

Fred Karger for President

August 18, 2011

Office of General Counsel
Federal Election Commission
999 E Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20463

MUR # 6493

OFFICE OF GENERAL
COUNSEL

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COMMISSION

I want to bring to your attention possible violations of federal election campaign laws the Fox News Channel, owned by News Corporation. The participants for Fox News Channel's August 11, 2011 televised Presidential Debate were not selected based on pre-established objective criteria. Specifically, I was excluded from this debate even though I had met Fox News Channel's criteria.

I respectfully ask the Federal Election Commission to conduct a full investigation into the legality of the Fox News Channel's August 11, 2011 Presidential Debate.

Complainant and Respondents

Complainant:

Fred Karger
3699 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 1290
Los Angeles, CA 90010

Respondents:

Rupert Murdoch, Chairman and CEO, News Corporation
Roger Ailes, President, Fox News Channel
Michael Clemente, Senior VP of News, Fox News
Fox News Channel
1211 Avenue of the Americas
New York, New York 10036

Federal Election Laws Concerning Candidate Appearances

Federal election campaign laws allow for an organization exempt from taxation under section 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code to sponsor a Presidential candidate meeting. Such a meeting is an exception to the definition of contribution. Applicable

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rules state that "The debates must be structured such that they do not promote or advance one candidate over another; and they must include at least two candidates, meeting face to face" (Attachment 1).

Additionally, "The organization staging the debate must select the candidates based on pre-established objective criteria" (Attachment 2). A qualified organization can devise its own objective criteria.

Criteria

The Des Moines Register (Attachment 3) reported that the "pre-established objective criteria" that Fox News Channel used to select participants for the Iowa Presidential Debate on July 23, 2011, and then reaffirmed these criteria as final (Attachment 4) on August 3, 2011 (Attachment #). The criteria had to be met by Tuesday, August 9, 2011, 4:00 pm CDT. In order to participate in the Fox News Debate, candidates must have:

1. Registered with the Federal Elections Commission as a presidential exploratory committee or presidential campaign
2. Meet all U.S. Constitutional requirements
3. Garnered at least an average of one percent in five national polls based on most recent polling leading up to the registration day

Casey Mills, a spokesperson for the Republican Party of Iowa, a debate cosponsor, stated: "The barriers for entry are very low by design to make sure an inclusive list of candidates is featured on stage." (Attachment 4)

Fred Karger Met All Criteria

I filed for President on March, 23, 2011 at the Federal Election Commission in Washington, DC (Attachment 5); I meet all U.S. Constitutional requirements (Attachment 6), and on Friday, August 5, 2011 I achieved the required polling criteria (Attachment 7). When I fulfilled the criteria, my campaign contacted all of the debate hosts to inform them. A Harris Interactive Poll, which the Fred Karger for President campaign engaged Harris to perform, came out the day before, showing me at 2%. That poll, averaged with four previous recent polls, brought me to the necessary average of 1% in five national polls.

2% in Harris Poll August 4th (Attachment 8)

1% in Zogby Poll July 25th (Attachment 9)

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1% in Zogby Poll May 23rd (Attachment 10)

1% Fox News Poll April 28th (Attachment 11)

Less than 1% in McClathy-Marist Poll June 29th (Attachment 12)

After first contacting Fox News Channel, I polled at 1% in an additional Synovate poll (Attachment 13), which was released on August 8, 2011.

Fox News Channel Response

The Des Moines Register (Attachment 14) and OutQ News on Sirius Satellite Radio (Attachment 15), both reported that Fox News Channel released the following statement explaining why I would not be included in the debate:

"None of the five polls cited by the Karger campaign help him meet the criteria of 1%". The August 4th Harris Interactive poll is an online survey. Such polls do not qualify for the purposes of meeting the debate criteria. The July 25th Zogby poll is an online survey. Such polls do not qualify for the purposes of meeting the debate criteria. The May 23rd Zogby Poll is an online survey. Such polls do not qualify for the purposes of meeting the debate criteria. The April 28th Fox Poll is out of date. Fox offered up Mr. Karger's name in polls conducted in June and July, but he did not register in either. The June 29th McClathy-Marist Poll shows Karger garnering "less than 1%." The threshold is 1%." (Attachment 16)

Criteria is re-established

Fox News Channel never released acceptable polling companies or acceptable polling methodology in its pre-established objective criteria.

It appears that because I met their originally stated criteria, Fox News changed their criteria in order to exclude me. That is in direct violation of the Federal Election Commission regulations. The criteria must be "pre-established," and may not be changed.

CNN Debate

By comparison, CNN, the sponsor of the New Hampshire Debate on June 5, 2011 used much more stringent polling criteria for its debate (Attachment 17). CNN required a candidate to poll at 2% in an average of three national surveys during a one-month period, and only from a specific list of eligible polls.

Polling Criteria

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Fox News Channel regularly publishes and cites Zogby and Harris Interactive polls, both of which are conducted online. This is a new way national polling firms conduct polls. Many experts consider online polls even more accurate than telephone polling because they take away the human element.

Fox News Channel even reported on a Zogby poll that was one of the five to allow me to achieve the 1% threshold that Fox News Channel later dismissed: Fox News Story (Attachment 18) and Zogby Poll Source (Attachment 10). Fox News Channel has cited many other Zogby Presidential Polls conducted online: Christie & Perry vs. Romney (Attachment 19), Christie and Cain (Attachment 20) and Christie Trounces Field (Attachment 21). Fox News Channel also regularly cites Harris Interactive Polls as well: Obama's Popularity (Attachment 22) Gays are more frequent Blog users (Attachment 23) and Sony vs. Apple (Attachment 24). Also, Fox News Channel has cited Synovate polls conducted online (Attachment 25).

In all of its coverage of Harris Interactive and Zogby polls, Fox News Channel never stated that these polls were conducted online or that Fox News Channel viewed them to be less accurate than any other poll. Then, why now?

Nate Silver of the New York Times analyzed the top polling companies and found Harris Interactive to be one of the most reliable (Attachment 26). The International Journal of Market Research analyzed online polling of 72 different political races in one election cycle and found that Harris Interactive Online Polls are "twice as accurate as its general telephone polling competition." (Attachment 27)

Double Standard?

Fox News Channel claims that its own April 29, 2011 poll (the first national poll to include Fred Karger) is "out of date" because subsequent Fox News Polls had me at less than 1%.

Fox News Channel's Iowa Debate polling criteria are identical to the criteria that Fox News Channel used for the South Carolina Fox News Debate (Attachment 28) held on May 5, 2011. Fox News Channel accepted Gary Johnson for that debate, even though the April 20, 2011 Gallup Poll had him at 0%. Fox News Channel had accepted previous Gallup polls from March 22, 2011 and February 20, 2011, which had Gary Johnson at 2% and 1% respectively. (Sources: Politica.com 2012 Presidential Polls- Attachment 29, and Polling Report - White House 2012 - Attachment 30)

Fox News Channel had to go back five months to November 14, 2010 to be able to include Gary Johnson in the South Carolina Debate by the time Fox News first stated Gary Johnson's inclusion to the Daily Beast (Attachment 31) on the day of April 28, 2011. The Fox News Channel poll that I cited was released only three months before the

deadline. I have provided a timeline of all polls leading up to the South Carolina debate deadline (see below.)

Request for Investigation

I formally request a thorough and complete investigation into the Fox New Channel sponsorship and financing of its August 11, 2011 Presidential Debate held in Ames, Iowa.

Thank you very much for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Fred Karger
3699 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 1290
Los Angeles, CA 90010

Shawn McAllister
SHAWN MCALLISTER
NOTARY PUBLIC STATE OF NEW YORK
BRONX COUNTY, LIC #01MC00000000
COMM EXP DEC 30, 2013

cc: Distribution

I affirm under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Rolls Leading up to South Carolina Debate Deadline

April 28 - Fox News: 1% (Fox News had already provided a list of debate participants prior to the publication of this study and Gary Johnson was included. Fox News had affirmed that Gary Johnson came in at 1% in five polls previous to this date.)

April 20, 2011 - Gallup -- Gary Johnson receives 0%

April 14, 2011 - McClathy-Marist -- Gary Johnson not included

April 10, 2011 - CNN -- Gary Johnson not included

April 5, 2011 - Fox News -- Gary Johnson receives 1%

April 4, 2011 - NBC/WSJ -- Gary Johnson not included

March 28, 2011 - Farleigh Dickson University -- Gary Johnson not included

March 22, 2011 - Gallup -- Gary Johnson receives 2%

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March 14, 2011 - Pew -- Gary Johnson not included

March 13, 2011 - CNN -- Gary Johnson not included

February 28, 2011 - NBC/WSJ -- Gary Johnson not included

February 20, 2011 - Gallup -- Gary Johnson receives 1%

February 15, 2011 - Newsweek/Daily Beast -- Gary Johnson not included

January 23, 2011 - CNN -- Gary Johnson not included

January 16, 2011 - ABC/Washington Post -- Gary Johnson not included

December 16, 2010 - Clarus Research -- Gary Johnson not included

November 15, 2010 - McClathy-Clarist -- Gary Johnson not included

November 15, 2010 - Quinnipiac -- Gary Johnson not included

November 14, 2010 - Gallup -- Gary Johnson receives 1%

Fox News Cites Zogby Online Polls

"Zogby Poll: Cain takes Lead Over Romney," Fox News,

<http://nation.foxnews.com/herman-cain/2011/05/24/zogby-poll-cain-takes-lead-over-romney>

Corresponding Zogby Poll, which shows Fred Karger at 1%,

<http://zogby.com/news/2011/05/23/iboze-zogby-poll-cain-passes-christie-among-gop-primary-voters-no-one-gop-field-leads-obama/>

"Poll, Both Christie, Perry Trounce Romney," Fox News.

<http://nation.foxnews.com/chris-christie/2011/06/22/poll-both-christie-perry-trounce-romney>

Corresponding Zogby Poll, the June 21st section, which shows Fred Karger.

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"The Daily Bret – Fresh off the Vine," Fox News. <http://www.foxnews.com/on-air/special-report/blog/2010/01/28/fresh-off-the-vine-extra-grapes>

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"Sean Hannity: Media Silos as Obama Vacations from Health Care Debate" Fox News.
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<http://www.foxnews.com/scitech/2010/07/13/gays-frequent-blog-social-network-harris/>

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"Americans Prefer Sony, Apple Brands; Microsoft's Appeal Wanes," Fox News.
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"Polls: Sweden's Center-Right Government Poised for Re-Election" Fox News.
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Attachments

Attachment 1: Federal Election's Commissions Brochure, Guidelines for Corporations and Labor Unions. Pg 84

Attachment 2: Title 11 – Federal Election. Chapter I – Federal Elections Commission. Part 110- Contributions and Expenditure Limitations and Prohibitions Section 110.13. http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/cfr_2010/janqtr/11cfr110.13.htm

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<http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,204195,00.html>

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Federal Election Commission Campaign Guide

Corporations and Labor Organizations

January 2007

Officeholder/Professional Appearance at Corporation or Labor Organization

Under certain circumstances, a corporation or labor organization may sponsor an appearance by a candidate before the general public. AOs 2004-14, 1999-2, 1996-11 and 1992-6. This type of appearance can occur under the following circumstances:

Speaker Not Appearing as Candidate

The speaker is NOT appearing in his capacity as a federal candidate but rather as a current federal officeholder or as a lecturer.

Issue Topics

The speaker may speak about issues of interest to the sponsoring organization, including legislative issues, but must avoid reference to the campaign.

No Express Advocacy

Neither the speaker nor the corporation or labor organization may expressly advocate the election or defeat of a clearly identified candidate.

