sanders wrote in Sunday's Detroit Free Press that nowhere are his differences with Clinton, a former secretary of state and senator, stronger than on trade. The Vermont senator renewed his criticism of her support for the North American Free Trade Agreement and normalized trade relations with China.

"Not only did I vote against them," he said, "I stood with workers on picket lines in opposition to them. Meanwhile, Secretary Clinton sided with corporate America and supported almost all of them."

With Clinton continuing to widen her considerable lead in the Democratic delegate count, Sanders sees upcoming Midwestern primaries as a crucial opportunity to slow her momentum by highlighting his trade policies. After Michigan's vote Tuesday, the March 15 primaries include Ohio, Illinois and Missouri.

In Michigan, manufacturing jobs have rebounded from the depths of the Great Recession, but their numbers still are

Secretary (Hillary) Clinton sided with corporate America."

SEN. BERNIE SANDERS, I-VERMONT, ABOUT TRADE AGREEMENTS

much lower than they were 20 years ago. Wages are lower, after adjusting for inflation, than when the recession started in December 2007.

The state's unemployment rate has fallen to 5.1 percent, its lowest in more than a decade, but still is slightly higher than the national average of 4.9 percent.

ON TO THE CONVENTION

Sanders, interviewed Sunday on CNN's "State of the Union," pledged to keep his campaign going to the Democratic convention this summer even if Clinton already has clinched enough delegates to claim the nomination.

"Every state has the right to vote for the candidate of their choice," he said.

Clinton has at least 1,123 delegates to Sanders' 484, including superdelegates — members of Congress, governors and party officials who can support the candidate of their choice. It takes 2,383 delegates to win the nomination.

As the debate got underway, Sanders



He wasn't on the stage during the Democratic debate Sunday in Flint, but Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder took center stage as the focus of criticism. Both Hillary Clinton and Sen. Bernie Sanders called for Snyder's resignation. Before the event, protesters held signs with his image. (AP)

received the welcome news he had won the Democratic caucuses in Maine, not far from his home state of Vermont. That gives him victories in eight states to 11 wins for Clinton. But the more lopsided delegate count suggests Clinton is on a steady march toward the nomination. Sanders has struggled to broaden his appeal beyond liberals and young voters.

The candidates devoted considerable time to the water crisis in Flint, which

got scant attention from Republican candidates when they debated last week in Detroit.

Both Democrats have been outspoken about the horror of the city's lead-tainted water. Both have visited the city and called for a strong government response.

Clinton has made it a point to frame the crisis in the majority-black city in racial terms, saying it never would have taken so long to address the problem in a wealthy, white area.

BLACKMAN TOWNSHIP

No evidence of foul play in death of man found in burned minivan

By Danielle Salisbury
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Authorities have found no evidence of "anything suspicious" as they investigate the death of a man discovered last month in a burned vehicle.

Michael Alan Budds, 53, of Redford Township, had an extensive medical history. He had health problems and smoked heavily, Blackman-Leoni Township public safety Director Michael Jester said.

Police, however, cannot say whether health issues contributed to his death. Authorities are waiting for final autopsy results.

"There is a lot we don't know, and we are not sure we are ever going to

"There is a lot ... we are not sure we are ever going to know."

BLACKMAN-LEONI TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SAFETY DIRECTOR MICHAEL JESTER

know," Jester said.

Budds' badly burned body was found about 8 p.m. Feb. 25 in a minivan that caught fire in a driveway outside an unoccupied house on Deweese Road, north of Bunkerhill Road. A neighbor called 911 about the flames, which likely burned for a while before anyone noticed them.

There are theories about how Budds died. He might have had a medical problem while smoking, Jester said, or the vehicle caught fire while idling in the snow.

The minivan was stuck, and as a vehicle is rocked back and forth in an effort to free it, snow packed in the revving engine can cause it to over-heat.

"Those are just theories we are not sure we are ever going to be able to prove or disprove," Jester said.

The case will remain open, he said. Budds owned the house and was fixing it to move there, Jester has said. If you have information, contact the detective bureau at 517-788-4223.



When Blackman-Leoni Township public safety officers extinguished a vehicle fire Feb. 25 on Deweese Road, they found the body of Michael Alan Budds, 53, inside. (Danielle Salisbury/MLive.com)

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