



Experts talk possibility of GOP 'brokered convention'

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As the GOP race for president heats up, party leaders are considering what happens if none of the GOP candidates win a majority of delegates in upcoming primaries and caucuses.

That can cause a scenario for a so-called "brokered convention." It was a topic reportedly brought up behind closed doors among GOP leaders.

Billionaire Donald Trump's rise to the top of a splintered 14 candidate field doesn't seem to be waning anytime soon. Republican powerbrokers met in Washington to discuss the remote possibility of a "brokered" GOP convention this summer. That's just in case no one candidate can win the simple majority of votes from nearly 25-hundred delegates by June 2016 when the final state primary contests end.

John Samples is a Political Strategist at the Cato Institute in Washington D.C. "Basically, a big problem for a party going into a presidential year is being divided and a brokered convention would be the ultimate sign of a divided and probably losing Republican party," says Samples.

GOP leaders say a brokered convention would only take place if the front-runner could not get the required number of votes in the primary season. It's not there for the party to undermine its top candidate just because an anti-established contender is now the frontrunner of an established party.

RNC Strategist Sean Spicer made a simple case for the Republicans entering a primary season. "Republican voters will choose the delegates that will go to the convention in Cleveland next July. Those people will decide the nominee. That's it. Bottom line, plain and simple," says Spicer.

But at least 2 GOP contenders remain skeptical the "brokered convention" will be used to shut-out a leading political outsider even if they can deliver enough votes going into the convention.

"I've been hearing about it, I've been hearing about these closed-door meetings," says Donald Trump. "And I don't like that. That wasn't the deal I made."

"I would quit the party if they're clearly trying to steal the election and doing this in a very dishonest way," says GOP contender Dr. Ben Carson.

The last "brokered" convention for Republicans came in 1948. The party eventually chose New York Governor Thomas Dewey. Dewey would eventually lose the White House to democrat Harry Truman.

Meantime, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell and House Speaker Paul Ryan say they are not concerned about a GOP brokered convention in summer 2016. Both say it's highly unlikely that'll happen.