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Washington, D.C. — If you thought the political world was tilted on its side, Obama’s victory in the Iowa caucus and Clinton’s in New Hampshire is another way to look at it. The two Democratic front-runners are in a tie in the delegate race, and the next pivotal contest is Monday’s South Carolina primary.

For both Obama and Clinton, the closeness of the race is a sign of the challenges they face as they head into the final weeks of the campaign. Both candidates have a long way to go to secure the nomination, and each faces a difficult path ahead.

Obama is hoping to build on his momentum in New Hampshire, where he outraised Clinton by nearly $30 million. But Clinton is counting on a strong performance in South Carolina, where she has a solid base of support.

Clinton has been aided by her strong showing in New Hampshire, where she won by a wide margin. Obama has been hampered by the lack of a clear front-runner in the Democratic race.

The Democratic candidates are facing an uphill battle to unite the party, which is divided over a range of issues including health care, the economy and foreign policy.

Obama is trying to appeal to moderate and independent voters, while Clinton is focusing on her experience and her ability to work with both parties. The two candidates have been critical of each other, with Clinton accusing Obama of being too idealistic and Obama accusing Clinton of being too beholden to special interests.

The Democratic primary is a battle of strategy and message, with both candidates trying to differentiate themselves from the other and appeal to their respective constituencies.

The future of the Democratic party is at stake in the primary, as the candidates vie for the support of a diverse group of voters. The winner will face McCain in the general election, and the outcome could have a profound impact on the future of the country.