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# Wisconsin Briefs

*from the Legislative Reference Bureau*

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Brief 11-8

December 2011

## 2012 WISCONSIN PRESIDENTIAL PREFERENCE PRIMARY

### I. INTRODUCTION

On April 3, 2012, Wisconsin voters will have an opportunity to express their preference for one of the candidates seeking the presidential nomination. The Wisconsin presidential preference primary, in which the voters select the delegates who will attend the national nominating conventions, is advisory and not binding on the respective political parties. It is also an “open” primary, in which voters are not required to declare a party affiliation prior to voting.

This brief describes the procedure for developing the primary ballot and the Appendix to the brief provides materials to assist the state nominating committee in identifying possible presidential candidates for the 2012 presidential primary.

### II. THE NOMINATION PROCESS

Preparation of the presidential preference primary ballot normally begins with the convening of a state nominating committee to determine the candidates who will appear on the ballot. The 2012 committee will meet on January 3, 2012, in the State Capitol.

Section 8.12 (1) (b), Wisconsin Statutes, requires the committee to place on the ballot “the names of all candidates whose candidacy is generally advocated or recognized in the national news media throughout the United States . . .” The committee has the “sole discretion” to determine which candidates fit the statutory criteria. The committee may, in addition, place the names of other candidates on the ballot.

**Establishing the Nominating Committee.** Representation on the nominating committee is based on a political party being both “recognized” and “certified” by the state. A “recognized political party” is defined by statute as one that qualifies for a separate ballot or ballot column by receiving a specified number of votes at the last general election or by securing a specified number of petition signatures.

The narrower definition of “certification” is provided in Section 8.12 (1) (a) of the statutes:

[T]he state chairperson of each recognized political party listed on the official ballot at the last gubernatorial election whose candidate for governor received at least 10% of the total votes cast for that office may certify to the [government accountability board] that the party will participate in the presidential preference primary.

The standard of 10% of total votes cast for governor is a more stringent requirement which was enacted by 1985 Wisconsin Act 304 and applied initially to the 1988 presidential preference primary election. Prior to that change, recognized political parties needed only 1% of

votes cast for *any* statewide office to participate on the nominating committee. Limiting the nominating committee’s membership to certified parties tends to restrict the committee to representatives of the Democratic and Republican parties. An exception was the 2004 primary, when the Libertarian Party qualified for certified status by virtue of Ed Thompson’s 10.6% showing in the 2002 gubernatorial election.

A party must indicate that it will participate in the presidential primary by filing an official certification with the Government Accountability Board (GAB) no later than 5 p.m. on December 13, 2011. Both the Democratic Party of Wisconsin and the Republican Party of Wisconsin, which were the only two recognized political parties eligible for certification for the 2012 election, certified by the deadline.

Section 8.12 (1) (b) of the statutes dictates that the nominating committee includes the following members:

1. For each party filing a certification, the state chairperson (or designee) and one national committeeman and one national committeewoman designated by the chairperson.
2. The president and minority leader of the senate (or designees).
3. The speaker and minority leader of the assembly (or designees).
4. One additional member, selected by the nominating committee, who serves as committee chairperson.

**Nominating Committee for the 2012 Presidential Preference Primary**

<b>Position</b>	<b>Democratic Party</b>	<b>Republican Party</b>
State Party Chairperson	Mike Tate	Brad Courtney
National Party Committeeman	Jason R. Rae	Steven King
National Party Committeewoman	Martha Love	Mary Buestrin
Senate President		Sen. Mike Ellis
Senate Minority Leader	Sen. Mark Miller	
Assembly Speaker		Rep. Jeff Fitzgerald
Assembly Minority Leader	Rep. Peter Barca	

The committee must certify to the GAB no later than the Friday following its initial meeting (January 6, 2012) the names of all candidates it has selected to appear on the presidential preference ballot.

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**Candidate Notification and Disclaimers.** After the nominating committee has certified a slate of nominees, the GAB notifies each person whose name has been placed in nomination and informs the person that his or her name will appear on the Wisconsin presidential preference ballot unless a disclaimer is filed. The disclaimer must state without qualification that the nominee is not and does not intend to become a candidate for the office of President of the United States at the forthcoming presidential election. It must be received by the GAB no later than 5 p.m. on the last Tuesday in January of the presidential election year (January 31, 2012).

**Nomination via the Petition Method.** If the nominating committee does not include in the candidate listing the name of a person actively seeking the nomination of one of the parties represented on the committee, that person, or any state group organized on that person's behalf, may still obtain a ballot position by submitting petitions under Section 8.12 (1) (c), Wisconsin Statutes. The petitions may be circulated no sooner than the first Tuesday in January of the presidential election year (January 3, 2012). The deadline for filing petitions with the GAB is no later than 5 p.m. on the last Tuesday in January (January 31, 2012). The petition must be signed by at least 1,000, but not more than 1,500, qualified electors in each of Wisconsin's eight congressional districts. An individual petition paper cannot include signers from more than one congressional district, and each petition paper must conform to the requirements of Section 8.40, Wisconsin Statutes.

**III. POSSIBLE 2012 PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES**

**Media Reports.** At the request of the legal counsel for the Government Accountability Board, the Legislative Reference Bureau has selected media reports contained in the Appendix, which describe the possible candidates in the 2012 Presidential Election. The articles are arranged in alphabetical order by party affiliation and the status of the individual’s campaign for nomination. The results of the LRB review are summarized below. Page numbers correspond to the media reports for each candidate.

**Selected Media Reports About 2012 Candidates**

<b>Democratic Party</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Page</b>	<b>Republican Party</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Page</b>
Barack Obama	Declared	5	Michele Bachmann	Declared	6
			Newt Gingrich	Declared	8
			Jon Huntsman	Declared	10
			Ron Paul	Declared	13
			Rick Perry	Declared	15
			Buddy Roemer	Declared	17
			Mitt Romney	Declared	20
			Rick Santorum	Declared	22
			Herman Cain	Suspended	24
			Gary Johnson	Withdrawn	26
			Thaddeus McCotter	Withdrawn	27
			Tim Pawlenty	Withdrawn	28

**Qualification for Matching Funds.** Another measure indicating presidential candidacy is whether the individual has raised the minimum amount of contributions to qualify for federal matching campaign funds. To receive matching funds, a presidential candidate must raise a minimum of \$100,000, with a minimum of \$5,000 collected in each of 20 states. No individual contribution may be greater than \$250.

As of December 15, 2011, no candidate had been approved for federal matching campaign funding for the 2012 campaign.

## DEMOCRATIC PARTY OBAMA (Declared)

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The New York Times

### In CBS Interview, Obama Makes Case for Second Term

December 12, 2011, 12:42 am

By Andrew Martin

President Obama on Sunday continued his populist fusillade, asserting during an appearance on “60 Minutes” on CBS that Republicans in Congress were protecting the wealthy at the expense of the middle class.

In an interview with the reporter Steve Kroft, taped on Tuesday and Friday, Mr. Obama said it didn’t matter who his Republican challenger would be in next year’s presidential election, because, he said, comparing Mitt Romney and Newt Gingrich, “the core philosophy that they are expressing is the same.”

But he added: “The contrast in visions between where I want to take the country and where they say they want to take the country is stark. The American people are going to have a good choice. And it’s going to be a good debate.”

Asked about Mr. Gingrich’s surging campaign, Mr. Obama offered a tepid compliment, “He’s somebody that has been around a long time and is good on TV, is good in debates.”

As for Mr. Romney, Mr. Obama said he had “shown himself to be somebody who is good at politics as well. He’s had a lot of practice at it.”

“I think they will be going at it a while,” he said.

Confronted with a new CBS poll that showed 75 percent of Americans believed the country was headed in the wrong direction and 54 percent believed Mr. Obama did not deserve to

be re-elected, the president said: “I would be surprised if the American people felt satisfied right now. They shouldn’t feel satisfied. We have a lot more work to do in order to get this country and the economy moving in a way that benefits everybody, as opposed to just a few.”

Mr. Obama batted away the idea that he was engaging in class warfare, saying his critics simply won’t allow for “honest conversation” about income inequality and the worst financial crisis since the Great Depression.

He said he had hoped in 2008 that both parties would set aside “old ideological baggage.” But instead, he said, “Republicans made a different calculation, which was, ‘You know what, we really screwed up the economy. Obama seems popular. Our best bet is to stand on the sidelines because we think the economy is going to get worse and at some point just blame him.’”

Mr. Obama also made his case for a second term, noting that his administration helped stave off another Depression, passed health care and financial reform, got rid of the “don’t ask, don’t tell” policy toward gays in the military, killed Osama Bin Laden and returned the economy to growth.

Mr. Obama likened himself to a sea captain navigating a ship through a bad storm. He said it was inevitable that people on the ship wouldn’t enjoy the ride and would blame the captain.

As such, he said the question in next year’s election is whether the Republicans present a more compelling vision that includes “cutting taxes further, including on the wealthy, cutting taxes on corporations, gutting regulations.”

He added, “If the American people think that is a recipe for success, and a majority is persuaded by that, then I am going to lose.”

By Yahoo! News and ABC News staff – Mon, Nov 7, 2011

### Barack Obama

Barack Obama, 44th president of the United States, made it official on Monday, April 4, that he planned to live at 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. for four more years.

The announcement came before dawn in the form of a YouTube video and emails.

Obama presented himself as the candidate of change in 2007 and worked to lure Democrats with ads that promised heady possibilities: “We Can End a War,” “We Can Save the Planet,” “We Can Change the World.”

The 2012 announcement was more tempered and reflected a candidate who has the bruising experience that comes from occupying the Oval Office. He has:

- Wrestled with a crushing recession marked by relentless high unemployment that shows little possibility of significantly dropping before Election Day.
- Fought with Congress and reached 11th hour compromises to avoid government shutdowns and default that were unpopular with many in his 2008 political base.
- Spent much of his first year in office so focused on health care reform that political opponents and some supporters said he lost sight of what was foremost on Americans’ minds – jobs.

Obama, 50, and considerably grayer than when he was elected in 2008, did not appear in the video launching his 2012 campaign. Instead, it presented supporters taking what is arguably a more realistic approach to winning the election.

“Unfortunately President Obama is one person,” says a woman identified as Alice from Michigan. “He cannot go —

plus he’s got a job. We’re paying him to do a job so we can’t say, ‘Hey could you just take some time off and come up here and get us all energized?’ So we better figure it out.”

One supporter, Ed from North Carolina, goes as far as to say, “I don’t agree with Obama on everything, but I respect him and I trust him.”

Obama has set up his campaign headquarters in Chicago rather than Washington, which is uncharacteristic for an incumbent president running for re-election.

Profile details:

- Birthplace: Honolulu, Hawaii
- Family: Michelle Robinson (wife); Children: Malia and Sasha.
- Religion: Christian.
- Job before candidacy: 44th president of the United States.
- Political experience: Successful campaign for White House in 2008; U.S. Senator from Illinois; Illinois State Senator.
- Most recent book written: “Change We Can Believe In”  
More on Barack Obama: ‘Hope’ and ‘Change’ meet reality

**Pros:** Rich campaign war chest; power of incumbency; ending war in Iraq, as promised; passed health care reform as promised; foreign policy successes, including death of Osama bin Laden.

**Cons:** High unemployment rate; low favorable ratings in polls; compromises with congressional Republicans that have disillusioned some supporters; continued intense political opposition to health care reform program.

## REPUBLICAN PARTY BACHMANN (Declared)

### Bachmann Following Obama Lead in Wooing Small Donors for 2012

Bloomberg L.P.

By Jonathan D. Salant – Sep 12, 2011

Each week, Michele Bachmann's presidential primary campaign sends an e-mail to grassroots supporters summarizing the latest news about her campaign, and asking for a few more dollars.

"I hope that you will consider making a contribution of \$25, \$50, \$100, or any amount up to the legal limit to help us spread our message of growth and prosperity in this busy time," Bachmann said in a recent one.

The Minnesota congresswoman began raising money for a presidential bid in mid-June, two weeks before the second-quarter fundraising reporting deadline of June 30. In that period, she raised as much money from donors who gave less than \$200 — a total of \$1.1 million — as primary rival Mitt Romney, the former Massachusetts Governor, did in more than two months.

Bachmann's reliance on small donors has been a hallmark of her House career, and it's an asset that can provide dividends in a Republican presidential primary where her strongest competitors — Texas Governor Rick Perry and Romney — are vying for a smaller pool of big donors to generate cash for their campaigns.

"It's like having money in the bank to have a list of names of people you can go back to" because they haven't given the maximum \$2,500 to her campaign, said Michael Malbin, executive director of the Washington-based Campaign Finance Institute, a nonpartisan group that studies political giving.

#### Perry Rise

Bachmann is trying to woo big donors, too. That job got harder after Perry shot to the top of public opinion polls and she was overshadowed by Romney and Perry in the Sept. 7 primary debate at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library in Simi Valley, California. Tonight, the Republican candidates will participate in a debate sponsored by Tea Party activists in Florida, and Bachmann will be under pressure to recapture some of the spotlight or risk losing momentum.

Her small donors could provide a boost later this month when the candidates are expected to announce their third quarter fundraising figures. The full reports will be made public by the Federal Election Commission in October.

It's a tactic President Barack Obama used in 2007 to bring momentum to his campaign and keep pace with the more experienced fundraising team recruited by Hillary Clinton during the Democratic primary. Obama raised half of his primary money in amounts of \$200 or less, while chief rival Clinton raised one-third from small check writers.

#### Top Fundraiser

The winner of the Iowa Straw Poll, Bachmann is competing against Romney's money-raising machine, which topped the primary field in the second quarter by reporting \$18.3 million in donations. Three-fourths of his money came from donors giving the maximum, according to an analysis by the Campaign Finance Institute. Perry entered the race last month and hasn't filed a disclosure report yet.