No Solicitation

Neither the speaker nor the corporation or labor organization may solicit contributions before, during or after the event.

Similar Opportunity Not Required

Corporations and labor organizations need not provide other candidates with similar opportunities to speak because the speaker is appearing in his/her professional capacity rather than as a candidate.

Proximity to Election Day

The appearance may occur at any time, even shortly before an election, because the speaker is not appearing as a candidate but as a federal officeholder.

Press Coverage

The speaker may participate in a press conference at or near the site of the event. The speaker may speak at the press conference regarding the issues discussed at the event under the following conditions:

- The sponsoring organization may identify—but may not use the press conference to endorse—the speaker as a candidate.
- Neither the speaker nor the sponsoring organization may expressly advocate the election or defeat of any candidate during the press conference.
- The disbursements for the press conference must be de minimis. That means that

the sponsoring organization may contact only those news organizations it customarily contacts when holding press conferences for other purposes.

Payment of Travel Expenses

The sponsoring organization may pay the speaker's travel expenses as long as no part of the his/her trip is campaign related. If any campaign-related activity is conducted at a stop, the entire stop is campaign related and travel expenses cannot be paid by the sponsoring organization.⁶ AO 1996-11.

Public Debates

Sponsorship

Candidate debates may be sponsored by a broadcaster, a bona fide newspaper, a magazine or other periodical publication, or a tax-exempt nonprofit organization (a 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(4) organization) that neither supports nor opposes any candidate or party. 110.13(a) and 114.4(f)(2).

Corporate Donations

A corporation or labor organization may donate funds to a tax-exempt nonprofit organization (a 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(4) organization) that neither supports nor opposes any candidate or party to defray the cost of staging a candidate debate. 114.4(f)(1) and (3).

Debate Structure

The debates must be structured such that they do not promote or advance one candidate over another; and they must include at least two candidates, meeting face to face. 110.13(b).

Candidate Selection

The organization staging the debate must select the candidates based on pre-established objective criteria. For primary elections, the organization may restrict candidates to those seeking the nomination of one party. For general elections, the staging organization may not use nomination by a particular party as the sole objective criterion. 110.13.

⁶ In AO 1996-11, the commission sponsoring the appearances of two officeholders who were running for reelection could not pay the officeholders' travel expenses because the organization had knowledge that the officeholders' campaigns were planning campaign-related events at the site of the appearance. Payment of their travel expenses would have constituted a prohibited corporate contribution.

[Code of Federal Regulations]
[Title 11, Volume 1]
[Revised as of January 1, 2010]
From the U.S. Government Printing Office via GPO Access
[CITE: 11CFR110.13]

[Page 183-184]

TITLE 11--FEDERAL ELECTIONS

CHAPTER I--FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

PART 110 CONTRIBUTION AND EXPENDITURE LIMITATIONS AND PROHIBITIONS-- Table of Contents

Sec. 110.13 Candidate debates.

(a) Staging organizations. (1) Nonprofit organizations described in 26 U.S.C. 501 (c)(3) or (c)(4) and which do not endorse, support, or oppose political candidates or political parties may stage candidate debates in accordance with this section and 11 CFR 114.4(f).

(2) Broadcasters (including a cable television operator, programmer or producer), bona fide newspapers, magazines and other periodical publications may stage candidate debates in accordance with this section and 11 CFR 114.4(f), provided that they are not owned or controlled by a political party, political committee or candidate. In addition, broadcasters (including a cable television operator, programmer or producer), bona fide newspapers, magazines and other periodical publications, acting as press entities, may also cover or carry candidate debates in accordance with 11

[[Page 184]]

CFR part 100, subparts B and C and part 100, subparts D and E.

(b) Debate structure. The structure of debates staged in accordance with this section and 11 CFR 114.4(f) is left to the discretion of the staging organizations(s), provided that:

(1) Such debates include at least two candidates; and

(2) The staging organization(s) does not structure the debates to promote or advance one candidate over another.

(c) Criteria for candidate selection. For all debates, staging organization(s) must use pre-established objective criteria to determine which candidates may participate in a debate. For general election debates, staging organizations(s) shall not use nomination by a particular political party as the sole objective criterion to determine whether to include a candidate in a debate. For debates held prior to a primary election, caucus or convention, staging organizations may restrict candidate participation to candidates seeking the nomination of one party, and need not stage a debate for candidates seeking the nomination of any other political party or independent candidates.

[61 FR 18051, Apr. 24, 1996; 61 FR 24533, May 15, 1996, as amended at 67 FR 78681, Dec. 26, 2002]

Rules outlined for the Iowa Republican debate on Aug. 11

Written by

Jennifer Jacobs

3:44 PM, Jul 23, 2011

All nine candidates on the straw poll ballot should automatically be invited to participate in the nationally-televised Republican debate that will be held in Iowa on Aug. 11, party leaders say.

The candidates listed on the ballot for the Aug. 13 straw poll are: Michele Bachmann, Herman Cain, Newt Gingrich, Jon Huntsman, Thaddeus McCotter, Ron Paul, Tim Pawlenty, Mitt Romney and Rick Santorum.

The Iowa Republican Party's state central committee voted unanimously today to approve to that rule, and three other rules developed jointly with Fox News Channel.

Rules will be finalized with Fox, which is televising the event live from Ames.

Candidates must satisfy the following by 4 p.m. CDT on Tuesday, Aug. 9:

1. Registered with the Federal Elections Commission as a presidential exploratory

committee or presidential campaign

2. Meet all U.S. Constitutional requirements

3. Garnered at least an average of one percent in five national polls based on most recent polling leading up to the registration day.

The debate will begin at 8 p.m. on Thursday, Aug. 11 at Stevens Auditorium on the Iowa State University campus.

Tickets are not for sale but will be given to supporters and those who sponsor a pre-debate reception, a party spokesman said.

For more information, contact Matt Groenwald at the Republican Party of Iowa at (515) 282-8105.

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Inclusion in Iowa GOP debate will be finalized Aug. 9

JENNIFER JACOBS 4:17 PM, Aug 3, 2011 Categories: Caucus Insider



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Herman Cain, Iowa
straw poll, Jon
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Romney, Newt Gingrich,
Republican Party of
Iowa, Rick Santorum,
Ron Paul, Thaddeus
McCotter, Tim Pawlenty
Candidates Tags:
Herman Cain, Jon
Huntsman, Michele
Bachmann, Mitt
Romney, Newt Gingrich,
Rick Santorum, Ron
Paul, Thaddeus
McCotter, Tim Pawlenty

32

Fox News officials have rejected Iowa GOP officials' recommendation to include all nine presidential candidates on the straw poll ballot in the lineup for the Aug. 11 Iowa debate.

The final rules say the participants must have an official presidential campaign or exploratory committee, meet all constitutional requirements, and an average of at least one percent in five national polls.

That means several candidates – Mitt Romney, Michele Bachmann, Tim Pawlenty, Ron Paul, Herman Cain, Newt Gingrich, Rick Santorum and Jon Huntsman – will likely qualify for the debate.

But it could leave out Thaddeus McCotter, who is the most recent to enter the race and isn't registering on some public opinion polls yet.

The deadline for meeting the established criteria for participation is 4 p.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 9.

Rules set by the Republican Party of Iowa's central committee, which organizes the Aug. 13 straw poll, guarantee that any candidate who pays the \$15,000 minimum for a tent space lands on the ballot.

The committee voted unanimously last month to include everyone listed on the ballot in the debate. But final rules provided by Iowa GOP officials show that idea didn't make it onto the list.

Fox News is co-sponsoring the debate with the Iowa GOP and the Washington Examiner newspaper.

"The barriers for entry are very low by design to make sure an inclusive list of candidates is featured on stage," said Casey Mills, a spokesman for the Republican Party of Iowa.

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Openly gay Republican Fred Karger announces 2012 presidential run

By [Lauren Seifert](#)
Topics

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In The News ,
Republicans ,
Washington Unplugged ,
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Barely hours after filing his intent with the FEC to run for the 2012 Republican nomination for president, Fred Karger stopped by Washington Unplugged to formally announce his decision.

Speaking with CBS News congressional correspondent Nancy Cordes Karger said, "I've filed to run for President of the United States." (watch above)

Explaining what brought him to this moment Karger said, "It was the culmination of a lifetime of political work. It was a very exciting moment."

This is the first time Karger has run for political office, but he has been a behind-the-scenes player for 35 years — serving as an advisor to Presidents Ford, Reagan and George H. W. Bush.

Karger says he's an "outsider" but has "political experience."

He is also the first openly gay presidential candidate. Cordes asked when so many of his fellow Republicans are opposed to gay rights and same-sex marriage why he would chose to run as a candidate of that same party.

"Being a gay Republicans is kind of an oxymoron," he said, "I have been a fighter in my party, I have always been on the more moderate side but I'm also a prot?g? of Lee Atwater. We need to open up this party and that's one of my reasons for running. The party should not be dominated by one faction or another. It should be open to all."

Karger also added, "I want to be a different kind of Republican. The kind of Republican I grew up with. I

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consider myself to be Progressive. The last Progressive Republican president was over 100 years ago; Theodore Roosevelt."

Karger also weighed in with his thoughts on his potential opponents in the GOP race, taking particular aim at Newt Gingrich.

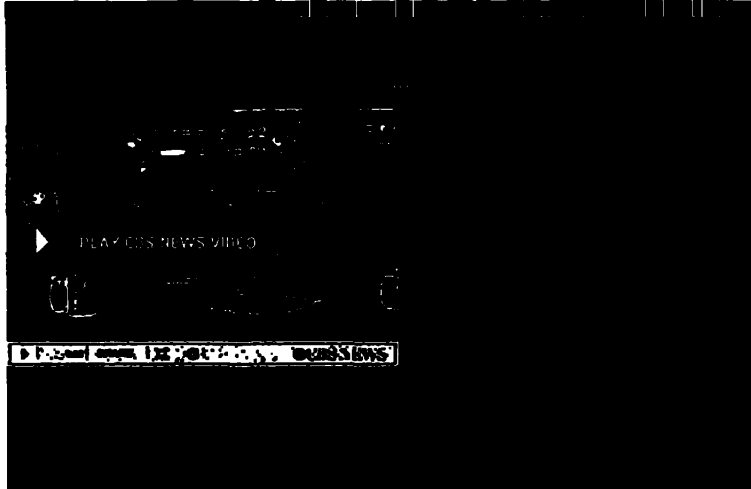
"He's yesterday's news... and he's living in the past. I think we need some new, fresh leadership," he said.

Karger also had some choice words for President Obama when it came to his leadership skills. As he told Cordes, "The guy's been a disappointment. He's not a happy guy, he needs Zoloft. He's just not optimistic."

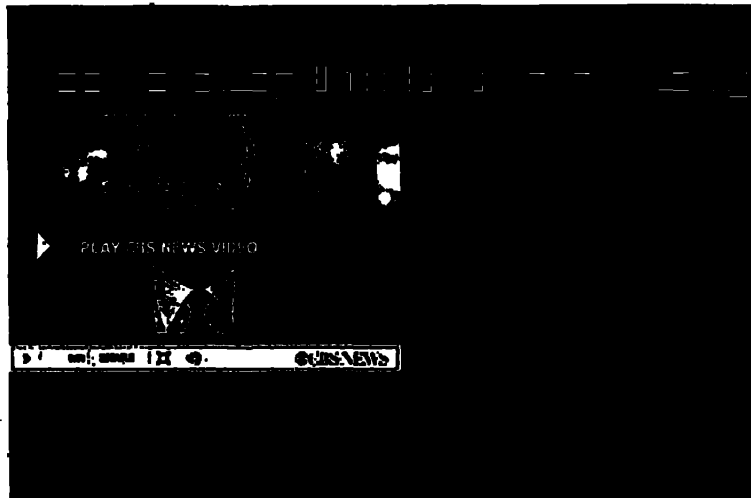
Karger is still a long-shot and although he's thrown his hat in the ring, many of his would-be opponents have the instant name recognition that he lacks, but he remains optimistic.

