

# Chris Christie launches his campaign for president tonight. Can he actually win?

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Chris Christie in 2016 when he announced his first presidential run. NJ Advance Media for NJ.com

By [Matt Arco](#) | NJ Advance Media for NJ.com and [Brent Johnson](#) | NJ Advance Media for NJ.com

Chris Christie on Tuesday night plans to enter a crowded primary for the Republican nomination for president in which much of the attention is focused on the unpredictable and often unshakable force of another contender: Donald Trump.

Sound familiar?

The first time Christie ran for the White House, in 2016, the then-New Jersey governor dropped out after a lackluster showing in New Hampshire and Trump went on to win both the nomination and the general election.

Now, he is about to launch a second bid, and questions hang over his candidacy: Does he actually have a path to victory this time? Or will he be seen as the candidate whose main job is to take down Trump?

Political experts say it will be difficult but not impossible for the former governor, who so far has barely registered in galling. Even Christie's inner circle concedes he's a long shot.

The former New Jersey governor plans to make his announcement at a town hall meeting in New Hampshire, and he'll reprise his 2016 campaign slogan of "Telling It Like It Is." He is expected to spend lots of time focusing on New Hampshire, which next February holds the first Republican primary, even though he finished sixth there in 2016.

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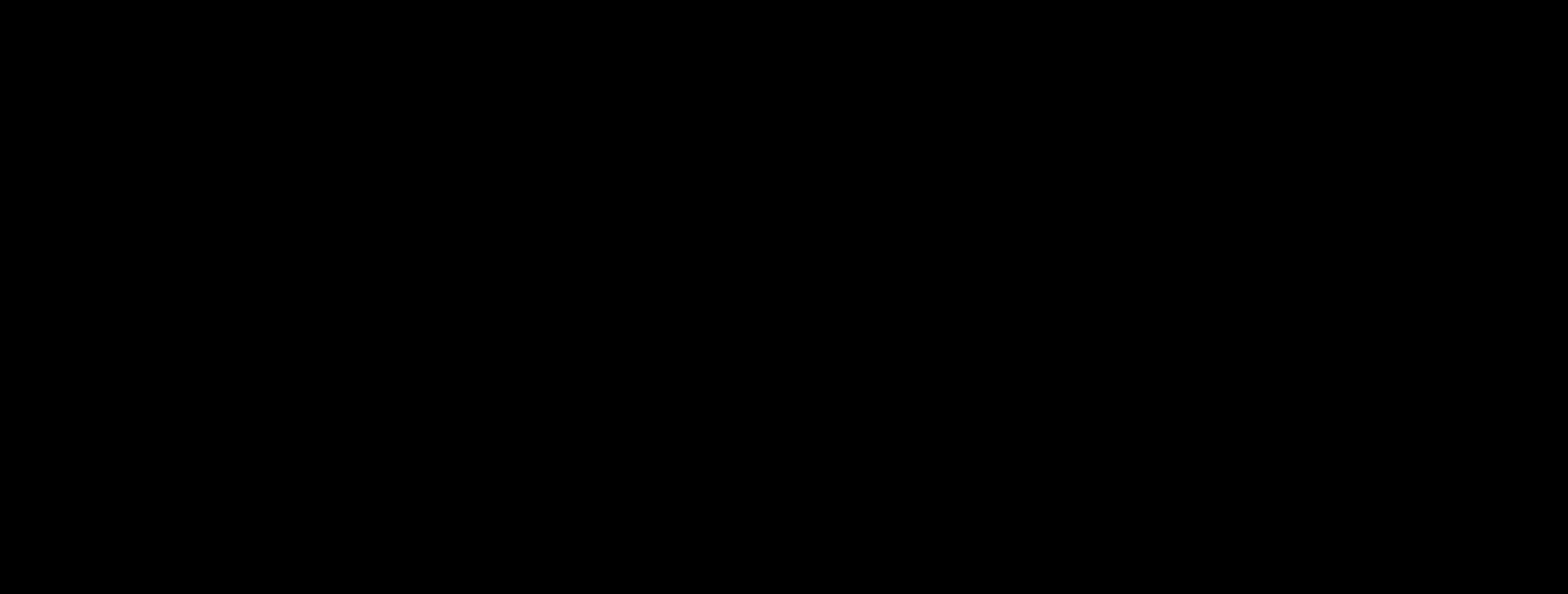
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