"Bachmann has really passionate supporters at the grassroots level," said former Federal Election Commission Chairman Michael Toner, who advised Tim Pawlenty's presidential campaign before the former Minnesota governor withdrew.

"Romney's challenges are the flip side of Bachmann's. His challenge is gathering support among conservative activists and getting the \$25 contributions."

Bachmann is using social media, the Internet and e-mail to try to woo small contributors and more than a half-million people have signed up to follow her on the social media sites Facebook and Twitter.

She has a long list of grassroots backers from previous campaigns; she raised \$7.5 million in small donations for her 2010 re-election. Overall, she took in \$13.6 million for her re-election campaign last year, more than any other House candidate, according to the Center for Responsive Politics, another Washington-based research group that tracks campaign donations.

#### Drudge Report

Bachmann also is advertising on conservative websites like the Drudge Report and Newsmax to build her donor base.

"That's where you get a lot of those small contributions," said Alice Stewart, a campaign spokeswoman. "Small contributions have been the lifeblood of Michele Bachmann's campaign. Another benefit of having small donors is the fact that many small donors mean many votes. We just as soon have the quantity of contributions as compared with high dollars."

While 74 percent of Romney's money came in checks for the maximum \$2,500 donation, he is also targeting smaller contributors, according to his spokeswoman, Andrea Saul. One such effort: A psychedelic anti-Obama "Magical Misery Tour" T-shirt for a \$30 donation. Visitors to his campaign website were invited to make their \$30 contribution a recurring one. The T-shirt campaign got 60,000 visits in six hours, Saul said. **'Very Proud'**

"We are very proud of all of the support we've received from across the nation for Governor Romney's message of creating jobs and growing the economy," Saul said.

The importance of small donors will be magnified if no front runner emerges from the early caucuses and primaries, Malbin said.

"When you have a small-donor network that is part of an integral campaign strategy, it becomes the basis for organizing get-out-the-vote efforts," Malbin said. "That was the basis for Obama's victory over Clinton, the ability to get out volunteers, especially in caucus states."

Obama remains the leader in small donor donations, and he is rebuilding his network for the re-election campaign.

This year, Obama began his 2012 fundraising effort with an e-mail list of more than 13 million names from the 2008 campaign, and took in 53 percent of his \$41.9 million in primary contributions from donors giving \$200 or less, according to the Campaign Finance Institute. The figures include money transferred to his campaign from fundraisers conducted jointly with the Democratic National Committee.

#### Obama's Small Donors

The \$22.1 million Obama received in small donations surpassed the amount any Republican candidate raised in total during the second quarter.

While Obama listed 244 people who raised at least \$50,000 through June 30, he also is developing a network of mini-bundlers, people who solicit friends and family to give to the campaign. They have set up personal fundraising pages on the campaign's website.

Thousands of such pages contain stories of why the person supports Obama and his or her fundraising goal. Supporters can use e-mail or social media to get others to click on their pages to give as little as \$1 to the president's re-election.

"It's making it very easy for people to communicate with friends and neighbors," said Katie Hogan, an Obama campaign spokeswoman.

The campaign also solicits small contributions through contests such as offering a chance to attend Obama's 50th birthday party in Chicago to anyone who recruited 50 donors or

50 supporters, or dinner with the president and Vice President Joe Biden to someone who donated at least \$10.

"We measure our success not in dollars but in people," Obama said in one fundraising e-mail, "in the number of everyday Americans who've chosen to give whatever they can afford because they know we've got more work to do."

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### **Bachmann Plans Dec Push Through Iowa's 99 Counties**

Associated Press

December 12, 2011 1:20 PM

ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP) – Each of Iowa's 99 counties is likely to hear from Republican presidential hopeful Michele Bachmann by the end of December.

Bachmann's campaign said Monday that she plans to spend 10 days crisscrossing the state and will begin Friday in

northwest Iowa. With a break for Christmas, Bachmann's bus tour is expected to stop in every Iowa county by Dec. 28.

The Minnesota congresswoman is hoping to pull off a surprise win in the first caucus state.

Bachmann won a nonbinding Iowa GOP straw poll in August but her standing has slipped since then. Polls show former House speaker Newt Gingrich leading his rivals in the state.

Iowa opens the GOP nominating push with its precinct caucuses in about three weeks, on Jan. 3.

## REPUBLICAN PARTY GINGRICH (Declared)

Yahoo! News

### Gingrich ahead in US poll, but slipping in Iowa

By Carlos Hamann (AFP) - 1 day ago

WASHINGTON - Republican White House hopeful Newt Gingrich has surged ahead of rival Mitt Romney nationwide, but his lead in Iowa has faded ahead of the January 3 caucuses, two new polls showed.

Gingrich, the former speaker of the House of Representatives, and Romney are seeking their party's nomination to take on Democratic President Barack Obama in the November 2012 election.

The Iowa vote, which kicks off the Republican presidential nominating process, will be seen as a crucial test of strength for Gingrich, who only weeks ago took the lead from long-time frontrunner Romney.

Gingrich now has 40 percent support among likely Republican voters nationwide, far ahead of the 23 percent support for Romney, a former governor of Massachusetts, according to a new Wall Street Journal/NBC News poll.

National polls are not decisive in a contest fought on a state-by-state basis, but do reflect the temperature of national opinion of a particular candidate.

In Iowa, Gingrich tops a Public Policy Polling survey of likely Republican voters with 22 percent support, just slightly ahead of Texas Congressman Ron Paul with 21 percent - a major drop from the nine-point lead he enjoyed in the previous PPP survey one week ago.

Romney's support in Iowa - a largely rural midwestern state which barely figures in the general election but is key as the first official nominating contest - was unchanged at 16 percent since last week. "Newt Gingrich's momentum is fading in Iowa," said PPP president Dean Debnam.

Gingrich has come under fire from members of the party's religious base over his admitted extramarital affairs. Both Romney and Texas Governor Rick Perry have run ads in Iowa emphasizing their family values credentials.

"When it comes to his character record, he's a very fine, empty suit with a broken zipper," wrote Iowa pastor Albert

Calaway, a member of the Truth, Values and Leadership evangelical group, according to local media.

Gingrich has also been criticized for accepting some \$1.6 million as a consultant to Freddie Mac, the government-owned mortgage lender and target of conservative critics.

"The attacks on him appear to be taking a heavy toll," PPP said in a statement, noting that his support among the ultra-conservative Tea Party wing of the party has slipped from 35 percent to 24 percent.

Gingrich has had difficulty forming a steady campaign organization to do battle against Romney's well-financed campaign juggernaut.

A win in Iowa, where voters have traditionally been especially conservative, could sweep Gingrich to a strong showing in the New Hampshire primaries - where Romney is favored to win - on January 10.

It could also give the former Georgia congressman significant momentum going into January primaries in the southern states of South Carolina and Florida, where he is expected to do well.

As for Paul, PPP said he has strong support among young voters, independents and new voters in Iowa which could spell "a big upset" on January 3.

Romney has failed to excite Republican voters, in part because of what is seen as "flip-flopping" on issues such as same-sex marriage and abortion.

His Mormon faith also has sparked mistrust among conservative Christians, who form the party's backbone.

In the national WSJ/NBC poll, Paul comes in third with nine percent, followed by congresswoman Michele Bachmann at eight percent and Texas Governor Rick Perry at six percent.

PPP surveyed 555 likely Iowa Republican caucus voters between December 11-13. The poll has a plus or minus 4.2 point margin of error.

The WSJ/NBC poll surveyed 1,000 adults between December 7-11 and has an overall plus-minus 3.1 percentage point margin of error.

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### Gingrich worse against Obama than Romney: Reuters/Ipsos poll

Yahoo! News

Wed, Dec 14 2011

By Andy Sullivan

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - Newt Gingrich holds a 10-point lead in the fight for the Republican presidential nomination, but he would fare worse against President Barack Obama than Republican Mitt Romney, according to a new Reuters/Ipsos poll.

With the first nominating contest in Iowa less than three weeks away, Gingrich leads Romney among Republican voters nationwide by 28 percent to 18 percent, the poll found.

However, the poll raises questions about whether Gingrich - a former speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives who has shot to the top of Republican opinion polls in recent weeks - would be able to defeat Obama.

The poll found that if the November 2012 presidential election were held today, Obama would defeat Gingrich, 51

percent to 38 percent. By contrast, Obama would defeat Romney by a narrower margin, 48 percent to 40 percent.

Analysts say the results reflect the risk that Republicans could face if they nominate Gingrich, whose strong performances in debates have won him support among conservatives seeking an alternative to Romney.

Gingrich has a long record of making provocative statements that could alienate independent voters, such as when he recently referred to Palestinians as an "invented" people.

Even so, some conservative Republicans see him as preferable to Romney, a former Massachusetts governor who has built a more extensive campaign and fundraising operation.

"This is the Republican dilemma," said Calvin Jillson, a political science professor at Southern Methodist University. "Do I want to enjoy myself by voting for Gingrich ... or do I want to look toward the general election and see a winnable contest?"

Romney has been widely viewed as the candidate to beat among Republicans.

Obama's campaign was focused squarely on an eventual race against Romney until this week, when it began taking shots at Gingrich — an acknowledgement of the former speaker's elevated standing in the Republican race.

The new poll found Texas Representative Ron Paul and Texas Governor Rick Perry tied for third place with 12 percent each, while Minnesota Representative Michele Bachmann has the support of 10 percent of Republicans.

Former Utah Governor John Huntsman is next with 5 percent, followed by former Pennsylvania senator Rick Santorum, with 4 percent. Another 4 percent picked other candidates or none at all.

The poll, taken from December 8 to December 12, shows Gingrich's remarkable comeback since a staff mutiny and criticism by fellow Republicans nearly torpedoed his campaign in June. A Reuters/Ipsos poll taken during that period showed him polling at 6 percent.

The poll also found that Obama could be making a comeback of sorts as the economy shows signs of improvement and

Republican candidates bloody each other in a series of televised debates.

Obama's 8 point lead over Romney is a dramatic increase from the 1 point deficit he faced in a Reuters/Ipsos poll taken from October 31 to November 3.

Although Obama is doing better compared with Republicans, his approval rating, at 47 percent, is little changed since the beginning of the year.

Americans remain generally pessimistic, the poll found. Only 27 percent say the country is moving in the right direction, while 69 percent say it is on the wrong track, a slight improvement from the October poll.

The poll was based on telephone interviews of 1,102 adults, 443 of them registered Republicans. The margin of error for all adults is plus or minus 3 percentage points; for Republicans the margin of error is plus or minus 4.7 percentage points.

The complete poll results can be found at <http://www.ipsos-na.com/news-polls/pressrelease.aspx?id=5437>.

(Reporting by Andy Sullivan; Editing by David Lindsey)

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## Eye on Newt: For Democrats, Does Gingrich Eclipse Romney?

THE NOTE

Dec 14, 2011 7:00am

By Matt Negrin

@MattNegrin

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It might be time for the Democratic Party to start taking Newt Gingrich seriously.

The former House speaker has recently shown that he's capable of sustained front-runner status in the GOP primary, although his reputation as a self-destructing bomb-thrower still lingers. Democrats have mostly aimed their fire at Mitt Romney during the primary season, and only this past weekend did the party's national committee publish its first video ad on Gingrich, tying him to the Tea Party.

We asked some Democratic pollsters whether Gingrich deserved more attention from Democrats, or whether they still saw Romney as the inevitable nominee. The results: Yes, no and maybe.

### The Case for Gingrich

As the GOP candidates have risen and fallen in the polls, Romney has not been able to capitalize on the changing tides. Stanley Greenberg, a veteran pollster, said Gingrich is now the most likely nominee, partly because of his timing, surging just before the Iowa caucuses.

"I think these voters are not going to elect Romney," he said. "The fact that he's gotten zero points out of the serial candidate withdrawals suggests that the ... conservative voters are going to find themselves with a conservative candidate."

Greenberg predicted that Democrats would know in a week whether Gingrich's rise was serious or just another weak trend.

An ABC News/Washington Post poll released today found that Gingrich's favorability rating among Republicans had stayed at 60 percent since late last month, but that he'd become more unlikable among independents and Democrats.

### The Case Against Gingrich

The spotlight might be on Gingrich, but his net favorability rating in Iowa has dropped by 19 points in the past week, said Tom Jensen, who runs Public Policy Polling. And if Gingrich doesn't come in first in Iowa, and Romney wins in New Hampshire, then the path to victory is tough for the ex-speaker.

Democrats, Jensen said, should keep their greater focus on Romney, because he's more formidable than Gingrich in a general election against President Obama. That wouldn't be too much wasted effort even if Gingrich pulled it off, because he would be Democrats' ideal opponent. Jensen said that would be better for Obama than the economy improving. His advice: Hope for Gingrich, but brace for Romney.

"This development of Newt Gingrich becoming the front-runner, that's the best news Barack Obama's had for months," he said.

### The Case for Staying Out of It

The Democratic pollster Mark Mellman sees a civil war in the Republican Party as Gingrich and Romney battle each other for the nomination, and he says they're hurting each other more than Democrats can.

Asked what he would advise Obama's team to do, Mellman said the campaign should just continue to put people on the ground without predicting any specific opponent. "The Republicans are doing a great job of blasting away at each other," he said.

"I think Gingrich is a serious candidate," he said. "He could win, but I'm not sure that Democrats have to focus on attacking anyone in particular."

## REPUBLICAN PARTY HUNTSMAN (Declared)

### Jon Huntsman hangs a lot of hope on doing well in New Hampshire

St. Petersburg Times

By Adam Smith C. Smith, Times Political Editor

PETERBOROUGH, N.H. — Some candidates walk into a room and their presence fills it like a floodlight.

Jon Huntsman walks into a room and, well, he's in the room. More like an energy-saving light bulb.