In speaking about his hopes to take part in the Republican presidential debates he said, "If I can get in one or more of these presidential debates, I will make history."

Watch Karger explain why a gay candidate can win the GOP nomination.



Watch Karger weigh in on his possible Republican opponents.



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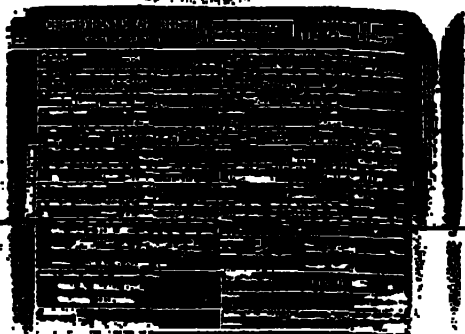
BIRTH CERTIFICATE

EDWARD J. BARRETT

COUNTY CLERK

OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF THE COUNTY OF THOMAS
COUNTY CLERK

JUN 15 1971



STATE OF GEORGIA

EDWARD J. BARRETT, County Clerk of the County of Thomas, do hereby certify that the attached is a true and correct copy of the original record on file, all of which appear true, the records and

BY MYSELF WHEREAS, I have compared the original and
found the Seal of the County of Thomas, at my office in the City of Thomas.

Edward J. Barrett

County Clerk

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FOR PRESIDENT

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August 17, 2011

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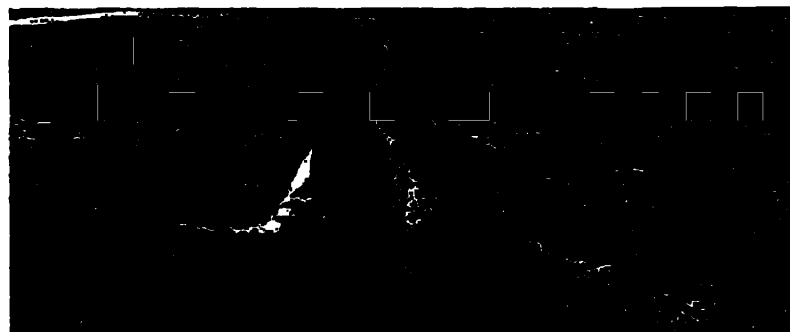
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Karger-mentum: Long Shot Fred Karger Scores 2 Percent In Poll, Possible Debate Appearance



Posted: 8/5/11 02:45 PM ET

React

Here at the 2012 Speculatron, we have striven to be the premiere online destination of news related to long-shot GOP 2012 hopeful Fred Karger. *Because someone has to.* Well, there's big news for Team Karger today. So far on the campaign trail, Karger has failed to qualify to participate in any of the GOP debates (where he hopes to bedevil Mitt Romney) because his low polling numbers have kept him below the necessary threshold to qualify. For the upcoming Fox News debate, candidates must attain an "average of one percent in five national polls based on most recent polling leading up to the registration day."

According to Karger's campaign, he's now done that. It's the August 4th Harris Interactive poll that lifts Karger over the line:

Total	
Mitt Romney	16%
Ron Paul	10%
Michele Bachmann	10%
Herman Cain	6%
Newt Gingrich	4%
Tim Pawlenty	3%
Fred Karger	2%
Jon Huntsman	2%
Rick Santorum	1%
Gary Johnson	1%
Thaddeus McCotter	1%
Buddy Roemer	1%
None of these	48%

That's maybe the furthest up a poll that Karger has seen himself during this campaign. (It's also great news for the "None Of These" candidacy.) But if that 2 percent doesn't mean much to the front-runners, it means everything to Karger, who argues it qualifies him for next week's debate. In his letter to the debate organizers, Karger writes:

Here is the breakdown of five polls with links, including your own Fox News poll, the first to include me:

2% in Harris Poll August 4th

1% in Zogby Poll July 25th

1% in Zogby Poll May 23rd

1% Fox News Poll April 28th

Less than 1% in McClathy-Marist Poll June 29th

I look forward to participating in the August 11, 2011 debate in Ames, Iowa and await all details.

Add it up, and you get an average of 1 percent. Along with registering with the FEC and fulfilling all of the Constitutional requirements to hold the office of the presidency, it appears that Karger now meets all of the necessary criteria to join a primary debate.

The bad news here is that if Karger does participate in the debate, he won't be able to send us live debate commentary from the sidelines to run as a part of our coverage. (If you're Gary Johnson, Thad McCotter, or Buddy Roemer, hit me up!) We'll wait and see if Karger's suit is successful, but we have a funny feeling that the debate organizers will find some new reason to disqualify him from participating. (We imagine that it will probably have to do with Karger being openly gay, because we're cynical.)

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5 Aug 2011

Marriage Interactive QuickQuery
Fielding Period: August 2-4, 2011
Kevin Winter
Weighted To The U.S. General Adult Population - Propensity

Q1805 If you are a registered Republican or Independent, which of the following candidates would you be most likely to support for the Republican nomination for President in 2012?

Base: Registered Republican/Independent

	Region			Age			Male Age			Female Age			Marital Status		
	North- Mid- West	South	West	18-34	35-44	45-54	55+	Total 18-34	35-44	45-54	55+	Total 18-34	35-44	45-54	55+
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)	(H)	(I)	(J)	(K)	(L)	(M)	(N)	(O)
Total	1175	305	262	356	252	304	235	247	309	662	160	139	163	220	513
Unweighted Base	1175	305	262	356	252	304	235	247	309	662	160	139	163	220	513
Weighted Base	1168	286	245	404	262	331	177	221	439	610	192	105	105	222	558
Former Governor Mitt Romney	182	38	28	55	51	44	21	31	83	104	82	14	16	42	78
1680	156	156	156	156	156	156	156	156	156	156	156	156	156	156	156
Congressman Ron Paul	120	18	32	42	27	46	24	20	31	76	26	19	14	16	43
10810	76	1386	116	104	1361	1461	96	76	1360	1562	1462	76	86	126	76
Congresswoman Michele Bachman	116	25	21	43	25	12	22	12	70	52	4	9	6	33	64
10878	106	99	116	106	46	12678	56	26	16678	86	26	96	66	16678	116
Radio Host Herman Cain	46	5	9	23	20	20	3	12	31	41	11	2	5	22	26
6836	26	46	86	86	66	66	26	56	76	66	26	56	66	66	66
Former House Speaker Newt Gingrich	42	11	9	14	8	12	7	9	14	22	10	4	5	3	20
46	46	46	46	46	46	46	46	46	46	46	46	46	46	46	46
Former Governor Tim Pawlenty	26	5	7	8	5	6	4	7	6	15	5	3	3	4	11
26	26	26	26	26	26	26	26	26	26	26	26	26	26	26	26
Businessman Fred Harper	21	6	3	10	1	11	6	2	3	11	5	3	2	3	10
261	26	16	36	36	36	36	36	36	36	36	36	36	36	36	36
Former Governor Jon Huntsman	21	6	8	5	2	8	2	9	1	11	3	2	4	1	10
267	26	36	16	16	26	16	26	16	26	26	26	26	26	26	26
Former Senator Rick Santorum	16	6	6	2	3	7	2	4	4	11	3	1	4	3	5
16	26	26	26	26	26	26	26	26	26	26	26	26	26	26	26
Former Governor Gary Johnson	11	1	1	7	2	7	1	1	2	7	5	2	2	4	2
16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16
Congressman Thudius McCotter	8	2	4	1	2	2	1	2	2	8	2	1	2	2	7
16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16
Former Governor Buddy Humes	8	2	4	1	2	2	1	2	2	8	2	1	2	2	7
16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16
None of these	532	128	105	177	113	159	82	113	186	247	73	12	97	83	283
46878	5468	436	446	436	466	466	466	416	466	416	466	466	466	466	466

Proportions/Names: Columns Totals (51, 108, 168, 168, 168, 168, 168, 168, 168, 168, 168, 168, 168, 168, 168, 168)
Overlay formulae used: * small base

5 Aug 2011

Harris Interactive QuickSurvey
Fielding Period: August 2-4, 2011
Main Question
Weighted To The U.S. General Adult Population - Propensity

Q1805 If you are a registered Republican or Independent, which of the following candidates would you be most likely to support for the Republican nomination for President in 2012?

Base: Registered Republican/Independent

	Region		Age				Male Age				Female Age				Marital Status							
Total	North- east	Mid- west	South	West	18-34	35-44	45-54	55+	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55+	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55+	Married	Single/ Div./ Wid.		
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)	(H)	(I)	(J)	(K)	(L)	(M)	(N)	(O)	(P)	(Q)	(R)	(S)	(T)		
	1160	258	245	404	262	331	177	221	439	610	183*	102*	105*	232	358	130*	75*	116*	216	687	228	169
	1168	250	245	404	262	331	177	221	439	610	182	102	105	232	358	130	75	116	216	687	228	169
	1006	1006	1006	1006	1006	1006	1006	1006	1006	1006	1006	1006	1006	1006	1006	1006	1006	1006	1006	1006	1006	1006

5 Aug 2011

Harris Interactive QuickQuarry
Fielding Period: August 2-4, 2011
Kevin Wiltzer
Weighted To The U.S. General Adult Population - Propensity

01809 If you are a registered Republican or Independent, which of the following candidates would you be most likely to support for the Republican nomination for President in 2012?

Base: Registered Republican/Independent

	Education				Income				Household Size				Age/Presence Children				Employment Status			
	Less Than High School				Less Than \$25K				2-4				18-24				Full-time			
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)	(H)	(I)	(J)	(K)	(L)	(M)	(N)	(O)	(P)	(Q)	(R)	(S)	(T)
Unweighted Base	1175	330	426	619	319	158	216	297	229	483	265	96	333	142	171	136	640	603	136	463
Weighted Base	1168	308	341	519	255	130	182	409	191	518	354	106	322	129	183	143	646	568	145	481
Former Governor Mitt Romney	182	72	49	60	31	20	36	71	30	67	65	20	94	21	30	20	128	89	11	83
	1688	146	146	198a	126	169	209a	176	129	136	184	194	176	176	166	146	159	169a	66	176a
Congressman Ron Paul	129	52	26	41	28	18	17	39	15	54	41	10	40	17	18	18	80	68	12	44
	181c	106	86	136c	116	146	96	96	86	106	126	96	126	146	106	136	96	126	96	126
Congresswoman Michele Bachman	116	62	26	28	21	14	12	40	18	71	19	8	19	7	13	10	95	53	14	52
	1818d	126	86	96	86	116	66	106	96	1818d	56	76	66	56	76	76	116	96	96	116
Radio Host Herman Cain	66	37	16	13	6	10	9	30	5	38	13	11	17	5	10	7	49	31	11	24
	66a	76	56	46	36	86	56	76	26	76a	46	116	56	46	66	56	66	66	66	66
Former House Speaker Newt Gingrich	42	18	15	9	6	7	8	19	4	22	12	5	13	1	10	9	29	20	6	17
	46	46	56	36	26	56	46	56	26	46	36	56	46	16	56	66	36	46	46	36
Former Governor Tim Pawlenty	26	2	10	14	5	3	3	10	4	12	8	1	4	2	4	2	21	15	4	7
	26b	6	36b	46b	26	26	26	26	26	26	26	16	16	26	26	16	36	36	26	46
Businessman Fred Meyer	21	6	9	6	4	2	1	14	1	6	6	5	10	2	3	8	11	6	7	8
	26q	16	36	26	16	2	16	36	16	16	26	56	16	2	36	66	16	16	56	16
Former Governor Jon Huntsman	21	2	9	9	4	4	3	9	4	10	5	2	8	5	4	2	13	10	6	5
	26b	6	36b	36b	26	36	26	26	26	26	16	26	26	46p	26	26	26	46p	16	36
Former Senator Rick Warren	16	3	2	11	1	1	1	13	1	6	8	1	9	3	4	3	7	14	2	2
	16c	16	16	36	16	16	16	36	16	16	26	16	36	26	26	26	16	36	26	26
Former Governor Gary Johnson	11	1	6	4	2	6	1	8	2	3	5	4	4	2	3	3	7	7	4	4
	16	6	26b	16	16	16	16	26	26	26	16	36	16	26	16	16	16	16	16	16
Congressman Thaddeus McCotter	8	6	2	2	4	1	2	3	2	4	4	2	4	4	2	4	4	6	2	2
	16	16	16	26	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	46	26	36	16	16	16	16
Former Governor Buddy Humber	8	1	1	5	2	2	1	1	1	1	4	2	4	2	3	1	4	6	2	1
	16	6	26b	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	26	16	16	16	16	16	16
None of these	532	246	167	120	126	51	89	151	108	221	163	39	138	89	79	57	377	245	22	231
	6618	4818	4968	356	546p	406	496	376	576a	436	668	376	426	668	436	406	476	436	568	668

