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But millions of grassroots activists, many who have been outsiders to the political process, have embraced Trump as a plain-speaking populist who is not afraid to offend.

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Steve House, chairman of the Colorado Republican Party and an unbound delegate who confirmed his support of Trump to AP, said he likes the billionaire's background as a businessman.

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'Leadership is leadership,' House said. 'If he can surround himself with the political talent, I think he will be fine.'

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Others who confirmed their decision to back Trump were more tepid, saying they are supporting him out of a sense of obligation because he won their state's primary.

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Cameron Linton of Pittsburgh said he will back Trump on the first ballot since he won the presidential primary vote in Linton's congressional district.

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'If there's a second ballot I won't vote for Donald Trump,' Linton said. 'He's ridiculous. There's no other way to say it.'

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All the while, Republican leaders declared themselves appalled by Trump's rise. Conservatives called the onetime Democrat a fraud.

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But they failed, ultimately, to block him. Republican leaders slowly, warily, began meeting with Trump and his staff. And he began winning endorsements from a few members of Congress.

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Trump incurred relatively low campaign costs — just \$57 million through the end of April. He covered most of it with at least \$43 million of his own money loaned to the campaign.

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He spent less than \$21 million on paid television and radio commercials. That's about one-quarter of what Jeb Bush and his allies spent on TV.

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Bush dropped out of the race three months ago, after disappointing results in South Carolina.

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Trump, 69, the son of a New York City real estate magnate, had risen to fame in the 1980s and 1990s, overseeing major real estate deals, watching his financial fortunes rise, then fall, hosting 'The Apprentice' TV show and authoring more than a dozen books.

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