No bombast, no soaring rhetoric, no fire. The former Utah governor and ambassador to China exudes competence and substance, but he speaks conversationally, almost like a man slightly embarrassed to be there.

"I just want your vote. I'm not going to pander," he told several dozen seniors at the Peterborough Rotary Club this week, as much of the political world was consumed with the barbs flying between frontrunners Newt Gingrich and Mitt Romney.

"I'm not going to contort myself into a pretzel. I'm not going to sign those silly pledges that all the other candidates have signed. I'm not going to show up to a Donald Trump debate. There are just some things I will not do."

Dead man walking? Not necessarily.

In the volatile GOP presidential primary that has seen Michele Bachmann rise and fall, Rick Perry soar and implode, Herman Cain rocket to the top and fizzle, and now Newt Gingrich at the top, maybe it's not so crazy to think Huntsman will get the next shot of momentum.

"I'm very impressed. He's a breath of fresh air," retiree Frederic Hartman said after listening to Huntsman talk about the need for dramatic spending cuts, for cutting back military entanglements around the world and for term limits and ethics reforms for Congress. "He's just more rational than the other candidates who are just beating each other up."

Huntsman, 51, barely registers in polls of key early-voting states, including Florida, Iowa and South Carolina. But several commentators, including George Will, former Florida Rep. Joe Scarborough, and RedState blogger Erick Erickson, with serious reservations about the electability and conservatism of Gingrich and Romney have suggested Huntsman deserves a second look.

It's a long shot, and Huntsman is staking everything on New Hampshire, which has a tradition of embracing underdogs and upending political narratives.

The average of recent New Hampshire polls compiled by RealClearPolitics shows Huntsman in a distant fourth place, with 10 percent support, behind Romney with 34 percent, Gingrich with 24 and Ron Paul with 18 percent. New Hampshire voters tend to make up their minds at the very end, but a lot has to go right for Huntsman to have a shot and a lot of it is out of his control.

Through September, he had less than \$330,000 in his campaign account and more than \$3 million in campaign debt. Helping fuel the campaign's mild up tick in the New Hampshire polls has been TV advertising by an independently operating political group, Our Destiny PAC, believed to be heavily funded by his father, billionaire industrialist and philanthropist Jon Huntsman Sr.

Legally the campaign can't communicate or strategize with the pro-Huntsman group, but campaign officials make perfectly clear they need its resources.

"We need air cover, but we can't coordinate in that. If it happens, it happens. If it doesn't, it doesn't," said senior adviser John Weaver.

The Huntsman path involves a muddled result at the Jan. 3 Iowa caucuses, and, ideally, a poor showing by Romney with whom he is competing for many of the same votes. Then a strong New Hampshire on Jan. 10 showing would generate the momentum to drive Huntsman through South Carolina on Jan. 21 and Florida on Jan. 31.

First, though, Huntsman has to connect with voters.

It's no sure thing.

"I went to see him awhile ago. He's boring," said David Sherman, a New Boston resident, leaning toward Romney. "Huntsman seems like a nice guy, but all he does is talk in platitudes. He doesn't generate excitement."

In Peterborough, heads nodded as Huntsman talked about an over-extended military and how there can no more sacred cows when cutting expenses. But as he waxed on about his experience with natural gas powered cars, several men in the audience appeared more interested in admiring the candidates' striking wife and daughters than listening to his remarks.

"Boring," Dublin retiree Matt Wagner declared as Huntsman headed out. "Just saying, 'I've got the leadership skills nobody else does' is platitudinous pap."

Huntsman's campaign struggled for traction from the beginning, when he kicked it off with little groundwork almost immediately after resigning as ambassador. His service in the Obama administration made him deeply suspect to many Republicans though he has strong credentials as a fiscal conservative. The Wall Street Journal has called his tax reform plan the best of any candidates' and as Utah's governor he slashed and flattened taxes and rejected mandating health insurance.

Two months ago, the struggling Huntsman campaign moved its headquarters from Florida, where it showed little pulse, to New Hampshire. He has campaigned in the state more than any other major candidate, and on Monday announced a leadership team including 140 New Hampshire residents from 90 towns.

So far, Huntsman has little to show for it.

"People coalesce around candidates about a week or 10 days out. All we can do at this point is plant the seeds. We've done more public events (in New Hampshire) than anybody," Huntsman said. "Some people skipped over us early on. They didn't give us any consideration because I crossed a partisan line to serve my country as U.S. ambassador to China... Now they're coming around and they're saying, 'We missed something' and we're getting a first look I would say and a second look by some."

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Read more: [http://www.miamiherald.com/2011/12/14/2546275\\_p2/jon-huntsman-hangs-a-lot-of-hope.html#ixzz1gdVJkTCY](http://www.miamiherald.com/2011/12/14/2546275_p2/jon-huntsman-hangs-a-lot-of-hope.html#ixzz1gdVJkTCY)

## Huntsman Targets Wall Street Behavior to Draw Contrast to Romney

Businessweek

December 12, 2011, 6:21 AM EST

By Lisa Lerer

Dec. 7 (Bloomberg) — As the front-runners in the Republican presidential primary field pocket donations from Wall Street investors, Jon Huntsman Jr. is turning them into a campaign issue.

“We’ve had implosions on Wall Street,” he said, in an interview with Bloomberg News yesterday. “We had bad behavior on Wall Street. We had lack of transparency on Wall Street. I believe they are, in some measure, responsible for a diminishment in trust.”

It’s a message that Huntsman hopes can revive his presidential campaign and echoes a populist theme President Barack Obama sounded yesterday in a speech in Kansas when he said “breathhtaking greed” contributed to the nation’s economic turmoil. Huntsman is drawing a contrast with Republican rival Mitt Romney, a former private equity investor who made a fortune as founder of Bain Capital.

Huntsman has staked his campaign on New Hampshire, hoping for a surprise victory against Romney that would make him a serious contender in the nomination battle. The former Utah governor stands at 9 percent in New Hampshire among likely Republican primary voters, according to a Dec. 4 NBC News/Marist poll.

By taking aim at Wall Street, Huntsman believes he can piece together a coalition of anti-bailout Republicans and anti-Wall Street independent voters in the fiscally conservative early voting state.

### Controlling Banks

Last month, Huntsman released a plan that would cap the size of banks and impose new fees on the biggest financial institutions. In campaign appearances, he accuses his rivals of being beholden to their Wall Street donors, and he’s expressed support for the populist Occupy Wall Street protests.

“There are some points of convergence that many Americans can relate to,” he said, sitting amid the oriental rugs and polished dining room table in his Washington home. “The concern about banks that are too big to fail is very real.”

Romney’s business background has helped him become the candidate of choice for Wall Street investors frustrated with what they see as targeting of the their industry by the Obama administration.

### Smart Tactic

“It’s a pretty smart tactic because Mr. Romney made a lot of money from big banks and it’s going to be hard for him to respond on this,” said Simon Johnson, an economics professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology who has been critical of the banking industry.

Citing Romney’s ties to Wall Street, Huntsman, the son of a billionaire industrialist, raises questions about whether the former private equity investor would be able to stand up to the industry.

“He would seem to be doing quite well with the Wall Street insiders,” Huntsman said. “If too big to fail is in fact an ongoing problem for this country, you’re going to need someone who can stand up and point out those deficiencies and do so without the additional pressure of an industry that built them up politically.”

Texas Governor Rick Perry, who is also lagging in polls, has used a similar line against Romney and the newest front-runner in the field, former House Speaker Newt Gingrich.

### ‘Substantial Insiders’

Gingrich and Romney are “substantial insiders of Wall Street and Washington, D.C.,” Perry said in a Nov. 30 interview on Fox News.

It’s an unflattering portrait that Democrats hope will take hold. Obama’s allies have already begun painting Romney as more interested in supporting Wall Street than addressing the economic challenges facing the middle class.

“This is a more effective argument in the general election for Obama than it is for the primaries,” said Bob Shrum, a Democratic strategist who helped run Senator Edward Kennedy’s 1994 re-election campaign against Romney. “Romney’s kind of a poster boy for the top 1 percent.”

The question is whether those attacks will resonate with Republican primary voters.

“Coming from him, it doesn’t ring genuine,” said Mark Meckler, co-founder of the Tea Party Patriots. “He comes from a long-term family of wealth.”

Huntsman is the son of Jon Huntsman Sr., founder of Huntsman Chemical. After working in the Reagan White House and serving as ambassador to Singapore during the administration of President George H.W. Bush, Huntsman joined the board of his father’s company.

### Ruling Elite

“He’s been part of the ruling elite,” Meckler added. “I don’t think that Huntsman can claim outsider status.”

While the rest of the Republican field frequently promises to end all government bailouts, none have gone as far as Huntsman in introducing a specific plan to restructure the financial industry.

His proposal, released on Nov. 28, caps bank size and total borrowing based on their assets as a percentage of gross domestic product. Those institutions that exceed the permitted size would pay a fee designed to help cover the cost to taxpayers of any future bailouts. Huntsman would also shut down Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, two government-backed mortgage lenders caught up in the housing meltdown, and repeal the Dodd-Frank Act passed by Congress to regulate the financial industry.

“Huntsman is the boldest of anyone who’s taken up this issue,” said Johnson.

### Large Banks

Congress briefly considered breaking up large banks during the debate over Dodd-Frank. Huntsman’s plan is closest to a proposal by Democratic Senators Sherrod Brown of Ohio, and Ted Kaufmann of Delaware that got just 33 votes in the Senate, falling far short of the 60 needed to move forward.

On the campaign trail, Huntsman’s rivals blame the financial crisis largely on Democratic leadership, while rarely mentioning the big banks that were at the center of the government bailout.

Gingrich has called for authorities to jail the two Democratic sponsors of the law, Representative Barney Frank of Massachusetts and former Senator Christopher Dodd of Connecticut.

“If you want to put people in jail,” he said in an Oct. 11 debate, “you ought to start with Barney Frank and Chris Dodd.”

Huntsman accused his rivals of being hesitant to criticize banks because they don't want to cut off a source of campaign contributions.

Romney is backed by a long list of top financial industry executives, including Stephen Schwarzman, chairman of Blackstone, the world's largest private equity firm, who plans to host a campaign fund-raiser next week.

**Raising Money**

Gingrich spent the early part of this week meeting with potential donors in New York City, hoping to raise the funds needed to catch up with Romney.

"They want to be able to point out the deficiencies in front of some crowds, but they want to take money from the banking sector," said Huntsman. "They're not going to get contributions from the banking sector if they're specific about how they want to remedy the situation."

Huntsman has struggled to raise any money at all. He has reported donations of \$2.2 million through Sept. 30 — and lent another \$2.2 million of his own money to his campaign, according to the most recent financial disclosure reports. Romney raised \$32 million during the same period.

In September, Huntsman closed his Florida headquarters to save money and moved his campaign operation to the Granite State.

**Time Running Out**

One challenge facing Huntsman is that time is running out to make an impression on voters. His polling numbers in the state, while climbing, remain low. In a Bloomberg News poll conducted Nov. 10–12, Huntsman draws 7 percent support, which puts him fifth in what was then an eight candidate primary field.

Last month a super PAC, financed in part by Huntsman's father, began running ads in the state. The television spot, which highlights Huntsman's background as governor of Utah and ambassador to China during the Obama Administration, ends with a man asking, "John Huntsman, why haven't we heard of this guy?"

Huntsman says proposals like his financial reform plan give him something his rivals lack: The ability to beat Obama in the general election.

"Nobody comes close to us in the area of electability," he says. "I think in the end that's going to be a big part of how people will break in your favor."

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**Jon Huntsman Skips Debate to Campaign in New Hampshire**

Yahoo! News

Sat, Dec 10, 2011

By Jon C. Hopwood | Yahoo! Contributor Network

COMMENTARY | Jon Huntsman, who shows up last in polls of Iowa voters according to RealClearPolitics, is skipping tonight's ABC–Des Moines Register Debate to campaign in New Hampshire. He's ducking duking it out with the field of GOP presidential candidates headed by new front–runner Newt Gingrich. Huntsman will engage Gingrich in a "Lincoln–Douglas" style one–on–one debate at St. Anselm's College in Goffstown, N.H., on Jan. 12.

Instead of appearing in Iowa, Huntsman will hold a town hall meeting in the town of Londonderry.

The question is, by foregoing the national exposure of the debate, is he dooming his candidacy? Or is it a recognition that his candidacy is doomed?

**Polls**

An ABC News/Washington Post poll reports Huntsman's support among Iowa Republicans at 2 percent, while CNN/Time and the CBS/New York Times put him at one percent. He is dead last in Iowa, trailing even Rick Santorum.

Huntsman is doing better in New Hampshire, where he is in fourth place, behind front–runner Mitt Romney, runner–up Newt Gingrich and the surprisingly resilient Ron Paul.

It's a huge gap between the two Mormon former governors. Rasmussen Reports has Huntsman trailing Romney by 23 points, 11 percent to 34 percent, while CNN/Time has him down 27 points, eight percent to 35 percent.

Similarly, the NBC News/Marist poll has Huntsman trailing by 30 points, nine percent to 39 percent.

**Third Place**

Only in the Rasmussen poll is Huntsman in striking distance of third place. Rasmussen has Huntsman trailing Ron Paul's 14 percent by three points. However, CNN/Time and NBC News/Marist put the gap between the two for "Show" position in the New Hampshire primary at a more daunting nine and seven percent, respectively.

Third place typically allows a candidate to continue campaigning for several more weeks or even a month of two, but "Show" has proven to be little better than finishing out of the money, fourth or worse.

In the 2008 New Hampshire primaries, which were held on January 8th, only the top three candidates managed to maintain robust campaigns after the votes were tallied. On the Democratic side, winner Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama battled almost to the convention, while third–place finisher John Edwards lasted only to the end of January, according to Democracy in Action's Race for the White House.