Proportions/Means: Columns Totals (36, 108 risk level) - 1818d - 1818e - 1818f - 1818g - 1818h - 1818i - 1818j - 1818k - 1818l - 1818m - 1818n - 1818o - 1818p - 1818q - 1818r - 1818s - 1818t - 1818u - 1818v - 1818w - 1818x - 1818y - 1818z - 1818aa - 1818ab - 1818ac - 1818ad - 1818ae - 1818af - 1818ag - 1818ah - 1818ai - 1818aj - 1818ak - 1818al - 1818am - 1818an - 1818ao - 1818ap - 1818aq - 1818ar - 1818as - 1818at - 1818au - 1818av - 1818aw - 1818ax - 1818ay - 1818az - 1818ba - 1818bb - 1818bc - 1818bd - 1818be - 1818bf - 1818bg - 1818bh - 1818bi - 1818bj - 1818bk - 1818bl - 1818bm - 1818bn - 1818bo - 1818bp - 1818bq - 1818br - 1818bs - 1818bt - 1818bu - 1818bv - 1818bw - 1818bx - 1818by - 1818bz - 1818ca - 1818cb - 1818cc - 1818cd - 1818ce - 1818cf - 1818cg - 1818ch - 1818ci - 1818cj - 1818ck - 1818cl - 1818cm - 1818cn - 1818co - 1818cp - 1818cq - 1818cr - 1818cs - 1818ct - 1818cu - 1818cv - 1818cw - 1818cx - 1818cy - 1818cz - 1818da - 1818db - 1818dc - 1818dd - 1818de - 1818df - 1818dg - 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5 Aug 2011

Merrin Interactive QuickQuery
Yielding Period: August 2-4, 2011

Holding Period: August 2-4, 2011

Kevin Minter

Weighted To The U.S. General Adult Population - Propensity

Q1805 If you are a registered Republican or Independent, which of the following candidates would you be most likely to support for the Republican nomination for President in 2012?

Base: Registered Republican/Independent

[illegible]

Proportions/Naomi Columns Tested (40, 160 slab level) - N/D/C/D - N/W/P/M - N/U/O - W/O/P - N/W/S/P/U/W
Overlap formulae used. * small base

42%

TODAYS NUMBER

President Obama's approval rating from our July 8-11 poll of 2,132 likely voters.

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Our latest news

POSTED ON

Jul 26, 2011

By Corry Schiermeyer

IBOPE Zogby GOP Presidential Poll: Bachmann Continues to Lead Announced Field; Perry's Entry Would Put Him on Top

Romney Logs in Preference, But Still Seen Most Likely to Win

UTICA, NY - Michele Bachmann continues to lead the field of announced Republican primary voters, but Rick Perry would be the top choice if he

Mitt Romney trails both Bachmann and Herman Cain among announced back when Perry and Chris Christie are included. However, he continues likely to be the nominee.

These results are from an IBOPE Zogby interactive poll conducted from **Announced GOP Candidates Only (GOP primary voters)**

If the Republican primary for President were held today, for whom would you vote?

Candidate	July 25	July 11	June 30	June 21
Michele Bachmann	25%	28%	34%	34%
Herman Cain	18%	16%	15%	15%
Mitt Romney	17%	15%	14%	15%
Ron Paul	11%	13%	11%	13%

Posted on May 23, 2011 By Corry Schiermeyer

IBOPE Zogby Poll: Cain Passes Christie Among GOP Primary Voters; No One in GOP Field Leads Obama

42% say Obama deserves re-election

UTICA, NY - Herman Cain leads Chris Christie as the top choice of Republican primary voters in the race for the 2012 Presidential nomination. Among all voters, no one in a list of 13 possible GOP candidates leads President Barack Obama. However, less than half of voters (42%) say Obama deserves re-election.

The results of a new IBOPE Zogby Interactive poll, conducted from May 20-23, show Cain, a businessman and radio talk show host who drew attention at the first party Presidential debate early this month, as the choice of 19% of GOP primary voters. Christie, the New Jersey Governor who led in our four previous polls, is second with 16%, followed by Mitt Romney in third with 11%.

Romney is now seen as a more acceptable candidate to Republican voters than he was in our interactive poll conducted from May 6-9. Then, 27% of GOP primary voters said they would never vote for Romney compared to just 9% who say so now. Romney remains the candidate GOP voters believe most likely to be the nominee with 37%, and no one else gets more than 6%.

Christie does best in a match-up with Obama, but trails, 45%-44%. Obama leads both Romney and Tim Pawlenty by 45%-40%. Obama is ahead of Cain, 46%-38%.

Republican Primary Voters

If the Republican primary for President were held today, for whom would you vote?

Candidate	GOP Primary Voters
Herman Cain	19%
Chris Christie	16%
Mitt Romney	11%
Ron Paul	9%
Sarah Palin	6%
Michele Bachman	5%
Tim Pawlenty	4%
Mitch Daniels	4%
Newt Gingrich	3%
Rick Santorum	3%
Fred Karger	1%

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Jon Huntsman Jr.	1%
Gary Johnson	<1%
None of these	6%
Not sure	12%

Totals may not add up to 100% due to rounding

12044313606

42%

TODAYS NUMBER

President Obama's approval rating from our July 8-11 poll of 2,132 likely voters.

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Our latest news

POSTED ON
May 23, 2011
By Corry Schierymeyer

IBOPE Zogby Poll: Cain Passes Christie Among GOP Primary Voters; No One in GOP Field Leads Obama

42% say Obama deserves re-election

UTICA, NY - Herman Cain leads Chris Christie as the top choice of Rep for the 2012 Presidential nomination. Among all voters, no one in a list of candidates leads President Barack Obama. However, less than half of voters (42%) say Obama deserves re-election.

The results of a new IBOPE Zogby interactive poll, conducted from May 16-19, show who drew attention at the first party Presidential choice of 19% of GOP primary voters. Christie, the New Jersey Governor is second with 16%, followed by Mitt Romney in third with 11%.

Romney is now seen as a more acceptable candidate to Republican voter poll conducted from May 6-9. Then, 27% of GOP primary voters said the same compared to just 9% who say so now. Romney remains the candidate for the nominee with 37%, and no one else gets more than 6%.

Christie does best in a match-up with Obama, but trails, 45%-44%. Obama Pawlenty by 45%-40%. Obama is ahead of Cain, 46%-38%.

Republican Primary Voters

If the Republican primary for President were held today, for whom would you vote?

Candidate	GOP Primary Voters
Herman Cain	19%
Chris Christie	16%
Mitt Romney	11%
Barack Obama	42%
Other	14%

Posted on Jul 26, 2011 By Corry Schiermeyer

IBOPE Zogby GOP Presidential Poll: Bachmann Continues to Lead Announced Field; Perry's Entry Would Put Him on Top

Romney Lags in Preference, But Still Seen Most Likely to Win

UTICA, NY - Michele Bachmann continues to lead the field of announced Presidential candidates among Republican primary voters, but Rick Perry would be the top choice if he entered the race.

Mitt Romney trails both Bachmann and Herman Cain among announced candidates and falls even further back when Perry and Chris Christie are included. However, he continues to be seen by GOP voters as most likely to be the nominee.

These results are from an IBOPE Zogby interactive poll conducted from July 22-25.

Announced GOP Candidates Only (GOP primary voters)

If the Republican primary for President were held today, for whom would you vote?

Candidate	July 25	July 11	June 30	June 21
Michele Bachmann	25%	28%	34%	24%
Herman Cain	18%	16%	15%	15%
Mitt Romney	17%	15%	14%	15%
Ron Paul	11%	13%	11%	13%
Tim Pawlenty	7%	4%	4%	6%
Rick Santorum	5%	3%	7%	5%
Jon Huntsman, Jr.	3%	4%	4%	2%
Newt Gingrich	1%	4%	2%	2%
Gary Johnson	<1%	1%	<1%	2%
Fred Karger	1%	<1%	0%	0%
Charles "Buddy" Roemer	<1%	-	-	-
Not sure	9%	10%	8%	13%
Other	3%	4%	1%	4%

Totals may not add up to 100% due to rounding

Announced GOP Candidates Plus Christie, Perry & Palin (GOP primary voters)

If the Republican primary for President were held today, for whom would you vote?

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Candidate	July 25	July 11	June 30
Rick Perry	21%	21%	18%
Chris Christie	14%	12%	17%
Michele Bachmann	13%	15%	15%
Herman Cain	13%	10%	8%
Ron Paul	9%	10%	10%
Mitt Romney	9%	8%	8%
Sarah Palin	4%	5%	9%
Jon Huntsman, Jr.	3%	4%	3%
Rick Santorum	2%	1%	3%
Tim Pawlenty	2%	1%	1%
Newt Gingrich	1%	2%	1%
Gary Johnson	<1%	1%	<1%
Fred Karger	1%	0%	0%
Charles "Daddy" Roemer	0%	—	—
Other	2%	1%	<1%
Not sure	7%	8%	6%

Totals may not add up to 100% due to rounding

We also asked Republican primary voters whom they would never vote for and whom they believe would win the GOP nomination.

Which of the following candidates would you never vote for? (May choose more than one.)
(GOP primary voters)

12044313609

FOX NEWS POLL

Anderson Robbins Research (D) / Shaw & Company Research (R)
N= 911 registered voters (709 landline, 202 cell phone)

Interviews Conducted:
April 25-27, 2011

For Release 6PM ET Thursday, April 28, 2011

Methodology

The Fox News Poll is conducted under the joint direction of Anderson Robbins Research (D) and Shaw & Company Research (R). The poll is based on live telephone interviews with a national sample of 911 registered voters, and was conducted April 25-27, 2011 in the evenings.

Landline and cell phone telephone numbers were randomly selected for inclusion in the survey using a probability proportionate to size method, which means that phone numbers for each state are proportional to the number of voters in each state.

Results based on the full sample have a margin of error of $\pm 3\%$.

