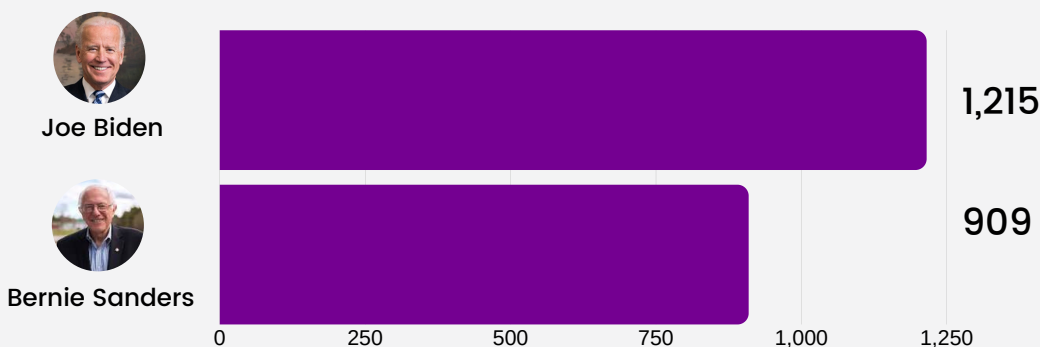


# ***Facing Facts: The 2020 Democratic Primary Amidst a Pandemic***

In the midst of a global pandemic, you'd be forgiven for forgetting the 2020 Democratic Presidential Primary is still happening. Luckily, **Middle America Project** is here to get you caught up. In the ideological race for the Democratic presidential platform, the more moderate candidate, Joe Biden, is firmly in the driver's seat. Today, **Biden leads the Democratic delegate count with 1,215 to Sanders, the more progressive candidate's, 909**. Keep in mind, 1,991 delegates gets you the nomination. **Below, we analyze where the race currently stands, how voter enthusiasm is trending toward Joe Biden, and how COVID-19 is slowing down upcoming primary contests.**



Democratic **primary voter turnout has generally increased since the primaries in 2016**. While it's not a perfect comparison between these trends and how states will vote in the general election, the surge in moderate support could bode well in November for a candidate who does not ascribe to the extremes, in both policy and rhetoric.

Below are states that had an increase in voter turnout of 5% or more since the 2016 primary. **Joe Biden is benefiting most from new voter enthusiasm.** In addition, we note the **eight key Democratic primary contests that have been officially postponed until May or June due to COVID-19.** As more time goes on, states may switch to mail-in voting only for the remainder of the contest. Will Democratic voters continue to propel Biden to what looks like a surefire nomination despite these changes? **Stay tuned... and stay healthy.**