Mike Huckabee, the third place finisher in the Republican primary, stayed in the race to the beginning of March, when he dropped out when it became apparent that McCain would best him in Texas. He had lasted a fortnight longer than Romney, who dropped out in mid–February.

Jon Huntsman is placing all his chips on finishing third in New Hampshire. However, if history is any guide, it will prove a Pyrrhic victory. Either way, Huntsman likely will be out of the race by the end of January 2012.

## REPUBLICAN PARTY

### PAUL (Declared)

#### Ron Paul 2012: Why he Stands Real Chance to Get Republican Nomination

International Business Times

Tuesday, December 13, 2011 5:26 AM EST

By Sreeja VN

Texas Rep. Ron Paul stands in second position in the latest Iowa caucus polls, tied with former Massachusetts Governor Mitt Romney at 17 points. If his public meetings in the state of Iowa are anything to go by, he might pull off surprises here.

There are some key factors that have helped Paul slowly but steadily gain support among the Republican base.

His ability to connect to younger crowds: Ron Paul is considered a libertarian among the 2012 Republican presidential contenders. Though he is 75, Paul connects with youth more readily than his younger competitors. Many youth are drawn to his philosophy of less government control. He has a progressive stand on many issues that the younger generation is concerned with.

Paul's arguments on individual freedom, legalizing the use of cannabis, lower taxes and cutting government expenditure attract to the younger crowd.

They feel he is trustworthy and a no-nonsense guy compared to the likes of former House Speaker Newt Gingrich and Romney. His growing popularity among youngsters is evident from the huge number of college students who flock to his appearances. The University of Iowa's student newspaper, The Daily Iowan, endorsed Paul, stating it "as the only logical conclusion."

His record in Congress: Paul is an experienced congressman and has deep knowledge of the U.S. economy, policies and Constitution. He has been consistent in his stand on various

issues and never deviated from his principles throughout his career in Congress.

He has always advocated cutting federal spending over education and social programs and voted for any bill moved in this direction. This presents himself as someone who is determined to do what he believes in. This gives Paul an upper hand over contenders like Gingrich and Romney, who are known for changing their views.

His foreign policy: Paul's foreign policy is both his strength and weakness. He believes in less government intervention both on the domestic and international fronts. He wants to bring back troops from all over the world. This directly appeals to the young and middle generation Americans who believe that U.S. resources and manpower are unnecessarily sacrificed in foreign wars. But the same makes Paul unacceptable to those who cannot accept any policy that might diminish the U.S. control over rest of the world.

His background and life: Ron Paul is a "pro-life" and "pro-family" candidate who came from a lower-middle-class family. His principles and policies are drawn from his life experience, a journey from modest beginnings to the current position he is in.

He is projected as a realistic and disciplined person with common sense, and this distinguishes him from other top Republican front runners like Gingrich, Romney and Perry. He can be a true representative of middle-class American spirit.

All these have worked in Paul's favor and his support base could strengthen further. It may be too early to predict a complete change of scenario in the 2012 U.S. presidential polls, but it is clear that Ron Paul cannot be ruled out as a weak contender.

#### Ron Paul goes after Gingrich in Iowa, will strategy ultimately help Romney?

The Washington Post

Published: December 13 | Updated: Wednesday, December 14, 5:00 AM

*Ron Paul and his campaign have made early states like Iowa central to their strategy and have lashed out against rising contender Newt Gingrich. Yet does a Gingrich loss to Paul help Ron Paul or Mitt Romney more? As Chris Cillizza reported:*

Want to know the key to former Massachusetts governor Mitt Romney winding up as the Republican presidential nominee? Two words: Ron Paul.

The Texas Congressman's strength in Iowa – there is a legitimate case to be made that he will win the Jan. 3 caucuses – coupled with his willingness to go after frontrunning former House Speaker Newt Gingrich in often quite personal terms make him perhaps the critical x-factor in Romney's winning calculus.

Winning in Iowa is – and always was – going to be a very heavy lift for Romney.

His problem in the state this time around is very similar to his problem four years ago. Socially conservative evangelicals simply don't like or trust Romney – whether that's because of past flip flops on issues like abortion and gay marriage or because of his Mormon faith is up for debate – and will almost certainly vote for the most viable alternative candidate.

Gingrich is clearly that candidate (although we continue to believe Texas Gov. Rick Perry has the potential to make a late run for that vote) at the moment. And, a win in Iowa would almost certainly catapult Gingrich into contention in New Hampshire, a state where Romney absolutely must win in order to preserve his path to the nomination.

Enter Paul, who may well be the only candidate who can beat Gingrich in Iowa at this point.

While Gingrich is currently leading the Iowa pack, there is a widespread expectation that he will underperform his poll numbers due to the lack of anything close to a first-class organization, and the likelihood that he will take heavy incoming from his rivals over the next three weeks.

Paul has already begun that onslaught, airing an ad in Iowa that paints Gingrich as a serial hypocrite who doesn't really believe in the conservative principles he is espousing.

And, Paul's distaste toward Gingrich seems to go beyond the political and into the personal. (Remember that Paul served under Gingrich when the latter was Speaker in the mid 1990s).

*The man behind Ron Paul's ads, Jon Downs, has helped Paul become a serious contender with solid poll numbers well above his previous run at the Republican nomination. As Jason Horowitz explained:*

Back in July, Republican ad man Jon Downs met with fellow veterans of George W. Bush's 2000 campaign at a local IHOP for their quarterly professional catch-up.

“He said, ‘Unbeknownst to you guys, I’ve been working and I’ve signed with Ron Paul,’ ” Scott Douglas, a Republican political operative and Downs’s first boss in politics, recalled. “And my mouth dropped.” Douglas said others in the breakfast crew “twitched and laughed” and “rolled their eyes.”

Not anymore. Paul has inched in from the margins to position himself for an unexpectedly strong showing in the Iowa caucuses. His radical economic views are getting a fresh hearing in awful economic times, and his highly organized and well-funded ground game has attracted support beyond his base of young, committed Paul zealots.

But as much as Paul likes to claim that the mainstream has come to him, he has also pursued it. Exhibit A : Downs, a media mercenary who is about as far as it gets from a traditional Paul revolutionary.

“I wouldn’t consider myself a member of his army,” said Downs, a self-described mainstream Republican, as he reclined on a recent evening in his downtown D.C. studio.

But Downs is engineering the campaign’s broadsides.

On Monday, the Paul campaign unveiled a Downs ad eviscerating Newt Gingrich as a Washington insider. An earlier, equally brutal ad out of Downs’s shop prompted a question during Saturday night’s GOP debate. Other Downs productions have included a frenetic, in-your-face spot called “Big Dog,” modeled on Ford’s F-150 truck ads, in which Paul is depicted as having the bite to back up his bark while his opponents are “whimpering like little Shih Tzus.” It received a sendup from Conan O’Brien.

*After some tougher attacks between Romney, Gingrich and Paul some analysts think the real winner thus far in the GOP primary is President Obama. As Peter Wallsten reported:*

The winner of the Republican presidential primary fight is ... President Obama?

That’s the analysis laid out Tuesday by Obama’s top campaign strategists in a presentation that brimmed with confidence over how the shifting political winds in the GOP are boosting the president’s chances of reelection.

No matter whether Mitt Romney or Newt Gingrich is the GOP nominee, senior strategist David Axelrod, campaign manager Jim Messina and deputy campaign manager Stephanie Cutter argued that a protracted Republican fight helps Obama in multiple ways.

For starters, the strategists said, the leading GOP candidates are pushing to the right to appeal to their party’s energized tea-party base – alienating General Election voters with hard-line views on immigration, abortion and taxes. Moreover, they said, every week that the Republicans are focused on fighting each other in debates and over the airwaves is another week that Obama’s campaign has to assemble its battleground state get-out-the-vote network.

“They’ve just decided not to do the kind of grass-roots organizing we’re doing,” Messina said.

Even in Iowa, where the GOP candidates are vying for votes in just a matter of weeks, Obama’s campaign claims to have a bigger operation than any of its potential Republican rivals. “We have more staffers on the ground in Iowa than the other campaigns,” Messina said.

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## Ron Paul Snatches Third in National Polls

The Street

12/14/11 – 10:45 AM EST

Joe Deaux

NEW YORK (TheStreet) — Three national polls released Wednesday showed Newt Gingrich ahead of Mitt Romney and Ron Paul, who has snatched a firm third-place position in every national survey since Herman Cain suspended his campaign.

The NBC News/Wall Street Journal, Reuters/Ipsos and Associated Press/GfK polls had Gingrich leading by 17, 10 and six percentage points respectively against Romney, while Paul trailed Romney by 14, six and 18 percentage points correspondingly.

Though Gingrich is the leader in every major national poll and most state-by-state polls, Paul has enjoyed a recent surge in the pivotal final three weeks for the GOP presidential race.

Paul’s campaign touted Wednesday its sudden second-place position in Iowa polls as ronpaul2012.com captured a screen grab of the Drudge Report Web site that ran a photo of Paul riding a bicycle with an all-capitalized headline that said “IOWA: GINGRICH 22% PAUL 21% ROMNEY 16%.”

“Meanwhile Ron Paul is building an unusual coalition of support for a Republican primary,” said Dean Debnam, Public Policy Polling president, on Tuesday. “The big question is: Will they really turn out?”

Paul’s campaign punched at Gingrich, the former House speaker, this past week with claims that Gingrich wants the Constitution to die, and he’s been joined by incessant attacks by the Romney campaign, which launched the Web site newtandnancy.com on Wednesday that criticizes Gingrich’s climate change ad with Rep. Nancy Pelosi (D., Calif.).

Paul’s attacks come as Gingrich leads Iowa. A strong caucus finish could be the key race that would vault Paul into serious contention for the GOP nomination.

## REPUBLICAN PARTY

### PERRY (Declared)

#### Promising Better Direction, Perry Enters Race

The New York Times

August 13, 2011

By Ashley Parker

CHARLESTON, S.C. – Gov. Rick Perry of Texas announced Saturday that he was running for president, declaring it was “time to get America working again” as he sought to offer the Republican Party a candidate who appeals to both fiscal and social conservatives.

As many of his fellow candidates flooded Iowa over the weekend to woo voters at the Ames Straw Poll, Mr. Perry, 61, headed here to the RedState Gathering, an annual convention of conservative bloggers being held in South Carolina, another early primary state, to begin seeking his party’s nomination on a small-government, anti-Washington platform.

“I came to South Carolina because I will not sit back and accept the path that America is on, because a great country requires a better direction, because a renewed nation needs a new president,” he said.

“With the support of my family and unwavering belief in the goodness of America, I declare to you today as a candidate for president of the United States.”

And with that, Mr. Perry, whose intentions had been one of the biggest unanswered questions during the early stages of the Republican primary contest – he was even the topic of a question at Thursday night’s Republican debate in Iowa – made his candidacy official.

Mr. Perry, who promised “to give a pink slip to the current resident in the White House,” began by introducing himself to the crowd as a small-town boy from humble means. But he quickly offered a stirring assessment on the state of America, criticizing President Obama and predicting, in a Reaganesque flourish, that “it’s time to believe that the promise of our future is far greater than even our best days behind us.”

Mr. Perry’s entrance into an already crowded field is expected to reconfigure the dynamics of the race, offering Republicans a fiscal and social conservative who not only appeals to the party’s base but can also challenge Mitt Romney, a former governor of Massachusetts who is leading in many polls, on jobs and the economy. His passionate speech on Saturday offered a vivid contrast to Mr. Romney, who comes across as more measured and often struggles to rouse his crowds.

Mr. Perry traveled from South Carolina to New Hampshire for his first appearance as a candidate in that critical state. At an invitation-only event in the backyard of State Representative Pam Tucker’s Greenland, N.H., home, Mr. Perry spoke for 15 minutes and then took questions on topics including Libya, border security and nuclear energy.

His announcement reverberated 1,200 miles away in Iowa, where thousands of Republicans gathered to size up the party’s candidates, who delivered speeches and asked for support in the Ames Straw Poll. Though Mr. Perry’s name was not on the ballot, a group called Americans for Rick Perry urged people to list him as a write-in candidate, and he received 718 of the nearly 17,000 votes cast.

He is set to travel to Iowa on Sunday, where he intends to spend three days in the state introducing himself to voters who will open the nominating contest early next year.

Mr. Perry is the longest-serving governor of Texas, having been elected to three terms and having held the position for

more than 10 years. He is known as a fierce and skilled campaigner, as well as a prodigious fund-raiser. In past campaigns, he has eked out victories and also come from behind to win by large margins. “He becomes immediately one of the top three candidates, and he fills a vacuum – of someone who is a conservative, who has credibility and can speak to the fiscal conservative, anti-big-government and anti-Washington crowd, but he’s also a social conservative,” said Matthew Dowd, a former strategist for President George W. Bush.

What Mr. Perry does in the coming weeks will be the real test of his candidacy, said Republicans who were waiting to see if he could withstand the scrutiny that comes with a presidential campaign.

“He either gets in and gets through the gantlet of the first month or so and consistently moves forward and wins the nomination, or he’s got this terrific flameout,” Mr. Dowd said. “There’s no middle ground.”

Mr. Romney has positioned himself as the candidate with real-world experience who can turn the economy around and create jobs, and Mr. Perry will compete with him on that front, making a case that his policies of low taxes and light regulation have helped Texas post a strong record of job growth at a time when most of the nation is struggling.

“We’ll create the jobs and the progress needed to get America working again,” Mr. Perry told the crowd in Charleston. “And I’ll promise you this: I’ll work every day to make Washington, D.C., as inconsequential in your life as I can.”

Democrats challenged Mr. Perry’s efforts to portray his policies as having benefited Texas.

“He’s cutting services in order to maintain really low tax rates, and so many of the jobs he’s created are these minimum-wage jobs, not these living-wage jobs,” said Representative Lloyd Doggett, Democrat of Texas. “I think he has, as they would say here in Texas, plenty of ‘splaining to do about his positions.”