Results among subgroups have larger sampling errors, including: Democrats ($n = 411$) $\pm 5\%$; Republicans ($n = 322$) $\pm 6\%$; Independents ($n = 159$) $\pm 8\%$.

LV = likely voters

Results from Fox News polls before February 2011 were conducted by Opinion Dynamics Corp.

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Questions 1-2 released separately

I'm going to read you the names of several groups and individuals. Please tell me whether you have a generally favorable or unfavorable opinion of each. If you've never heard of one, please just say so. (RANDOMIZE LIST)

3. Barack Obama

	<u>Favorable</u>	<u>Unfavorable</u>	(Can't Say)	Never heard of
25-27 Apr 11	53%	44	3	-
18-19 Jan 11	56%	40	4	-
26-28 Oct 10 RV	47%	48	4	1
26-28 Oct 10 LV	44%	52	3	1
1-2 Sep 10	50%	46	4	-
29-30 Jun 10	52%	44	4	-
4-5 May 10	53%	42	4	-
6-7 Apr 10	50%	45	5	-
2-3 Feb 10	51%	43	5	-
17-18 Nov 09	54%	42	4	-
13-14 Oct 09	55%	41	4	-
21-22 Jul 09	62%	33	5	-
9-10 Jun 09	64%	30	6	-
22-23 Apr 09	68%	27	5	-
31 Mar-1 Apr 09	62%	32	6	-
17-18 Feb 09	68%	25	7	-
13-14 Jun 09	76%	15	9	-
9-10 Dec 08	68%	24	8	-
1-2 Nov 08 LV	59%	38	3	-
1-2 Nov 08 RV	57%	39	4	-
28-29 Oct 08 LV	56%	40	3	-
28-19 Oct 08 RV	56%	40	4	-
20-21 Oct 08 RV	60%	34	6	-
20-21 Oct 08 LV	60%	35	4	-
8-9 Oct 08	60%	34	7	-
22-23 Sep 08	57%	33	10	-
8-9 Sep 08	57%	36	7	-
19-20 Aug 08	59%	35	6	-
22-23 Jul 08	58%	33	8	-
17-18 Jun 08	58%	32	10	-
28-29 Apr 08	47%	42	11	-
19-20 Feb 08	54%	33	12	-
18-19 Dec 07	49%	33	15	3
13-14 Nov 07	50%	34	11	4
11-12 Sep 07	51%	25	16	8
26-23 Jun 09	46%	30	17	8

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17-18 Apr 07	47%	23	19	11
30-31 Jan 07	41%	20	20	18

6. Donald Trump

	<u>Favorable</u>	<u>Unfavorable</u>	(Can't Say)	Never heard of
25-27 Apr 11	33%	57	9	-
16-17 Jan 07	30%	53	16	1
1-2 Mar 05	39%	37	22	2

Questions 5- 28 released separately

29. I'm going to read a list of potential candidates for the 2012 Republican nomination. Please tell me which one you would like to see as the Republican presidential nominee.
(RANDOMIZE LIST)

	25-27 Apr 11 322 Republicans	3-5 April 11 344 Republicans	21-22 July 09 303 Republicans	12-13 May 09 274 Republicans
Mitt Romney	19%	14%	22%	18%
Mike Huckabee	17	15	21	20
Sarah Palin	9	12	17	13
Donald Trump	8	11	n/a	n/a
Newt Gingrich	7	7	9	14
Ron Paul	7	3	n/a	n/a
Herman Cain	4	2	n/a	n/a
Tim Pawlenty	3	4	1	n/a
Michele Bachmann	3	2	n/a	n/a
Rick Santorum	3	2	n/a	n/a
Mitch Daniels	2	3	n/a	n/a
Jon Huntsman	1	1	n/a	n/a
Gary Johnson	1	1	n/a	n/a
Fred Karger	1	n/a	n/a	n/a
Roy Moore	1	n/a	n/a	n/a
Buddy Roemer	-	n/a	n/a	n/a
Rudy Giuliani	n/a	9	13	12
Haley Barbour	n/a	1	n/a	n/a
(Chris Christie - vol.)	-	-	n/a	n/a
(Jeb Bush - vol.)	-	-	1	3
(Someone else)	1	1	1	3
(Too soon to say)	9	5	10	7
(Don't know)	4	8	2	4

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30. How proud are you to have Barack Obama as president?

	<u>Extremely</u>	<u>Very</u>	<u>Somewhat</u>	<u>Not at all</u>	<u>(Don't know)</u>
25-27 Apr 11	22%	19	24	33	1
17-18 Jun 08*	20%	17	28	28	7

*2008 Wording: How proud would you be ...

31. - 33. How proud would you be to have [NAME] as president? (RANDOMIZE LIST)

	<u>Extremely</u>	<u>Very</u>	<u>Somewhat</u>	<u>Not at all</u>	<u>(Don't know)</u>
Mike Huckabee	5%	13	29	38	15
Mitt Romney	4%	11	31	39	16
Donald Trump	3%	7	23	62	4

34. Regardless of whether you would vote for Donald Trump or not, do you like his straight talk and the message he sends to the world, or not?

Yes	47%
No	47
(Don't know)	6

35. Regardless of how you feel about whether Barack Obama was born in the United States, do you think he has been trying to hide something about his upbringing and his past before he got into politics, or not?

Yes, trying to hide something	33%
No, not trying to hide something	61
(Don't know)	6

12044313613

6/29: 2012, Obama, and the GOP

Posted By Marist Poll On June 29, 2011 @ 8:16 am In Featured, National, National Poll
Archives, Politics | 8 Comments

According to this McClatchy-Marist Poll, a plurality of registered voters nationally say they plan to vote against President Barack Obama in the 2012 presidential election. However, regardless of whom voters support, the national electorate divides about who they think will actually win. Is there a Republican candidate who can mount a formidable challenge to the president? In an evolving Republican field, former Massachusetts Governor Mitt Romney receives the backing of only 19% of Republican and Republican-leaning independent voters. And, three of the top four vote getters for the Republican nomination are still on the sidelines.



[1]

@istockphoto.com/pgangler

"All signs point to a competitive 2012 election cycle," says Dr. Lee M. Miringoff, Director of The Marist College Institute for Public Opinion. "But, which scenario ends up ruling the day is still anyone's guess."

[Click Here for Complete June 29, 2011 USA McClatchy-Marist Poll Release and Tables](#)
[2]

Second Term for Obama? 43% Plan to Vote Against President

Looking to 2012, 43% of registered voters nationwide report they plan to vote against President Obama in 2012. This compares with 36% who say they definitely plan to support him. A notable 21% are unsure. Little has changed on this question since McClatchy-Marist last reported it in April. [3]

At that time, 44% reported they planned to back someone else while 37% said they planned to vote for the president. 18%, at the time, were unsure.

Independents play a key role in Obama's re-election bid. 43% say they would vote against Mr. Obama in 2012 while 29% are securely in his corner. Nearly three in ten independent voters — 28% — are unsure. The president has failed to make inroads with these all-important voters. In McClatchy-Marist's previous survey, 47% of independents reported they would not support the president while 32% said they would cast their ballot for Mr. Obama. 21% were unsure.

While 70% of Democratic voters report they will unequivocally cast their ballot for the president and only 10% say they will vote against him, a notable one in five — 20% — are unsure. Not surprisingly, most Republicans — 85% — don't plan on supporting the president while just 4% say they will. One in ten — 10% — are unsure.

Regardless of whether registered voters plan to support the president or the Republican candidate in 2012, voters divide about who will win. 44% believe the president will be victorious while 42% say the Republican candidate will win. 15% are undecided.

Looking at party lines, 67% of Democrats think the president will retain the White House while 69% of Republicans believe their candidate will defeat him. Independents divide. 44% think the Republican challenger will be sworn into office while 42% say the president will achieve a second term.

Table: Definitely Vote For or Against President Obama in 2012 [4]

- 5% for former Minnesota Governor Tim Pawlenty
- 5% for Texas Congressman Ron Paul
- 5% for businessman Herman Cain
- 2% for former Georgia Congressman Newt Gingrich
- 2% for former U.S. Ambassador to China Jan Huntsman
- 1% for former Pennsylvania Senator Rick Santorum
- Less than 1% for Political Activist Fred Karger
- Less than 1% for former New Mexico Governor Gary Johnson
- 15% are undecided

Table: 2012 Republican Presidential Primary ^[15]

Previous Survey Results for the 2012 Republican Presidential Primary ^[16]

What Matters to GOP Voters?

When it comes to the quality that is most important to Republicans and Republican leaning independents, 38% want a candidate who shares their values. Nearly one in four — 24% — believe it's most important that the Republican candidate is closest to them on the issues. 20% say they want a candidate who has the experience to govern, and 15% say the most important quality in a Republican presidential candidate is that he or she can beat President Obama. Only 4% are unsure.

When it comes to Tea Party backing, 70% of Republicans and Republican leaning independents report that it makes no difference to their vote if a candidate is supported by the Tea Party movement. However, 20% say the Tea Party endorsement will make them more likely to vote for a candidate while 10% report it will make them less likely to vote for a specific candidate.

Table: Most Important Quality in a Republican Nominee ^[17]

Table: Importance of Candidate's Tea Party Backing ^[18]

McClatchy-Marist Poll Methodology ^[19]

Article printed from Home of the Marist Poll: Pebbles and Pundits: <http://maristpoll.marist.edu>

URL to article: <http://maristpoll.marist.edu/629-2012-obama-and-the-gop/>

URLs in this post:

[1] Image: <http://maristpoll.marist.edu/wp-content/uploads/2011/06/election-2012-button-290.jpg>

[2] Click Here for Complete June 29, 2011 USA McClatchy-Marist Poll Release and Tables: [http://maristpoll.marist.edu/wp-content/misc/usapolls/US110615/2012/Complete June 29, 2011 USA McClatchy-Marist Poll Release and Tables.pdf](http://maristpoll.marist.edu/wp-content/misc/usapolls/US110615/2012/Complete%20June%2029,%202011%20USA%20McClatchy-Marist%20Poll%20Release%20and%20Tables.pdf)

[3] Little has changed on this question since McClatchy-Marist last reported it in April.: <http://maristpoll.marist.edu/420-campaign-2012-obama%e2%80%99s-re-election-chances/>

[4] Table: Definitely Vote For or Against President Obama in 2012: [http://maristpoll.marist.edu/wp-content/misc/usapolls/US110615/2012/Definitely Vote For or Against President Obama in 2012.htm](http://maristpoll.marist.edu/wp-content/misc/usapolls/US110615/2012/Definitely%20Vote%20For%20or%20Against%20President%20Obama%20in%202012.htm)

[5] Table: Definitely Vote For or Against President Obama in 2012 Over Time: [http://maristpoll.marist.edu/wp-content/misc/usapolls/US110615/2012/Definitely Vote For or Against President Obama in 2012.pdf](http://maristpoll.marist.edu/wp-content/misc/usapolls/US110615/2012/Definitely%20Vote%20For%20or%20Against%20President%20Obama%20in%202012.pdf)

[6] Table: 2012 Presidential Prediction: [http://maristpoll.marist.edu/wp-content/misc/usapolls/US110615/2012/2012 Presidential Prediction.htm](http://maristpoll.marist.edu/wp-content/misc/usapolls/US110615/2012/2012%20Presidential%20Prediction.htm)

[7] Table: 2012 Hypothetical Presidential Tossup: Obama/Palin: [http://maristpoll.marist.edu/wp-content/misc/usapolls/US110615/2012/2012 Hypothetical Presidential Tossup_Obama_Palin.htm](http://maristpoll.marist.edu/wp-content/misc/usapolls/US110615/2012/2012%20Hypothetical%20Presidential%20Tossup%20Obama%20Palin.htm)

[8] Table: 2012 Hypothetical Presidential Tossup: Obama/Palin (Over Time):

eNation Methodology

An Overview

SAMPLE

Each week eNation completes five national online surveys. Each survey (wave of eNation) consists of a minimum of 1,000 completes with adults 18 years of age or older in the contiguous U.S.A. The sample consists of individuals selected from the online segment of Synovate's Consumer Opinion Panel, and is balanced to be representative of the general population based upon region, gender, age, and household income data from the U.S. Census Bureau. The selected individuals receive a customized e-mail inviting them to participate.

SURVEY

Panelists are given up to 3 days to complete the online survey by connecting to a link contained in the e-mail invitation. Individuals are re-screened at the beginning of the survey to ensure that quotas are accurate. The survey itself consists of non-competing client-specific questions and a shared set of standard demographic questions. eNation provides transitions between client segments to ensure smooth survey flow.

TABULATION

eNation survey results are tabulated by two standard demographic banners.

- A. GENDER, AGE, INCOME, MARITAL STATUS, CHILD IN HOUSEHOLD
- B. REGION, RACE, EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT STATUS, PRIMARY GROCERY SHOPPER, HOME OWNERSHIP

eNation's standard data tabulations are provided in a weighted format. The data are weighted to give appropriate representation on various demographic factors, including: age, income, the four national census regions, and gender. The Current Population Survey from the U.S. Census Bureau is used to determine the weighting targets for each demographic factor.

**FRED KARGER FOR PRESIDENT
REPUBLICAN CANDIDATE STUDY**

Total Sample 18+

[Prog: For Qu. 1 randomize answer list.]

1. If you are a registered Republican or Independent, which of the following candidates would you be most likely to support for the Republican nomination for President in 2012?
(Please select one.)

Businessman Fred Karger
Former Governor Tim Pawlenty
Former Senator Rick Santorum
Congresswoman Michele Bachman
Former Congressman Newt Gingrich
Businessman Herman Cain
Former Governor Mitt Romney
Congressman Ron Paul
Former Governor Jon Huntsman
Former Governor Gary Johnson
Congressman Thaddeus McCotter
Former Congressman and Governor Buddy Roemer
I am not a registered Republican/Independent [Anchor second to last]
None of these [Anchor]

Page 1
August 3, 2011 - August 5, 2011

END WORKER FOR PRESIDENT - Republican Candidates Study
(Excluded Republican/Independent)

Table 1
Question 1
If you are a registered Republican or Independent, which of the following candidates would you be most likely to support for the Republican nomination for President in 2012?

ANCHOR : NONE : INTERVIEW : WORKER : CFIELD IN

	Total	Male	Female	Pc-	18	20	25	30	35	40	45	50	Order \$25K	\$25K- \$50K	\$50K- \$75K	\$75K+	Mar- ried	Cohr	Yrs	No
	(N)	(M)	(F)	(%)	(M)	(F)	(M)	(F)	(M)	(F)	(M)	(F)	(M)	(F)	(M)	(F)	(M)	(F)	(Y)	(N)
Analyzed Weighted Respondents : Total Respondents	542	277	265	60*	98*	92*	103	90*	103*	108*	126	118	150	379	155	204	338			
Ronan Governor Mitt Romney	114	61	53	8	20	17	20	17	31	30th	11	33	24	47	85	29	41	73		
	21	22	20	14	23	16	20	19	30th		10	26J	20J	25J	23	19	20	22		
Congressman Ron Paul	56	31	25	11	14	8	7	7	8	8	13	7	13	20	29	27	24	32		
	10	11	10	18th	16h	9	7	8	8			9	11	10	6	17h	12	10		
Congresswoman Michele Bachman	56	29	27	5	3	5	11	13	18	Year	12	11	11	22	41	15	15	40		
	10	11	10	5	4	5	11h	10h	18h		11	9	9	12	11	10	8	12		
Bachmann Woman Cain	24	15	9	2	1	2	6	7	7	7	6	4	7	8	19	5	6	18		
	4	5	3	3	1	2	6h	7h	6h		5	3	6	4	5	4	3	5		
Ronan Congressman Mac Gunglach	24	18	6	-	3	3	6	6	5	5	5	6	6	4	22	2	5	18		
	4	6C	2	-	4	3	6d	6d	5	5	5	7h	2	6D	1	3	5			
Ronan Governor Tim Pawlenty	11	6	5	2	1	2	2	3	-	4	-	3	4	9	2	5	6	6		
	2	2	2	4L	1	2	2	4L	-	6k	-	2	2	2	1	2	2			
Ronan Governor Jon Hammond	10	5	5	1	2	1	2	2	2	2	-	1	1	4)	2	1	2	6		
	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2											
Ronan Senator Nick Simpson	10	6	3	-	2	4	1	1	2	2	-	3	2	5	9	1	6	4		
	2	2	1	-	2	5f	1	1	2			2	2	2	2	1	3	1		
Bachmann Fred Hagler	4	3	1	-	1	-	1	1	1	1	-	1	-	3	3	1	2	2		
	1	1	*	-	1	-	1	1	1			1	-	2	1	1	1	1		
Ronan Congressman and Governor Buddy Roemer	3	1	2	1	-	1	-	-	2	2	2	1	-	1	3	-	1	2		
	1	1	1	1	-	1	-	-	2	1	1	-	-	*	1	-	1	1		

Proportions/Means: Columns tested (5%, 10% risk level) - MC - DEFF/INT - J/K/L/M - N/O - P/Q
Overlap formulas used. * small base

Page 2
August 3, 2011 - August 5, 2011

IND VOTER FOR PRESIDENT - Republican Candidates Study
(Registered Republican/Independent)

Table 1
Question 1
If you are a registered Republican or Independent, which of the following candidates would you be most likely to support for the Republican nomination for President in 2012?

	AGE				INCOME				EDUCATION				SEX				CHILD IN HOME			
	18	25	35	45	55	Under \$25K	\$25K - \$35K	\$35K - \$45K	\$45K - \$75K	\$75K - \$100K	\$100K+	HS	HS	HS	HS	HS	HS	HS	HS	HS
Total	18	25	35	45	55	18	25	35	45	55	18	25	35	45	55	18	25	35	45	55
Male	18	25	35	45	55	18	25	35	45	55	18	25	35	45	55	18	25	35	45	55
Female	18	25	35	45	55	18	25	35	45	55	18	25	35	45	55	18	25	35	45	55
GA	18	25	35	45	55	18	25	35	45	55	18	25	35	45	55	18	25	35	45	55
Weighted	18	25	35	45	55	18	25	35	45	55	18	25	35	45	55	18	25	35	45	55
Rep/Ind	18	25	35	45	55	18	25	35	45	55	18	25	35	45	55	18	25	35	45	55
Dem/Lean Dem	18	25	35	45	55	18	25	35	45	55	18	25	35	45	55	18	25	35	45	55
Other	18	25	35	45	55	18	25	35	45	55	18	25	35	45	55	18	25	35	45	55
Don't Know	18	25	35	45	55	18	25	35	45	55	18	25	35	45	55	18	25	35	45	55
Weighted	18	25	35	45	55	18	25	35	45	55	18	25	35	45	55	18	25	35	45	55
Rep/Ind	18	25	35	45	55	18	25	35	45	55	18	25	35	45	55	18	25	35	45	55
Dem/Lean Dem	18	25	35	45	55	18	25	35	45	55	18	25	35	45	55	18	25	35	45	55
Other	18	25	35	45	55	18	25	35	45	55	18	25	35	45	55	18	25	35	45	55
Don't Know	18	25	35	45	55	18	25	35	45	55	18	25	35	45	55	18	25	35	45	55

Reported/Weighted Column Totals (N, % Risk Level) - RAC - DEM/REP/IND - JAN/JAN - 100 - 100
Overlap function used. * small base

FWO SURVEY FOR REELECTOR - Republican Candidates Study
(significant Republican/Independent)

Table 2
Question 1

If you are a registered Republican or Independent, which of the following candidates would you be most likely to support for the Republican nomination for President in 2012?

	REGION			SEX			EDUCATION			RELIGION			POL- ITY		
	North Mid-			West			High Sch.			Full Time			Rep.		
	West	Mid-	South	West	White	Black	High	Coll.	Post- Grad	Time	Rep.	Rel.	Rep.	Cons.	Can
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
542	50*	122	203	685	998	50**	129	288	88*	211	13*	40*	101*	131	303
Analysed Weighted Respondents : Total Respondents															
Former Governor Mitt Romney	114	23	30	33	101	17	17	77	21	44	8	8	39	22	88
Congressman Ron Paul	56	9	9	23	16	56	14	35	7	21	5	7	11	12	36
Congresswoman Michele Bachman	56	12	8	19	18	52	4	10	36	11	17	3	3	16	42
Businessman Herman Cain	24	2	9	10	3	23	5	13	6	10	2	1	7	4	15
Former Congressman Mark Clayton	24	2	6	11	4	88	7	16	1	10	2	2	5	4	14
Former Governor Tim Walcamp	11	2	1	4	3	9	2	3	5	4	1	1	2	3	7
Former Governor Jon Barricman	10	2	1	3	3	9	2	1	4	5	5	1	1	2	7
Former Senator Rick Santorum	10	4	2	2	1	10	2	6	1	7	1	1	2	2	10
Businessman Fred Hunter	4	1	1	1	1	3	1	2	1	2	1	1	1	1	2
Former Congressman and Governor Buddy Runes	3	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

Percentages/Means: Columns Total (54, 104, 144, 184) - 100% - 100% - 100% - 100%
Overlap formula used. * small base ** very small base (under 30) ineligible for sig testing

Gay Republican presidential candidate: I qualify for Ames debate; Fox News says no

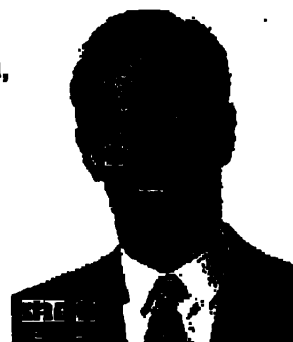
Fred Karger, a gay Republican who is running for president, notified Fox News this afternoon that he has met their threshold and should be included in an Ames debate next week.

Michael Clemente, vice president of news for the network, said Karger doesn't qualify.

Karger

The Fox News Debate is Aug. 11 in Ames. Karger, of California, says he now meets all the criteria as highlighted in his letter today:

1. Registered with the Federal Elections Commission as a presidential exploratory committee or presidential campaign.
2. Meet all U.S. Constitutional requirements.
3. Garnered at least an average of one percent in five national polls based on most recent polling leading up to the registration day.



Clemente said each of the polls cited by Karger are either online, interactive or out of date and do not qualify for the purpose of meeting the debate criteria.

The latest national poll Karger highlighted was conducted by Harris Interactive, earlier this week showing Karger has 2 percent of the support, tied with former Minnesota Gov. Tim Pawlenty and former Utah Gov. Jon Huntsman.

Karger has been shunned by some mainstream Republicans, particularly religious conservatives who disagree that same-sex couples should have the same marriage rights as opposite sex couples.

Karger has filed a complaint with the Federal Election Commission earlier this year, for example, after Republican National Committee member Steve Scheffler of West Des Moines wrote in an e-mail to Karger that "I will work overtime to help ensure that your political aspirations are aborted right here in Iowa."