Mr. Perry, a fifth-generation Texan, grew up in a rural community in Paint Creek, on a tenant farm nestled in the West Texas plains, an area known as the Big Empty. Mr. Perry, an Eagle Scout, told Texas Monthly last year, “There were three things to do in Paint Creek: school, church and Boy Scouts.”

His mother, he said, was a good seamstress who still made his underwear when he went off to college at Texas A & M University, from which he graduated in 1972 with a major in animal science.

Mr. Perry, a Methodist who regularly attends an evangelical megachurch near his home and hosted a large “Nation in Crisis” prayer rally this month in Houston, is a natural candidate to appeal to his party’s religious right, as well as to parts of its small-government wing, including elements of the Tea Party movement.

In some ways, Mr. Perry embraced Tea Party ideals before the party itself was popular, winning re-election in 2010 – first by beating Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison in a primary challenge for governor, and then defeating Bill White, the former mayor of Houston – by positioning himself as an outsider, despite his two terms as governor. He pitted Texas against Washington, and prevailed.

Mr. Perry has walked a fine line on immigration, trying to balance his state’s business interests with calls for stricter enforcement and border security, and that may not endear him

with some Republicans, especially those aligned with the Tea Party.

In 2001, he signed his state’s version of the Dream Act, a bill that allowed children of illegal immigrants to attend state universities as long as they were working toward citizenship and had graduated from a Texas high school. Yet a decade later, he led the push for a bill that would have allowed the police to question people they picked up about their immigration status.

Mr. Perry, who greeted the cheering crowd in Charleston with a drawled “Howdy,” is Mr. Bush’s direct successor as governor, and with his Texas twang and swagger, he can seem like a caricature of the former president. Voters trying to figure out what they think of Mr. Perry will invariably wrestle with their feelings about Mr. Bush, which, Republicans say, may become a potential liability if he makes it to the general election.

Though Mr. Perry is a disciplined campaigner, he has been known to get carried away when speaking and sometimes finds

himself trying to rein in his own statements. In 2009, he briefly but publicly raised the issue of secession.

“There really was considerable talk down here about all the talk of secession that bubbled up around his gubernatorial campaign,” Mr. Doggett said. “So that when he started talking about running for president, the question was: of which country?”

Jeff Zeleny contributed reporting from Ames, Iowa, and Matt Flegenheimer from Greenland, N.H.

This article has been revised to reflect the following correction:

**Correction: August 16, 2011**

An article on Sunday about the race for the Republican presidential nomination referred incorrectly to the employment history of Gov. Rick Perry of Texas, who announced his candidacy on Saturday. Mr. Perry served in the United States Air Force and worked in farming before entering politics at age 34. He has not held elective office “his entire adult life.”

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**Rick Perry Makes Big Iowa Media Buy in Effort to Pull Off an Upset**

Yahoo! News

Wednesday, December 7, 2011

By Mark Whittington

According to the National Journal, Texas Gov. Rick Perry, a candidate for president, is making a big push to win or at least do well in the Iowa caucuses with a big media buy to saturate the airways with his message.

**How much air time is Perry buying?**

Perry’s campaign has bought \$1.2 million in television and radio air time. \$653,000 of that will go into Iowa media markets in an effort to boost his poll numbers. Perry is dropping \$176,559 in Des Moines, \$148,477 in Sioux City and \$122,673 in Cedar Rapids. A super-pac supporting Perry is also spending a remarkable amount of money in Iowa media.

**What are some of the ads Perry is running?**

Perry’s ads seem to be aimed toward social conservatives, which Iowa has in great numbers. One ad has Perry touting his religious faith while decrying what he calls Barack Obama’s war on religion. Another ad has Perry touting the virtues of

religious faith and how it creates strength for an individual and a country. The commonality between the ads is that they are eschewing the economic issues that most political pundits believe will drive the 2012 election. They concentrate on the promotion of values politics.

**Does Perry have a chance of pulling out of the polling basement?**

The latest RealClearPolitics poll average does not show much hope for Perry. He is in fifth place, with the other candidate from Texas, Ron Paul, running a strong third or even second. Even without Cain, who is still counted in the earlier polls, Perry still runs fourth.

But Newsmax touts another poll, run by Baseline & Associates, that shows Perry has huge favorability ratings among conservatives and tea party supporters. Perry also has a well-funded ground operation, with people making phone calls to potential caucus voters. Front-runner Newt Gingrich, by contrast, has yet to form a ground operation that would be crucial to pulling out a win or even good showing.

Texas resident Mark Whittington writes about state issues for the Yahoo! Contributor Network.

## REPUBLICAN PARTY

### ROEMER (Declared)

#### Buddy Roemer among those struggling for a slot in GOP presidential race

The Washington Post

By Eli Saslow, Published: December 8

Buddy Roemer had prepared for the presidential debate with the same rigor as other candidates, dressing in a suit, resting his voice and reviewing likely questions with his aides. Ten minutes before the event was scheduled to begin, he stood up from the desk in his small hotel room in downtown Washington and turned on the TV.

“What channel is this thing on again?” he asked. “I don’t want to miss the first question.”

He had not been invited to actually partake in the debate, so Roemer had again come up with an alternative: to pace in front of CNN and shout answers at the screen while two aides sat barefoot on his bed and tweeted his responses. “Can we order some room service?” one of them asked. They turned up the volume as eight other candidates strolled across the stage, each one introduced to a standing ovation. Romney. Bachmann. Gingrich. Cain. Santorum. Perry. Paul. Huntsman.

“This is the best our party has to offer?” Roemer said. “How the heck did we decide that these are our most electable candidates?”

That has become an maddening question for Roemer and more than a dozen other lesser-known presidential hopefuls, who wonder why they are ignored even in this wide-open Republican primary, in which voters express dissatisfaction with their options and shift from one temporary front-runner to the next.

Why not Gary Johnson, the former governor of New Mexico? Why not Thad McCotter, a congressman from Michigan? Why not Fred Karger, a senior political consultant who advised three presidents?

And why not Roemer, 68, a former governor and congressman from Louisiana, a Harvard graduate, a cotton farmer’s son, a Methodist, a thriving businessman?

“What I’m learning is that becoming president is not always about experience and ideas,” Roemer said. “It’s also about money, fame and momentum.”

Like other unknown candidates, Roemer has been stuck in a cycle of anonymity ever since he formed his campaign and moved to New Hampshire in the summer, inviting his senior staff member to sleep on his couch and establishing a temporary headquarters at the coffee shop inside Barnes & Noble. He lacks money to buy advertisements, he said, “so even distant relatives don’t know” that he is running for president. Some pollsters forget to include him as an option in their polls. His low support numbers – usually 1 or 2 percent nationally – disqualify him from participating in debates.

While the top contenders stand straight and attempt to look presidential behind their lecterns in front of 6 million viewers on national television, Roemer fiddles with the buttons on a flat-screen TV in his ninth-floor hotel room, trying to improve the reception.

“The picture keeps going fuzzy,” he said. “This might be a long night.”

“Want me to call the front desk?” his campaign manager asked.

Roemer shook his head and grabbed a Diet Coke. For the next two hours, he listened to the moderator’s questions and shouted back at the TV while his staffers typed into their lap-

tops. He clenched his fist, pounded it against the dresser and loosened his tie. “Bachmann and Newt are clueless on our liberties!” he said. And then: “Expand the drones!” And then: “Get out of Afghanistan. It’s a corrupt country.”

When the debate finally ended two hours later, Roemer took off his glasses, sat back at his hotel desk and wiped his forehead with a hand towel.

“How’d we do?” he asked his staffers.

“Good debate,” one said. “You answered 40 questions and got some new friends on Facebook.”

“It’s the only thing we’ve got, and it ain’t worth a damn,” Roemer said. He reached for the remote and turned off the TV. “I feel like I’m talking to myself.”

“I thought I could win”

At first, he thought an audience would be waiting for him.

He decided to run for president a year ago, hiring some of his former political advisers and seeking advice from his friend John McCain. Roemer thought his best chance at the nomination was to win New Hampshire, so he rented a one-bedroom apartment on the outskirts of Manchester and drove from Louisiana with two bowls, two plates and a trunk full of suits. His wife, a nurse who stayed home in Baton Rouge, took pictures of his best jacket-and-tie combinations to help make sure he would always match.

He rented furniture for \$238 a month, bought a deck of cards so he could play solitaire and hung a map of New Hampshire on the wall in the living room. On Sundays after church, he sometimes drove 20 minutes to the nearest movie theater, where he would kill time before the show eating popcorn by himself in the lobby and chatting with the theater staff.

He had been out of politics for almost 20 years, but he still felt confident that his opinions would resonate. Repeal health-care reform. Raise the eligibility age for Social Security. Seal the border and enforce immigration laws.

It was a divided country, and he had been a Democrat and now a Republican. The economy was in crisis, and he had earned an MBA from Harvard and built a chain of community banks worth nearly \$1 billion without foreclosing on a single customer, he said. The tea party and Occupy Wall Street were protesting greed and corruption, and Roemer had never accepted political donations of more than \$100.

“I got into the race because I thought I was the right person,” he said, “and because I thought I could win.”

He based his campaign strategy on retail politics and hosted town halls across New Hampshire, but sometimes only two or three people showed up. He drove to an event upstate and got lost during a snowstorm in Canada. He phoned 20 New Hampshire voters each day and sometimes had to summon the courage to explain why he was calling. “I was embarrassed to say I was running for president, because nobody had even heard of me,” he said.

A race runs on money

Far more defeating were the external expectations of a modern presidential campaign, by which his always fell short. Most early debates invited only candidates who had at least 2 percent support in five national polls, but sometimes Roemer wasn’t even included in five. Another debate required candidates to have raised \$500,000 in the past 90 days, and he had managed only half of that. The Florida Republican Party picked nine people for its ballot and chose not to include him.

South Carolina charges \$35,000 to be on its ballot, so Roemer decided to run there as a write-in.

One morning last week, he walked into his new campaign office in Manchester, took off his jacket and learned immediately about another expense beyond his means.

“Nevada wants \$10,000 for its caucus,” said Carlos Sierra, his campaign manager. “We have to decide today.”

“Is it ever a decision?” Roemer asked. “I wish we had a choice.”

While Mitt Romney and Rick Perry occasionally raise as much as a few million dollars in a day, mostly from donations of \$1,500 or more, Roemer’s average contribution is about \$60. He raises slightly less than \$30,000 a month and pays more than a quarter of that to an accountant who helps log and disclose his donors with the Federal Election Commission. He can afford three staff members, and Sierra has gone two months without a paycheck. Roemer’s business cards were bought on Vistaprint.com. He stays at the Comfort Inn when he travels to New York. He still covets lawn signs.

For obvious reasons, Roemer has made campaign finance reform his signature issue. He calls Gingrich “the lobbyist,” Romney “the 1 percent,” and blasts Jon Huntsman for benefitting from a million-dollar super-PAC funded by his father.

Meanwhile, Roemer had worked to become a cult favorite on the Internet and in the Occupy Wall Street movement. “I’m hoping their momentum is my momentum,” he said.

On this day, the biggest event on his schedule was an appearance at an Occupy rally in Manchester. The rally was scheduled to start at 6, so Roemer arrived at the park 15 minutes early with two of his aides. The temperature was below freezing, and he flipped up the collar of his overcoat and walked laps around the empty park.

Six o’clock came and went, and no protesters arrived. A car drove by and honked at Roemer and his staff. “They must think we’re the occupiers,” Roemer said.

Finally, at 6:15, Roemer’s director of scheduling looked at his watch and realized his boss’s parking meter was about to run out. Roemer had already received four \$20 tickets in the past month; it was becoming another one of his campaign’s financial problems. Fearful of more tickets, his staff had taken to pausing its work every two hours to refill the meter.

“Governor, we better deal with your car now,” the scheduling director said.

“Okay. Let’s call it a night,” Roemer said. “There’s no audience here anyway.”

## **Buddy Roemer: Will He Be the Third-Party Spoiler?**

The Fiscal Times

By Eric Pianin, The Fiscal Times December 5, 2011

Buddy Roemer, the outspoken former Louisiana governor and House member turned reformer, is trying to break back into politics after a 20-year absence with a long-shot bid for the Republican presidential nomination. The former Baton Rouge banker has been railing against the corruption at the nexus of corporate special interest groups and politics, but few have heard him because he has been shut out of the GOP debates. As a result, Roemer just announced he is considering waging a third-party challenge through Americans Elect, a well-financed organization that expects to gain access to the ballot in all 50 states.

A veteran of Louisiana’s rough-and-tumble political system, Roemer has plenty to say – about the state of national politics, the outrageous conduct of Wall Street and big banks, the nation’s growing income disparity, and the need to strike back hard against China and other trading partners for their highly protectionist policies.

As Roemer sees it:

- Politics has been completely corrupted by “Super PACs” and other special interest money, and the worst offender is former House Speaker Newt Gingrich, who received \$1.8 million from Freddie Mac, the troubled government sponsored mortgage giant, for providing dubious strategic advice. “I want as president a woman or a man who is clean, who has the power to lead and who tells the truth,” Roemer says. “Newt does not fit those characteristics.”
- China’s protectionist trade practices and human rights violations are an abomination, and as president he would retaliate so fast it would make Chinese heads spin while potentially igniting a global trade war. Roemer’s “fair trade” policies would be very specific: tit for tat retaliation for unfair trade practices. “If your goods come into this country, and they’re made by children or by prisoners, they will not be allowed in.”

- The Dodd-Frank financial reform law is “a disgrace” because it formalizes the concept that mega banks like Citigroup and Goldman Sachs are “too big to fail,” regardless of whether they pursue reckless or unscrupulous practices. “The taxpayers will not support any more bailouts,” he says. “That’s [the view of] Occupy Wall Street. That’s the Tea Party. That’s Buddy Roemer. It’s America, and if the bank is too big to fail, then the bank ought to be disbanded.”