Here's a copy of Karger's letter today to Fox news:

August 5, 2011

Rupert Murdoch, Chairman and CEO, News Corp
Michael Clemente, Senior VP of News, Fox News
Teri Everett, Senior VP of Communications and Press Contact, News Corp
Roger Ailes, President, Fox News Channel
Brian Lewis, Senior VP of Communications and Press Contact, Fox News
Matt Strawn, Chairman, Republican Party of Iowa
Jim Kurtenbach, Co-Chair, Republican Party of Iowa
Chad Olson, Executive Director, Republican Party of Iowa
Philip Anschutz, Owner, Washington Examiner
Michael Phelps, Publisher, Washington Examiner
Stephen Smith, Editor, Washington Examiner

Dear All:

I am a declared Republican candidate for President of the United States who meets all of the requirements to participate in the Fox News Debate on August 11, 2011 in Ames Iowa.

Your criteria states:

Candidates must satisfy the following by 4 p.m. CDT on Tuesday, August 9, 2011

1. Registered with the Federal Elections Commission as a presidential exploratory committee or presidential campaign.
2. Meet all U.S. Constitutional requirements.
3. Garnered at least an average of one percent in five national polls based on most recent polling leading up to the registration day.

Attached is a new national poll that came out yesterday. It was conducted by Harris Interactive, sample size 1,168 that was in the field between August 2 – 4, 2011. The Harris Poll tested all 12 major declared Republican candidates for President. I am at 2%, tied with former Governors Tim Pawlenty and Jon Huntsman. With this latest national poll, I now meet your objective criteria of averaging at least 1% in five national polls.

Harris Poll

Harris Interactive
Fielding Period: August 2-4, 2011

Weighted To The U.S. General Adult Population – Propensity

If you are a registered Republican or Independent, which of the following candidates would you be most likely to support for the Republican nomination for President in 2012?

Base: Registered Republican/Independent

Total

Mitt Romney	16%
Ron Paul	10%
Michele Bachmann	10%
Herman Cain	6%
Newt Gingrich	4%
Tim Pawlenty	2%
Fred Karger	2%
Jon Huntsman	2%
Rick Santorum	1%
Gary Johnson	1%
Thaddeus McCotter	1%
Buddy Roemer	1%
None of these	46%

Harris Interactive

Fielding Period: August 2-4, 2011

Weighted To The U.S. General Adult Population - Propensity

If you are a registered Republican or Independent, which of the following candidates would you be most likely to support for the Republican nomination for President in 2012?

Base: Registered Republican/Independent

	Region					Age				Marital Status		
	Total	HOUSE- RAISE	W-4- WEST	South	West	18-24	25-44	45-64	65+	Never Married	Married	Divorced
Midwest Total	1726	253	148	434	163	121	177	237	439	627	353	146
Former Governor Mitt Romney	182	72	38	52	27	44	31	31	62	121	13	13
	10%	12%	14%	14%	16%	12%	12%	14%	14%	13%	4%	1%
Congressman Ron Paul	123	18	22	43	27	44	34	26	21	26	23	17
	12%	7%	15%	10%	17%	12%	14%	11%	5%	12%	14%	10%
Congressman Michele Bachmann	116	24	13	42	28	12	22	22	70	10	9	12
	10%	10%	9%	10%	17%	4%	12%	9%	16%	1%	4%	8%
Radio Host Herman Cain	41	5	1	31	20	20	3	11	44	44	1	7
	4%	2%	1%	7%	12%	16%	2%	5%	10%	44%	1%	4%
First House Speaker Newt Gingrich	42	11	1	14	8	12	7	7	14	23	4	2
	4%	4%	1%	3%	5%	10%	4%	3%	7%	21%	1%	1%
Former Governor Tim Pawlenty	20	3	1	1	5	3	4	7	6	12	4	2
	2%	1%	1%	1%	3%	2%	2%	3%	1%	10%	1%	1%
Journalist Fred Karger	21	0	1	11	1	11	4	2	1	11	7	1
	2%	0%	1%	3%	1%	10%	1%	1%	1%	10%	1%	1%
Former Governor Jon Huntsman	21	0	0	1	0	0	2	1	1	0	0	1
	2%	0%	0%	1%	0%	0%	1%	1%	1%	0%	0%	1%

Former Senator Rick Santorum	16	4	8	2	3	7	2	1	1	12	5	1
	11	21	21	-	11	21	11	21	11	21	11	-
Former Governor Gary Johnson	12	1	1	1	2	7	1	1	1	6	6	-
	11	-	11	11	11	11	11	11	-	11	11	-
Conservative Theologian Rick Warren	1	-	1	1	-	-	1	-	1	7	1	-
	11	-	11	11	-	-	11	-	11	11	11	-
Former Governor Judd Gregg	1	-	1	1	1	6	1	-	1	4	2	-
	11	-	11	11	11	11	11	-	11	11	11	-
None of them	682	118	121	177	117	113	12	113	184	271	121	27
	44%	14%	43%	41%	43%	44%	44%	11%	43%	43%	15%	11%

Here is the breakdown of five polls with links, including your own Fox News poll, the first to include me:

2% in Harris Poll August 4th

1% in Zogby Poll July 25th

1% in Zogby Poll May 23rd

1% Fox News Poll April 28th

I look forward to participating in the August 11, 2011 debate in Ames, Iowa and await all details.

Thank you for hosting the Republican debates.

Best regards,

Fred Karger
www.fredkarger.com

Gay Republican presidential candidate: I qualify for Ames debate

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The Fox News Debate is Aug. 11 in Ames. Karger, of California, says he now meets all the criteria:

1. Registered with the Federal Elections Commission as a presidential exploratory committee or presidential campaign.
2. Meet all U.S. Constitutional requirements.
3. Garnered at least an average of one percent in five national polls based on most recent polling leading up to the registration day.

The latest national poll Karger highlighted was conducted by Harris Interactive, earlier this week showing Karger has 2 percent of the support, tied with former Minnesota Gov. Tim Pawlenty and former Utah Gov. Jon Huntsman.

Cheri Grzech, director of news and politics for Fox, referred questions about the matter to the network's media relations department. A call to Fox spokeswoman Dana Klinghoffer was not immediately returned.

Karger has been shunned by some mainstream Republicans, particularly religious conservatives who disagree that same-sex couples should have the same marriage rights as opposite sex couples.

Karger has filed a complaint with the Federal Election Commission earlier this year, for example, after Republican National Committee member Steve Scheffler of West Des Moines wrote in an e-mail that he would "work overtime to help ensure that your political aspirations are aborted right here in Iowa."

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Matt Strawn, Chairman, Republican Party of Iowa
Jim Kurtenbach, Co-Chair, Republican Party of Iowa
Chad Olsen, Executive Director, Republican Party of Iowa
Philip Anschutz, Owner, Washington Examiner
Michael Phelps, Publisher, Washington Examiner
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Attached is a new national poll that came out yesterday. It was conducted by Harris Interactive, sample size 1,168 that was in the field between August 2 - 4, 2011. The Harris Poll tested all 12 major declared Republican candidates for President. I am at

2%, tied with former Governors Tim Pawlenty and Jon Huntsman. With this latest national poll, I now meet your objective criteria of averaging at least 1% in five national polls.

Harris Poll

Harris Interactive

Fielding Period: August 2-4, 2011

Weighted To The U.S. General Adult Population – Propensity

If you are a registered Republican or Independent, which of the following candidates would you be most likely to support for the Republican nomination for President in 2012?

Base: Registered Republican/Independent

12044313627

12044313628



Here is the breakdown of five polls with links, including your own Fox News poll, the first to include me:

2% in Harris Poll August 4th

1% in Zogby Poll July 25th

1% in Zogby Poll May 23rd

1% Fox News Poll April 28th

Less than 1% in McClathy-Marist Poll June 29th

I look forward to participating in the August 11, 2011 debate in Ames, Iowa and await all details.

Thank you for hosting the Republican debates.

Best regards,

The SiriusXM OutQ News Blog

News from America's only radio station for the LGBT community.

Fox News Denies Fred Karger Qualifies for IA Debate

with 2 comments

Fox News says that openly-gay Republican presidential hopeful Fred Karger does NOT meet the requirements to participate in the cable news network's debate in Ames, Iowa.

Karger—a former GOP consultant ~~banned~~ 2012 contender—sent Fox News a letter early Friday saying that the 2-percent standing he received in a newly-released Harris Interactive poll means he qualifies for the August 11th event. Karger says he has now received an average of one percent in five national polls, which Fox News cites as a requirement to participate in its debate.

But in a statement to OutQ News, Fox News's Vice President of News Michael Clemente says that three of the polls Karger refers to are ONLINE surveys, which do NOT meet their criteria. The channel also rejected another poll in which Karger received less than one-percent, saying the threshold is exactly one-percent.

Karger notes ~~ironically~~ that the cable news network was the FIRST to include him in a national poll on April 28th. Fox says that particular poll, though, does not qualify him for the debate because it is "out of date."

But Karger tells OutQ News it "may come down to attorneys now" if Fox News continues to deny his participation.

KARGER: I contend they are creating these rules, making a subjective criteria as opposed to objective criteria, and the law is very specific on that.

Karger says the online polls—conducted by Zogby and Harris Interactive, respectively—are still professional surveys that ~~should be included~~.

Meanwhile, Karger says he's excited about his 2-percent standing in the latest Harris poll, which places him on-par with two considerably bigger names: Tim Pawlenty and Jon Huntsman.

ADVERTISEMENT

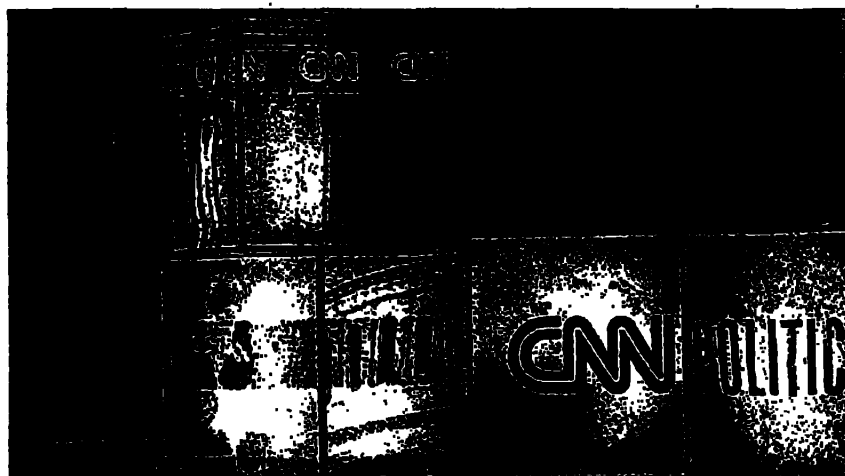
12044313629

CNN Politics

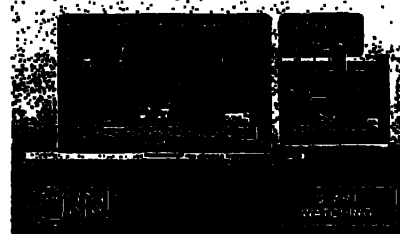
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Criteria for the New Hampshire Republican Presidential Debate

By: [CNN Political Unit](#)

Washington (CNN)—CNN, WMUR and the New Hampshire Union Leader created objective

criteria to determine who would participate in the New Hampshire Republican Presidential Debate. The debate partners determined that the definition of a candidate was a person who was taking substantive steps towards a presidential run and reached a minimum threshold in national or state polls. Participants had three different opportunities to be eligible to take part in the debate:

1. A candidate must have received an average of at least 2.00 % in at least three national polls released between April 1 and April 30 that were conducted by the following: ABC, AP, Bloomberg, CBS, CNN, FOX, Gallup, Los Angeles Times, Marist, McClatchy, NBC, Newsweek, Pew, Quinnipiac, Reuters, USA Today and Time.