- While he’s counting on the Occupy Movement to boost his nearly invisible campaign, he disagrees with many of the activists that bigger government is the solution to most problems. “They don’t know how to get things done sometimes, but they always know when something is in trouble,” he says. “I think their solutions are in the wrong direction. They think government needs to be bigger. I think government needs to be better.”

Except for occasional appearances on MSNBC news shows, the 68-year-old has been forced to launch his salvos largely from the sidelines, because he can’t crack the lineup of GOP presidential candidates permitted to take part in the nationally televised debates. Roemer says he’s caught in a “Catch 22” in which he is precluded by sponsors from taking part in the debates because he can’t raise at least a half million dollars in campaign funds and garners no more than two percent in the polls. Yet he can’t raise the money he needs and move his needle in the polls without the exposure afforded by the debates – exactly what former New Mexico governor Gary Johnson has said of his own candidacy.

“Here I am, running for president, and I’m different,” said Roemer in a wide-ranging interview with The Fiscal Times late Thursday. “No big checks, no PAC money. That’s my issue. I’m successful at what I do, a successful businessman, the only congressman and governor running who had both experiences, and I can’t qualify [for the debates] because I can’t get a poll number, and I can’t get a poll number because I can’t get on the debates. How about that for shutting a man down?”

**‘Romney’s Better [than Gingrich] – But He’s Bought.’**

The one-time Democrat first won election to the House in 1980, the year Ronald Reagan was elected president. Roemer frequently supported Reagan’s initiatives and fought with the Democratic leadership. Riding a populist, anti-incumbent tidal wave in 1987, Roemer toppled the colorful but highly corrupt governor Edwin Edwards in a crowded Democratic primary field. As governor he pushed through reforms, eliminated a huge deficit and passed some environmental measures. But he frequently quarreled with the state legislature, made a lot of enemies, and lost a bid for a second term.

Today, the Harvard-educated Roemer seems most comfortable casting himself as a victim of a political system beholden to special interests and major corporations that has so far succeeded in keeping him off the GOP debate stage. That system, he insists, has co-opted much bigger name candidates, including Gingrich, former Massachusetts governor Mitt Romney and Texas Gov. Rick Perry.

“Romney’s better [than Gingrich], but he’s bought,” Roemer said. “I saw Mitt Romney when he was running for the United States Senate ... He talked about PACs, about special interest money, and about how he was different from Ted Kennedy. Bullshit. With three [presidential] Super PACs, he already has received four \$1-million checks.”

“These [Republicans] are decent people,” he hastened to add. “They can play a role in turning America around. I would ask them to lead. I would ask them to stand up. Stop what they’re doing –. Tell their party, my party: Let’s stop being the party of big checks.”

Roemer recently said he’ll be a candidate in the New Hampshire Republican primary early next year. “I’m not going to quit,” he says. “I’m going to stay a Republican, but by god the Republicans are going to have to answer this issue, as are the Democrats. Having been in both parties I find them united on one issue: They want the big check. It’s about the money.”

Roemer is running on a platform of political and campaign reform, tough “fair trade” policies, a progressive flat tax to replace the current federal income tax code, and banking reform including revival of the Glass-Steagall Act that barred commercial banks from engaging in investment bank practices. “This system is in trouble,” he says. “This country is headed in the wrong direction.”

**Roemer’s Wit and Wisdom****Why He’s Running**

“I love America. I think it’s heading in the wrong direction. I would begin with the overpowering presence of corrup-

tive money. I watched it in Louisiana, and I ran against it and stopped it. We can do the same thing in Washington, D.C.”

**On the Occupy Movement’s Political Potential**

“Occupy will become more political, but I’m very optimistic. I went down to the street and listened for a day. They booed and pushed on me as a Republican, but then we began to talk, and at the end of it we were together. They realized you shouldn’t judge a person by his color or his party or where he’s from. I have the same concerns they do. I smelled it in Louisiana. It’s corrupt. And I define institutional corruption as when the big check takes the place of a good idea. That’s corruption.”

**On Political Corruption**

“Any line that forms in Washington for relief or for change or debate always has a person with a big check first in line. That’s not what America should be. That’s not what it used to be. And I think we can go back to a fair place again. Here’s what you do: You start by saying no to the oil money, the chemical money, the special interest money. You set a limit on what you will take.”

**On Newt Gingrich**

“Newt is the worst. He is the furthest candidate from me. He says one thing and does another. He is in up to his armpits in government and the corruption of same. I listened to him in Iowa defend the ethanol [subsidy], not realizing that that’s where he got his money from. I mean, this guy is on every scam in the world. He ought to clean up his own act because he has plenty of ability. Sharp as a razor. But you can’t have it both ways. You can’t represent little people and be in bed with the big ones.”

**On the GOP Race**

“This race is wide open ... I don’t think there’s a president among them. They all have a Super Pac. I think Obama has three. Mitt Romney has two or four. Rick Perry has seven. Jon Huntsman has one, funded by his father.”

**On the Economy**

“When I was governor of Louisiana we took unemployment from 12 percent [down to] 5.6 percent, and we did it with a plan. We did it with balancing the budget. What I would do if I got the office: [I’d] begin with campaign reform. My second bill, HR 2, would be fair trade with China. Very specific. If your goods come into this country, and they’re made by children or by prisoners, they will not be allowed in. No, I don’t want a trade war, but I’m telling you right now, we’ve surrendered. There won’t be a war. There will be a resolution, and we’ll put people back to work again.”

## REPUBLICAN PARTY ROMNEY (Declared)

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April 11, 2011, 4:15 pm

### Romney Makes It Official, Quietly

By Michael D. Shear

Mitt Romney, the former governor of Massachusetts, quietly made his presidential ambitions official Monday by forming an exploratory committee to run for president in 2012 and declaring in a video that “it is time that we put America back on a course of greatness.”

Mitt Romney spoke in Las Vegas in early April.

Mr. Romney, a top contender in the 2008 presidential campaign, has so far been content to remain largely quiet while other Republicans seek the media spotlight. At this stage, Mr. Romney tops most polls as the Republican front-runner and his advisers saw little need to compete for the boost in name recognition that comes with an early declaration.

But the pressures of fund-raising are likely to be even greater this time around, with President Obama expected to raise as much as \$1 billion for his reelection campaign. Every day that Mr. Romney waited to declare his intentions was a day that he could not raise any money for his bid.

That ends now. With a new Web site – [www.mittromney.com](http://www.mittromney.com) – and an official registration with the Federal Election Commission, Mr. Romney will now be able to tap his donors for money that he can use to once again seek the Republican nomination.

“From my vantage point in business and in government, I have become convinced that America has been put on a dangerous course by Washington politicians, and it has become even worse during the last two years,” Mr. Romney said in the video. “But I am also convinced that with able leadership, America’s best days are still ahead.”

With his official entry into the race, Mr. Romney is hoping to do in the 2012 race what he was unable to do in 2008. And he appears to be embarking on a very different strategy.

In 2007, Mr. Romney used his own personal wealth and millions from his donors to blanket Iowa and New Hampshire with television ads in the hopes of establishing himself in both of the states with early presidential contest. In the end, he won neither state and watched as Senator John McCain of Arizona recovered from early stumbles to capture the nomination.

This time, Mr. Romney has barely been visible. He has not run any television commercials in the early states. And his entry into the race was done with almost no fanfare – an e-mail message to supporters in the early afternoon.

In the video, Mr. Romney uses a baseball diamond as the backdrop after meeting with students at the University of New Hampshire. The video stands in sharp contrast to Tim Pawlenty, the former governor of Minnesota, who launched his bid with a snazzy, fast-paced video with thunderous music and plenty of American flags.

Mr. Romney, by contrast, speaks directly to the camera, spending most of his time focused on the economic challenges the country faces.

“How has this happened in the nation that leads the world in innovation and productivity?” Mr. Romney asks. “The answer is that President Obama’s policies have failed. He and virtually all the people around him have never worked in the real economy. They just don’t know how jobs are created in the private sector.”

The former Massachusetts governor does not mention health care – perhaps his biggest political vulnerability as a Republican candidate – in the video, which appears a day before the fifth anniversary of Mr. Romney signed into law a health care overhaul in his state that many view as the precursor to Mr. Obama’s own controversial legislation.

Mr. Romney’s Republican rivals have criticized his health care legislation and Democrats have pounced, too, heaping praise on the Romney legislation because they know it won’t help him in the Republican primary.

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Boston Herald

### Republicans Shrug at Romney’s Biz Past

Wednesday, Dec. 14, 2011

By AP / Charles Babington and Nancy Benac

(WASHINGTON) – Mitt Romney says his business background makes him a better presidential candidate than Newt Gingrich, who has spent decades in Washington. But the argument is not moving Republicans his way, underscoring Romney’s challenge in finding a way to stem Gingrich’s rise three weeks before the Iowa caucus, a new Associated Press–GfK poll finds.

Republicans are evenly divided on whether a Washington insider or outsider is best-suited to be president. That’s a problem for Romney, who cites his private-sector experience as the biggest difference between the two front-runners for the GOP nomination. (See a recent TIME cover on Romney.)

The poll also found a significant drop in satisfaction with the overall field of Republicans vying to challenge President Barack Obama next year. In October, 66 percent of Republican adults were satisfied with the field, and 29 percent unsatisfied. Now, 56 percent are satisfied and 40 percent unsatisfied.

Except for four years as Massachusetts governor, Romney, 64, has spent his career in business and management. He ran

unsuccessfully for the Senate in 1994 and for president in 2008.

Gingrich, 68, spent 20 years in the U.S. House, including four as speaker. Since 1998, he has had a lucrative, Washington-based career as a consultant, speaker and author.

Both men have earned millions of dollars over the years.

The AP–GfK nationwide poll of Republicans found Gingrich with an edge over Romney as the candidate they’d like to see win the nomination. However, it falls just within the poll’s margin of error of plus or minus 6 percentage points.

Voter preferences in early voting states such as Iowa, New Hampshire and South Carolina do not necessarily match those in national polls. The Iowa caucus is Jan. 3. The New Hampshire primary is one week later.

For months, Romney has hovered at or near the top of Republican polls, while various rivals have risen and fallen. Gingrich’s rise is at least as dramatic as the recent plummets of businessman Herman Cain and Texas Gov. Rick Perry.

An October AP–GfK poll of Republicans found Gingrich well behind the leading candidates, with 7 percent. Romney had 30 percent. The new poll finds Gingrich preferred by 33 percent of Republicans and Romney by 27 percent. All other candidates are in single digits.

Jonathan Luers, a software engineer from Chicago, is among those Republicans less than thrilled about the field.

"I guess I'm a little disappointed that it's been so fluid," said Luers, 52. "I was kind of hoping there would've been a more clear choice, without the quick knockdowns and everything." He said he's leaning toward Gingrich.

Romney has built his campaign largely on the argument that his business background makes him better suited for the presidency than anyone else, especially in terms of creating jobs. In a debate Saturday in Iowa, Romney struggled at first to name areas in which he and Gingrich disagree.

After citing Gingrich's support for a mining colony on the moon and changes to child labor laws, Romney said: "The real difference, I believe, is our backgrounds. I spent my life in the private sector. I understand how the economy works."

Among Republicans who say they prefer a non-Washington candidate, Romney has a modest edge over Gingrich. Gingrich has a larger advantage among those who say they prefer Washington experience in a nominee.

Among all people surveyed in the AP-GfK poll, including Democrats and independents, Romney fares better than Gingrich in head-to-head matchups with Obama. Obama and Romney are statistically even. But Obama leads Gingrich 51 percent to 42 percent.

That may give Romney some ammunition with Republicans whose top priority is ousting Obama. Otherwise, Republicans appear to see Romney and Gingrich as similar in many important ways. The two men polled about evenly on the questions of who would be a strong leader, has the right experience, understands ordinary people's problems and can bring needed change.

Romney holds a clear edge on who is most likable. Gingrich leads on the question of who "has firm policy positions." Romney is often asked about his changed positions on abortion, gay rights, gun control and immigration. Gingrich, however, also has shifted views on some key issues over the years.

The poll found sharp drops in popularity for Perry and Cain over the past two months. Cain has suspended his campaign.

Dmitry Kan, a Republican who owns an advertising firm in Acton, Mass., is not enthusiastic about the field.

"There is not much choice," he said. "It looks like it's going to be either Romney or Gingrich."

Kan, who is 24 and emigrated from the former Soviet Union in 1992, said he is leaning toward Gingrich but might change his mind. He said he respects Romney's business background, but "seeing how it works these days, I think Gingrich's ability of political prowess might work better."

Kan said Gingrich "did some difficult stuff back in the 1990s, back in the Clinton administration. Hopefully he will be able to somehow break through the gridlock."

Catherine Sebree, 41, a homemaker from The Woodlands, Texas, likes Romney.

"I appreciate the values that he stands for," she said. "I believe that he is the person that will put family first and will help to strengthen our nation and hopefully help out with the budget deficit."

Sebree embraces Romney's non-Washington background. "I think that the people that are experienced in Washington have screwed up enough that it's time to try some different methods," she said.

The Associated Press-GfK Poll was conducted Dec. 8-12 by GfK Roper Public Affairs and Corporate Communications. It involved landline and cellphone interviews with 1,000 adults nationwide and has a margin of sampling error of plus or minus 4 percentage points.

The poll included interviews with 460 Republicans and Republican-leaning independents. The margin of error for these results is plus or minus 6 percentage points.

AP Deputy Polling Director Jennifer Agiesta and News Survey Specialist Dennis Junius contributed to this report.

## REPUBLICAN PARTY SANTORUM (Declared)

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

### Santorum makes his stand in Iowa, battling low polling numbers

Wednesday, December 14, 2011

By James O'Toole, Chris Carlson/Associated Press

Former Pennsylvania Sen. Rick Santorum speaks Tuesday at a town hall meeting for Republican presidential candidates at the Lincoln Cafe in Belle Plaine, Iowa.

JOHNSTON, Iowa — The smallest county in Iowa?

Adams.

What's its county seat?

Cornell.

Who was born in Cornell?

Johnny Carson.

"I'll do Iowa trivia with you all day," Rick Santorum tells a roomful of insurance executives.

They're Iowa residents, but it's likely none of them have been to as many Hawkeye State counties as the former Pennsylvania senator. That would be 99 — as in all of them.

While his news releases are still datelined "Verona, Pa.," Mr. Santorum lives in Virginia these days, with the wife and seven children depicted on the poster behind him with the logo "Faith Family and Freedom Tour."

He hasn't spent too much time back there with them recently, however, concentrating, in a presidential campaign cycle increasingly dominated by cable news and social media, on a traditional boots-on-the-ground approach to retail politicking.

"He's doing it the old-fashioned way," Iowa Gov. Terry Branstad said in an interview this week. "He's gone to every county, built a statewide organization. He doesn't have the funding and hasn't spent the money on advertising that some of the others have, but I think a lot of people think he'll do better than the polls would indicate just because of personal contacts and the positive impression he's made."

Mr. Santorum would have to do considerably better than current polling suggests to ignite the fundraising that he would need to sustain his campaign beyond the first weeks of the Republican primary competition.

The latest in an unceasing tide of polling in the state, a Public Policy Polling survey released Tuesday, showed him in sixth place.

Former House Speaker Newt Gingrich was in first with 22 percent, followed closely by Rep. Ron Paul of Texas and former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney. Just above Mr. Santorum were Texas Gov. Rick Perry and Rep. Michele Bachmann of Minnesota.

"That's a statistical tie with Bachmann and Perry," Santorum political adviser J. Hogan Gidley observed hopefully as Mike Biundo, the campaign's national political director, relayed the latest numbers from his smartphone.

"I still think Iowa cannot be bought," said Mr. Biundo, who started out at the head of the Santorum New Hampshire operation and ascended to the national post. "It's still a ground game ... we have 467 caucus captains as of last night."

Mr. Gidley is a former executive director of the South Carolina Republican Party.

In Iowa, Mr. Santorum has received a number of endorsements. In the last week, he has announced the support of Secretary of State Maggie Schultz and the Rev. Terry Amann, an

evangelical pastor. But his lagging poll numbers have consigned Mr. Santorum to the far sides of the stages of campaign-shaping debates and often left him with less air time than the front-runners he's struggling to overtake.

"They say that candidates talk in four-second sound bites; I talk in four-minute sound bites," he said in an appearance earlier this week. "That why I don't do quite as well in those debates, I guess."

After Saturday's forum at Drake University, however, he professed to have been pleased with his performance, one that he said had been improved by following the advice of his wife and daughter to "chill ... chill out."

But "chilling" does not come naturally to a high-energy personality comfortable with confrontation. Pursuing a political resurrection after the 16-point loss to Bob Casey that ended his Senate career in 2006, Mr. Santorum offers a stump speech with apocalyptic visions of the threats to the United States from without and within. His foreign policy warnings are a familiar extension of the "gathering storm" rhetoric that was at the center of his 2006 Senate campaign, warnings that the nation has failed to appreciate and respond to threats from "radical Islam" in general and Iran in particular.

"I've been someone who's been out there for 10 years talking about the threat [of Iran]," he told the lunchtime gathering of insurance workers, adding that the companion threat of radical Islam had metastasized to the point that there are "active training camps of jihadists in Central America today."

Turning to the home front, he said, "This is the most important election of your lifetime. This is an election in which the foundational principles [of the nation] ... are going to be tested."

"The ultimate issue is Obamacare. If we do not repeal it, we will go the way of every other socialist European country," he says, arguing that if allowed to be fully implemented, the health care law will create a culture of dependence on the federal government that he sees as antithetical to freedom.

Pointing to the family portrait behind him, he notes that "it's killing me" to be spending so much time away from his children. But he maintains that it's worth it because "our country is in jeopardy ... is teetering on the brink."

He is increasingly aggressive in his criticisms of his front-running rivals. This week, he assailed Mr. Romney's record as governor and joined the chorus of critics of Mr. Gingrich's former consulting relationship with Freddie Mac.

In an election in which every poll shows jobs and the economy as the overwhelming issues, however, Mr. Santorum's economic message is less distinctive. He has proposed a fiscal plan that would simplify the income tax with rates of 10 percent and 28 percent while cutting the corporate tax rate to 17.5 percent, with a special tax treatment for manufacturing, arguing that the preservation of that declining area is a national security as well as an economic issue.

Mr. Santorum and the other GOP hopefuls will get another chance Thursday to make their case to Iowans in what now looms as the last debate before the Jan. 3 caucuses. He had hoped to share a prominent pre-caucus stage with Mr. Gingrich on Dec. 27, as they were the only candidates who had agreed to a debate hosted by Donald Trump. But that spotlight eluded him as the Donald announced that, due to the other no-shows, he would not be questioning the Rick and the Newt. Mr. Trump

also said he reserved his right to mount an independent presidential campaign.

Politics editor James O'Toole: jotoole@post-gazette.com or 412-263-1562.

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Read more: <http://www.post-gazette.com/pg/11348/1196702-84-0.stm?cmpid=election-s.xml#ixzz1gdhvE0zu>

Des Moines Register

### **Santorum in Iowa: "I am the best option" to win key swing-states against Obama**

William Petroski, 10:27 AM, Dec 14, 2011

Categories: Caucus Insider Covering Rick Santorum

Former U.S. Sen. Rick Santorum, whose campaign has struggled in single digits in the polls, said today he is the best option for Republicans to oppose President Barack Obama in the 2012 election because he can win key swing states like Iowa, Pennsylvania, Ohio and Florida.

He said that in analyzing the Republican field, he has a better record of winning past races in predominantly Democratic areas than Mitt Romney, Newt Gingrich and other GOP presidential candidates.

This included defeating Democrats four times in Pennsylvania to win House and Senate contests before he lost in a 2006 election year in which Republicans fared poorly nationwide, Santorum said.

"Looking at how someone did is a pretty good indication of someone who can win tough elections," Santorum said in remarks to about 150 employees of Nationwide Mutual Insurance Co. in downtown Des Moines.

"I was an across-the-board conservative in a state that doesn't elect conservatives. If you look at the track record, it is solid. We have been able to win in a tough state," he added. While he lost in 2006, he said he never surrendered his principles, fighting for welfare reform, national defense, revisions in Social Security and other conservative policy changes.

In taking questions, Santorum defended his past remarks in support of profiling people as potential terrorists at airports, saying "Of course not" when asked by a woman whether everyone who looks different from him should be profiled.

"This is common sense. You have to look at what the profile is," Santorum said, suggesting that if a certain group of

people were blowing up buildings they should be subject to profiling.

"I don't want to be called a xenophobe. I want to be called intelligent," he added, explaining he wants to protect the United States of America.

As president, Santorum said he would repeal "Obama-care," the president's health care plan approved by Congress by gutting the legislation through a congressional process called reconciliation.

He also would put forth a tax reform plan to get the economy going. It would have two tax rates and allow five deductions, and would eliminate the Internal Revenue Code. Children, charity, pension, health care and housing would be covered by deductions.

Santorum would also revise corporate taxes, including the elimination of corporate taxes for manufacturing in an effort to increase factory jobs. "Non-college educated America is really struggling," he said, adding his proposal would help revive rural Iowa towns that have suffered large population losses.

"I think that this election is fundamentally about who we are in America," Santorum added. He said this is a critical election in American history and he believes Obama's view of America is that this is a "fundamentally flawed country."

Obama believes that America is great because of government-entitlement programs that only make the U.S. similar to France, Russia and other countries, he said. But he believes America is a great country because it was founded with concepts of limited government, free people and rights endowed by the creator, he said.

"We believe in bottom up, free people, free markets, and people rising without being vilified for doing so... We have a president who doesn't believe that any more," Santorum said.

## REPUBLICAN PARTY CAIN (Suspended)

The New York Times

### A Defiant Herman Cain Suspends His Bid for Presidency

December 3, 2011

By Susan Saulny

An unapologetic and defiant Herman Cain suspended his presidential campaign on Saturday, pledging that he “would not go away” even as he abandoned the Republican presidential race in the face of escalating accusations of sexual misconduct.

“As of today, with a lot of prayer and soul-searching, I am suspending my presidential campaign,” Mr. Cain said at a rally in Atlanta, surrounded by supporters chanting his name. “Because of the continued distractions, the continued hurt caused on me and my family, not because we are not fighters. Not because I’m not a fighter.”

In suspending his candidacy, as opposed to saying that he was ending his bid, Mr. Cain, according to campaign finance lawyers, maintains an ability to accept money to pay for his campaign so far and potentially to finance the new venture that he called his Plan B: to travel the country promoting his tax and foreign policy plans.

The collapse of Mr. Cain’s campaign came as a new Des Moines Register poll showed that his supporters appeared to be gravitating toward Newt Gingrich, the former House speaker. According to the poll, Mr. Gingrich is backed by 25 percent of likely Republican caucusgoers, followed by Representative Ron Paul of Texas with 18 percent and Mitt Romney with 16 percent. The poll was conducted before Mr. Cain suspended his campaign, and it showed him with the support of just 8 percent of respondents, a sharp drop from previous polls.

The other Republican candidates are also in single digits. In the previous Iowa poll, conducted in late October, 7 percent supported Mr. Gingrich, while Mr. Cain was the choice of 23 percent.

Mr. Romney said on Saturday that the race remained wide open. “I don’t think people have really settled down in a final way to decide who they’re going to support in the nomination process,” he said, adding, “I hope they give us a good careful look.”

Mr. Cain said he would issue an endorsement soon. With his wife, Gloria, at his side at the Atlanta rally, Mr. Cain said the accusations of sexual harassment and of a 13-year affair were untrue. “I’m at peace with my God,” he said. “I’m at peace with my wife, and she is at peace with me.”

Mr. Cain exited much the way he entered. The circuslike atmosphere – complete with numerous delays, barbecue, a blues band and supporters in colonial-era dress – was in keeping with the campaign’s irreverence and disarray since its inception.

For days now, the campaign had fueled a “will he or won’t he?” storm of speculation, at once thriving on the news media’s attention while denouncing it as the cause of Mr. Cain’s plummeting popularity. Mr. Cain’s critics have long posited that he has been more interested in creating celebrity for himself – as a means to sell books and increase speaking fees – than in making a serious bid for the presidency.

Indeed, in his remarks on Saturday, Mr. Cain boasted about rising from near obscurity, saying, “Right now, my name ID is probably 99.9,” a reference to his “9–9–9” plan, which mixes a flat tax with a national sales tax.

Still, Mr. Cain took what may be his last moment in the national spotlight to denounce the political culture in Washington, calling politics “a dirty game.”

Mr. Cain’s admirers in Atlanta were surprised and disappointed. They blamed the news media, some screaming insults at the press corps.

Lisa Chambers, 48, a volunteer from Snellville, Ga., said: “This is not what I wanted. Not at all. I’m not sure what to do now. I’m so disappointed.”

But other supporters were more pragmatic. Dean Kleckner, a former president of the Iowa Farm Bureau who gave Mr. Cain an early endorsement, said: “I hate to say this, because he was a remarkable man in many ways, but I honestly think he did the right thing. I’m disappointed in a way, relieved in a way.”

The other Republican candidates quickly praised Mr. Cain and his agenda, in an effort to attract his supporters.

“It’s very import to remember,” Mr. Gingrich said on Saturday at a campaign event, “he was the person who had the courage to launch the 9–9–9 plan. Whether you liked it or disliked it, it raised the general level of discussion.”

Mr. Cain’s political downfall was as swift as his ascent. It began just one month after an unlikely surge in the polls, fueled by the strength of his debate performances, the novelty of his tax plan and his surprise victory in the Florida straw poll in September.

With his golden voice and folksy manner, Mr. Cain appealed to voters who sought an anti-establishment candidate. Mr. Cain, 65, grew up in poverty in the segregated South, the son of a janitor and a maid. But beyond his personal charm and rags-to-riches biography, he had an eclectic résumé: chief executive of Godfather’s Pizza, conservative radio host and chairman of the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City in Missouri.

Toward the end of October, more than one survey found Mr. Cain, who has never held elected office, essentially tied with Mr. Romney, the former Massachusetts governor who has consistently been near the top in most polls.

But accusations of sexual misconduct rocked the campaign of a candidate who professed to be a devout Christian and family man. And some of the details were graphic.

A Chicago woman, Sharon Bialek, was the first to come forward publicly. Ms. Bialek said that Mr. Cain made an unwanted and rough physical advance on her 14 years ago when he was the chief of the National Restaurant Association, a lobbying group. After taking her out for a night on the town in Washington, she said, he suggested she engage with him sexually in return for his assistance in finding a job.

Within days, a second woman came forward. That woman, Karen Kraushaar, 55, worked in the government affairs office of the restaurant association for a relatively short time from 1998 to 1999, her tenure being cut short, she said, by her run-ins with Mr. Cain and the discomfort it created for her.

Two other women who complained of harassment by Mr. Cain remained anonymous. But one of those women and Ms. Kraushaar both received the equivalent of a year’s salary in settlements from the restaurant group.

From the moment the harassment accusations were revealed, Mr. Cain proclaimed his innocence and sought to cast blame for what he called a smear campaign in a number of

different directions. He first accused the news media, then the rival campaign of Gov. Rick Perry of Texas. Ultimately, the Cain campaign acknowledged that it had no evidence of a conspiracy. But still, Mr. Cain, inexperienced on the national stage, issued an avalanche of confusing and often contradictory statements.

Polls conducted at the time, however, suggested that the crisis was not eroding Mr. Cain's standing as a top-tier candidate. He continued to campaign as if he was not at the center of a swirling controversy, ignoring the accusations in speeches and not taking questions on the subject from reporters.

"We're getting back on message, end of story," Mr. Cain said after a debate in early November.

The accusations of sexual misconduct were not Mr. Cain's only stumbling block. The very qualities that endeared Mr. Cain to so many conservatives appeared to undercut his chances, as questions were raised about his management style and foreign policy expertise.

In a videotaped interview with the editorial board of The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel that went viral on the Web, Mr. Cain became flustered when asked to assess President Obama's policy toward Libya, lurching over five minutes from awkward pauses to halting efforts to answer.

Compared with his rivals, Mr. Cain hardly campaigned in New Hampshire and Iowa.

Former staff members complained that he spent the bulk of his time on a book tour through the South when he should have been organizing a grass-roots operation. He occasionally mishandled potential big donors or ignored real voters, said former staff members and supporters.

On the Monday after Thanksgiving, a fifth woman, Ginger White, came forward, telling a local television reporter in Atlanta that she and Mr. Cain had only recently ended a 13-year extramarital affair.

Ms. White produced phone records to prove that they had called or texted each other frequently, and Mr. Cain acknowledged giving her financial support – and also that his wife of 43 years had been unaware of what he insisted was only a friendship.

The day after Ms. White's revelation, Mr. Cain said he was considering dropping his bid as some of his supporters and defenders began backing away.

On Friday night, Mr. Cain returned home to suburban Atlanta to meet and consult with his wife for the first time since Ms. White came forward with her claim. Mr. Cain said the ultimate decision would rest with his wife.

On Saturday, Mr. Cain directed supporters to a Web site, TheCainSolutions.com.

The site was registered on Friday by Bell Research Companies of Tifton, Ga., which manufactures low-fat powdered peanut butter and alternative fuels. The company also owns the group Americans for Jobs and Energy Security, which promotes natural gas. In documents filed last year with the Securities and Exchange Commission, Mr. Cain is listed on Bell's board of directors.

Reporting was contributed by Robbie Brown from Atlanta; Ashley Parker from Manchester, N.H.; Jeff Zeleny from Washington; and Nicholas Confessore and Trip Gabriel from New York.

## REPUBLICAN PARTY JOHNSON (Withdrawn)

The Note

### Gary Johnson Dials Back in N.H., Considers Run as Third Party Candidate

Nov 29, 2011 5:07pm

By Sarah Parnass

Former New Mexico Gov. Gary Johnson told ABC News that he has given up on his one-by-one vote-winning strategy in New Hampshire, essentially restructuring his entire run for the Republican presidential nomination.

Calling from New Mexico, Johnson said he would focus on national strategies like television and satellite radio appearances going forward.

Last month Johnson told ABC News' Top Line, "I'm putting my chips on the table in New Hampshire. That's my strategy, given my limited resources. And hey, I either get my pink slip coming out of New Hampshire, or I get an advance to go."

In September, The Concord Monitor reported that most New Hampshire voters had never heard of Johnson, despite numerous campaign stops in the state.

Johnson said he visited the state 19 times, spending about 95 days campaigning there, a strategy that he called The New Hampshire Path. In a letter to Johnson supporters posted on the campaign's website earlier this fall, senior adviser Ron Nielson acknowledged his candidate's lack of recognition and finances. He wrote that New Hampshire gave Johnson the opportunity to "create momentum."

"Being the site of the first primary of 2012, New Hampshire is the center of attention for much of the nation's media coverage of the campaign, and as Gary gains measurable support there, it will translate into broader support throughout the country."

The link to the New Hampshire Path letter now leads to a message reading, "page not found" over a headless photo of Johnson gripping a bicycle tire.

Today Johnson said he was frustrated and disappointed with the election process, blaming exclusion from national debates for his lack of success in the Granite State.

"When you get outfundraised by 140 to one, that's a tough one," Johnson said. "And that's where we're at. Trying to make the most out of that."

Despite his dedication to the state, Johnson almost missed the filing deadline to appear on the ballot in New Hampshire's Republican primary. Concord Patch reported that Johnson had to hop on a red-eye flight on Oct. 28 after he realized the date to file by proxy had passed.

Johnson said that instead of pursuing the Republican primary, he would consider running as a Libertarian candidate. He first spoke of this possibility to the Santa Fe New Mexican last week. Few in the media actually picked up on this big moment in the Johnson campaign. In their defense, it was on Thanksgiving day.

## REPUBLICAN PARTY

### McCOTTER (Withdrawn)

The Christian Science Monitor – CSMonitor.com

#### Thaddeus McCotter jumps into presidential race.

##### Thaddeus who?

posted July 2, 2011 at 1:23 pm EDT

By Mark Guarino, Staff writer

Chicago

US Rep. Thaddeus McCotter of Michigan says he's running for the 2012 Republican presidential nomination. His biggest challenge is name recognition.

Thaddeus McCotter, a US Representative from Michigan whose agenda appeals to tea party activists, announced his bid Saturday to win the Republican presidential nomination.

Rep. McCotter champions lower federal taxes, energy independence from foreign sources of oil, he is against illegal immigrants receiving government benefits and he endorses the concept of American "exceptionalism" regarding foreign policy.

His candidacy promises to be unorthodox compared to the growing field of competitors in his party.

McCotter launched his campaign at a rock festival in Whitmore Lake, Mich. and later demonstrated his lead guitar skills onstage. His musicianship is key to helping generate attention: He is often pictured with his guitar in hand and has performed at appearances, such as Mike Huckabee's Fox News television show, where policy discussion and fret shredding are inseparable.

Musical pedigree aside, McCotter's connection to the automotive industry is likely to give his economic agenda merit.

He lives in Livonia, Mich., and he represents a suburban district outside Detroit. His seat on the House Financial Services Committee is credited for helping restructure General Motors Co. and Chrysler Group, rescuing both companies from bankruptcy through government loans.

"If you believe American needs manufacturing and farming, that is going to be a message you will hear," he told the Detroit News Friday.

McCotter says he supported the federal government's hand in helping both companies recover and adds that their restructuring can be used as an example of what can be done to Social Security and the banking system.

"If you continue to raise taxes, if you continue to massively increase government, you are crushing the chances of a recovery.... The White House should finally get the message that we are not going to make this recession worse, we're not going to make it harder for people to recover, we want to fix and restructure government starting with the debt ceiling," he told Huckabee on his show last weekend.

McCotter has been critical of the federal bank bailout, saying that it didn't result in stimulating the economy unlike the automotive industry recovery, in which domestic automakers added jobs and jump-started profits.

"Here we were giving \$300 billion to the people who caused the problem.... There's something inequitable about that, and something needs to be done about it now," he told the Livonia Observer Friday.

McCotter is the third House Republican running for president, joining US Reps. Michele Bachmann of Minnesota and Ron Paul of Texas. Other candidates for the Republican nomination are former Massachusetts Governor Mitt Romney, former Utah Governor Jon Huntsman, former House Speaker Newt Gingrich, former US senator Rick Santorum, and businessman Herman Cain.

Name recognition remains McCotter's first obstacle.

He is organizing in Iowa, which holds its caucuses Feb. 6, as well as New Hampshire, which holds the first primary Feb. 14.

While rank and file Republicans traditionally vote in the New Hampshire primary, Iowa tends to attract caucus goers more open to candidates not necessarily from the mainstream.

According to a recent poll conducted by the Des Moines Register, 69 percent of Republican voters in Iowa say they are open to voting for a candidate who is not their current first choice.

The New York Times

#### McCotter Ends Long-Shot Presidential Bid

September 22, 2011, 4:46 pm

By Sarah Wheaton, 6:10 p.m. | Updated

Representative Thaddeus McCotter is ending his campaign for the Republican presidential nomination after three months in the race, according to his Congressional office.

During his brief run, Mr. McCotter, of Michigan, had to suffer multiple indignities. Despite paying more than all but one candidate for tent space at the Iowa straw poll, he came in dead last. He has been excluded from every debate, including Thursday night's – a rejection made all the more stinging by the fact that Gary E. Johnson, the former governor of New Mexico and his fellow long shot, managed to meet Fox News Channel's standards for inclusion in Thursday night's debate.

And, then there was the slog, as he told ABC New's Michael Falcone: "We were traveling below coach."

But the possibility of losing his House seat seems to have taken the romance out of his quixotic bid. State Senator Mike Kowall, also a Republican, plans to announce his candidacy for Mr. McCotter's 11th Congressional District seat at a gathering of Michigan Republicans on Saturday, according to his Facebook page.

"I have decided to seek re-election to continue to serve as your United States Representative for Michigan's new 11th Congressional District," Mr. McCotter said in a statement, "and I am committed to promoting and implementing a platform of principled conservatism."

Mr. McCotter also told The Detroit News, which first reported his decision, that he intended to endorse Mitt Romney, citing electability.

## REPUBLICAN PARTY PAWLENTY (Withdrawn)

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### Pawlenty Drops Out of Republican Race

August 14, 2011, 9:01 am

By Michael D. Shear and Jeff Zeleny

Chip Somodevilla/Getty Images Former Gov. Tim Pawlenty of Minnesota, left, at Thursday's debate in Ames, Iowa, with Jon M. Huntsman Jr. and Newt Gingrich.

DES MOINES – Tim Pawlenty, the former governor of Minnesota, dropped his bid for the Republican nomination for president on Sunday morning, saying his disappointing performance in Iowa's straw poll convinced him that his campaign had run its course.

Just hours after his third-place finish in Iowa, Mr. Pawlenty said on ABC's "This Week" program that his message "didn't get the kind of traction we needed and hoped for" in order to continue.

"There are a lot of other choices in the race," he said. "The audience, so to speak, was looking for something different."

Mr. Pawlenty informed his supporters on a conference call Sunday morning before his television appearance that he was ending his candidacy. He thanked his supporters in the call, two participants said, but acknowledged that he had decided overnight that his candidacy could not proceed.

Mr. Pawlenty, who had been weighing a presidential campaign for years, had developed a robust plan to win the Republican nomination. But his strategy did not take into account the rising popularity of a fellow Minnesotan, Representative Michele Bachmann, whose candidacy had overshadowed Mr. Pawlenty's. He had staked his entire campaign around a strong finish at the Iowa straw poll, which he did not achieve.

Mrs. Bachmann won the poll, edging Representative Ron Paul of Texas. Mr. Pawlenty was a distant third.

It was a sudden end to the presidential candidacy of a former two-term governor, who had once talked about bypassing the straw poll. But a poor showing at a debate two months ago made him change his mind, associates said, and left him with no choice but to throw everything into the straw poll.

On "This Week," Mr. Pawlenty said he would probably endorse one of his former rivals eventually, but he declined to do so Sunday morning. Asked what he thought of Mrs. Bachmann, Mr. Pawlenty said she would be "tested" through the nomination process.

"I think she's qualified," he said. "She's going to have to make her case."

Speaking moments later on the same program, Mrs. Bachmann praised Mr. Pawlenty, but she said that the message from her victory in the straw poll was that voters are looking for "someone authentic" like her.

"I'm talking about what people really care about," she told Jake Tapper, the host of the ABC program. "You saw a big message sent to Washington. They really want someone they can trust and can believe in."

Mr. Pawlenty first became a national figure four years ago as a finalist to be the vice presidential nominee for Senator John McCain of Arizona. That job eventually went to Sarah Palin, the governor from Alaska.

Four years later, Mr. Pawlenty became the first major Republican to announce a presidential bid. He quickly assembled a campaign staff that included top operatives and experienced donors. He began traveling to neighboring Iowa.

Asked whether he would consider being a vice presidential candidate in 2012, Mr. Pawlenty said he would not.

"I've been down that road before," he said. "That's not something I'm going to consider."

In months of campaigning through Iowa, Mr. Pawlenty had presented himself as a can-do governor whose experience as the chief executive of Minnesota for eight years would make him a good president.

"We need somebody who is a tested, proven leader with results who can fix the country and get it back on track boldly and quickly. That's what I did in Minnesota. That's what I'll do for the country," he said during a stop recently in Grinnell, Iowa.

Mr. Pawlenty also increasingly took aim at President Obama, describing the state of the country in gloomy ways and blaming Mr. Obama for failing to do what was necessary to turn the nation's economy around. He made that case in television ads, running four ads ahead of the straw poll and spending nearly \$1 million.

But Mr. Pawlenty was seen as making his first big mistake during a debate in New Hampshire in June. After coining the term "Obamneycare" before the debate, he declined on the stage to go on the attack with his rival, Mitt Romney, standing on the stage.

That was viewed by donors and activists as a missed opportunity to stand up to his leading Republican rival. Raising money, which had always been hard for the campaign, became tougher after that.

The biggest challenge for Mr. Pawlenty came as Mrs. Bachmann's campaign picked up steam. Mr. Pawlenty's strategy had been built around a strong finish in Iowa, and the straw poll became a way to prove to reluctant donors and supporters that the strategy was still sound.

In the Fox debate on Thursday, two days before the straw poll, Mr. Pawlenty took direct aim at Mrs. Bachmann, hoping to dent her momentum in Iowa.

"Her record of accomplishment and results is nonexistent. That's not going to be good enough," he said during the debate. "The American people are going to expect more and demand more."

But Mrs. Bachmann deftly handled the attacks, accusing Mr. Pawlenty of holding positions that sound "a lot more like Barack Obama, if you ask me."

The exchange clearly benefited Mrs. Bachmann more than it did Mr. Pawlenty, who received less than half of her votes in the straw poll. In the end, Mr. Pawlenty concluded that he could not continue.

"It was disappointing," he said. Asked about the candidates remaining, Mr. Pawlenty said: "They are going to be tested. As you know, it's a big, bright light that comes down on you. And we'll see."