2. A candidate must have received an average of at least 2.00 % in at least three national polls released between May 1 and May 31 that were conducted by the following: ABC, AP, Bloomberg, CBS, CNN, FOX, Gallup, Los Angeles Times, Marist, McClatchy, NBC, Newsweek, Pew, Quinnipiac, Reuters, USA Today and Time.

3. A candidate must have received an average of at least 2.00 % in polls of New Hampshire voters conducted by the University of New Hampshire Survey Center released between May 1 and May 31.

— On Monday, June 13, CNN will host the first New Hampshire Republican Presidential Debate, live from Manchester, NH at 8 p.m. ET. Follow all the issues and campaign news leading up to the debate on CNNPolitics.com and @cnnpolitics on Twitter.

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sumdoff (2 Responses)

1. Rudy NYC

What? No birth certificate?

June 3, 2011 08:29 am at 8:29 am |

2. Joe from CT, not Lieberman

2% huh? Sounds like they are setting the bar pretty low, even for Republicans! By the way, will they be asked for their Birth Certificates, too? Save some time if they do.



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May 24, 2011

Zogby Poll: Cain Takes Lead Over Romney

[Fire & Ice](#)

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AP

Herman Cain leads presumed frontrunner [Mitt Romney](#) as the top choice of Republican primary voters in the race for the 2012 Presidential nomination. Among all voters, no one in a list of 13 possible GOP candidates leads President [Barack Obama](#).

More critically for Obama, however, is the fact that less than half of voters (42 percent) say Obama deserves re-election.

[Read the full story at newsmag.com](#)

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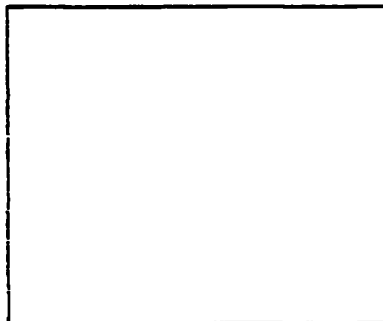
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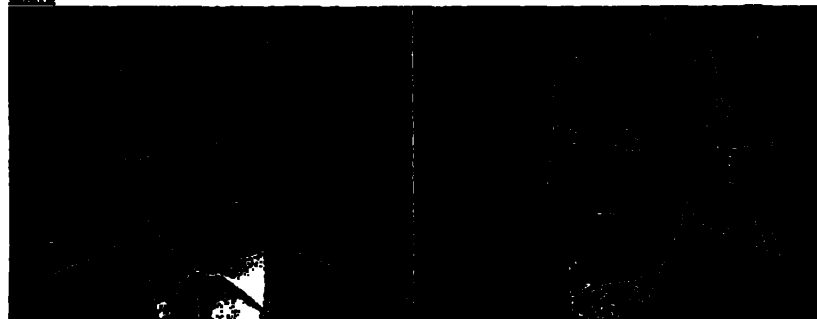
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FNC/AP

By Jim Meyers, Newsmax

Mitt Romney, the supposed front-runner for the Republican presidential nomination, would be trounced in a head-to-head race against either of two yet unannounced GOP candidates, Rick Perry and Chris Christie, a new IBOPE Zogby/Newsmax poll reveals.

In the survey of nearly 1,000 likely Republican primary voters, New Jersey Gov. Christie gets a resounding 62 percent of the vote to Romney's 19 percent, with the remaining 19 percent not sure.

Texas Gov. Perry gets 55 percent of the vote when matched against former Massachusetts Gov. Romney, who receives 22 percent, with 23 percent not sure.

[Read the full story at newsmax.com](#)

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Pic of the Day

Obama Treats Himself



U.S. President Barack Obama eats an ice cream at DeWitt Dairy Treats in DeWitt, Iowa, August 16, 2011. Obama is on a Midwest bus trip through Minnesota, Iowa and Illinois. (REUTERS/Jason Reed)

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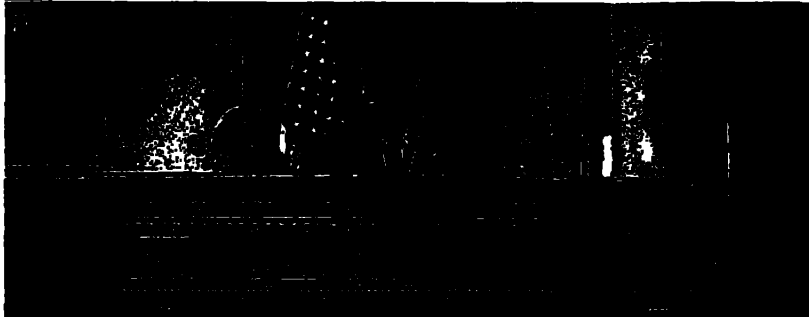
Poll: Christie beats Obama

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AP

UTICA, NY — New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie has a four-point lead in a hypothetical presidential race against Barack Obama, while [Mitt Romney](#). Tim Pawlenty, Ron Paul, Herman Cain, Rick Perry and Chris Christie, Barack Obama, IBOPE Zogby Michele Bachmann are in statistical ties with Obama, a new IBOPE Zogby survey finds.

The percentage of all voters who believe Obama deserves re-election continues to slide, and is now 36 percent, yet his job approval rating remains at 42 percent.

In the Republican race for the presidential nomination, Bachmann continues to lead among announced candidates; but in an expanded field that includes Rick Perry, Christie and [Sarah Palin](#), Perry wants to the lead.

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Politics

March 29, 2011

Poll: Christie Crushing GOP Pack

Fire it up

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AP

By David A. Patten

An exclusive Newsmax/IBOPE Zogby International poll shows New Jersey Gov. [Chris Christie](#) so dominates the GOP field for 2012 that he garners more than twice as many votes as his nearest Republican competitor.

The new poll reflects growing momentum for Christie, despite his repeated insistence that he's not ready to be president and has no intention of running.

Christie's strong showing is likely to further encourage those Republicans who are actively engaged in mustering support for a campaign to draft him to run. Supporters launched a [DraftChristie2012](#) website last October.

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The Newsmax/IBOPE Zogby survey shows Christie to be the choice of 23.6 percent of likely GOP primary voters. That dwarfs the 10.3 percent for second-place finisher Sarah Palin.

"Conservative voters like Chris Christie," pollster John Zogby tells Newsmax, "because he offers an actual governing model that's consistent with his and their philosophy."

[Read the full story at newsmax.com](#)

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U.S. President Barack Obama eats an ice cream at DeWitt Dairy Treats in DeWitt, Iowa, August 16, 2011. Obama is on a Midwest bus trip through Minnesota, Iowa and Illinois. (REUTERS/Jason Reed)

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Poll: Obama More Popular Than Jesus, Gandhi and Martin Luther King Jr.

Published February 21, 2009 | FOXNews.com

John Lennon once claimed the Beatles were more popular than Jesus. Now President Obama has evidence that he's more popular than both.

Obama topped a new Harris Interactive poll that asked 2,684 Americans who they admire enough to call a hero.

Jesus came in second on a list that includes God, Mahatma Gandhi and George Washington.

Other historic or notable figures making the top 10 were Martin Luther King Jr., Ronald Reagan, George W. Bush, Abraham Lincoln, John McCain, John F. Kennedy, U.S. Airways pilot Chesley Sullenberger and Mother Teresa.

Participants ranked the heroes randomly instead of being shown or read a list of people to choose from. The poll was conducted online between January 12 and 19, 2009.

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At the 16th spot in the poll, George Washington, Bill Clinton and Colin Powell tied.

Other politicians who made the poll's top 25 include Hillary Clinton (12), FDR (13), Condoleezza Rice (12) and Sarah Palin (21).

God ranked 11th, between Mother Teresa and Hillary Clinton.

Of the multiple reasons participants gave to explain their choices of heroes, the ones most cited were, "Doing what's right regardless of personal consequences" with 89 percent, "Not giving up until the goal is accomplished" with 83 percent and "Doing more than what other people expect of them," with 82 percent. Also popular were "Overcoming adversity" and "Staying level-headed in a crisis."

In the first Harris Poll asking this question in 2001, Jesus came in first, followed by the Rev. King, Powell, John F. Kennedy and Mother Teresa.

Obama joked last year at a roast that contrary to rumors, he was not born in a manger but on the planet Krypton. Apparently, Obama is even more popular than Superman, who didn't make the cut.

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Gays More Frequent Blog Readers, Social Networkers

Published July 13, 2010 | NewsCore

Gays and lesbians are more frequent blog readers than their heterosexual counterparts and are more likely to be members of a social network, according to a survey released on Tuesday.

Of the gay and lesbian respondents in the Harris Interactive survey, 54 percent said they read blogs, compared with 40 percent of heterosexuals.

The nationwide Harris Interactive survey involved 2,412 US adults, 271 of whom identified themselves as gay or lesbian, and was conducted in mid-June.

Thirty-six percent of the gays and lesbians polled said they read news and current affairs blogs compared to 23 percent of heterosexual adults.

A bigger percent of gays and lesbians also read entertainment and pop culture blogs, with 25 percent saying they are regular followers, compared with 16 percent of heterosexuals. Likewise, 22 percent said they read political blogs compared to just 14 percent of heterosexuals.

Travel blogs were also more popular among gays and lesbians, with 16 percent saying they read them compared to eight percent of heterosexuals.

Gays and lesbians are also more likely than their heterosexual counterparts to participate in social networking. While 65 percent of heterosexuals are on Facebook, 73 percent of gays and lesbians are members of the site. Only 22 percent of heterosexuals belong to MySpace, but 32 percent of gays and lesbians surveyed are members.

Gays and lesbians also belonged to professional social networking site LinkedIn in greater numbers than their heterosexual counterparts -- 22 percent to 16 percent.

Twenty-nine percent of gays and lesbians said they used micro-blogging service Twitter compared to 18 percent of heterosexuals.

Gays and lesbians are also more frequent visitors with 51 percent saying they visit social networking sites at least once a day compared to 41 percent of heterosexuals.

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Can You Hear Me Now? Dates vs. Cell Phones

Tuesday, November 01, 2005

By Jesse Lanier

FOX NEWS

The scene: some enchanted evening, seated across the table from your sweetie. Just like in many a starry cliché about love, you hear bells. Loud bells. Really loud bells.

"Excuse me, I need to take this call."

Ah, it's his cell phone. Or hers.

More and more, wireless devices like cell phones, BlackBerries (search) and other PDAs are intruding upon dates and social outings. A recent survey by the California-based dating service It's Just Lunch showed that cell phone use during a first date is not only a rampant problem, it's also a huge turnoff.

"I think with technology changing a lot of things, it is kind of interesting to see how technology has played into friendship and relationships ... that's why we took the survey," Alana Beyer, vice president of It's Just Lunch, told FOXNews.com.

According to Beyer, 48 percent of all singles say use of wireless technology is their biggest pet peeve on a date.

And people tend to be quite opinionated on this issue.

"There are very few circumstances under which I think it's acceptable to answer a phone when you're out with a friend, and if someone answered their cell phone on a date with me, they would have to be incredibly wonderful otherwise for me to date them again," said New York City single Dahlia Adler.

Kristin Hambel, 21, wouldn't even sit out the meal.

"I think it's rude when someone near me is speaking loudly on a cell phone or even if it's ringing in a restaurant. And on a date? I would get up and leave!" she said.

And singles aren't the only ones who are upset.

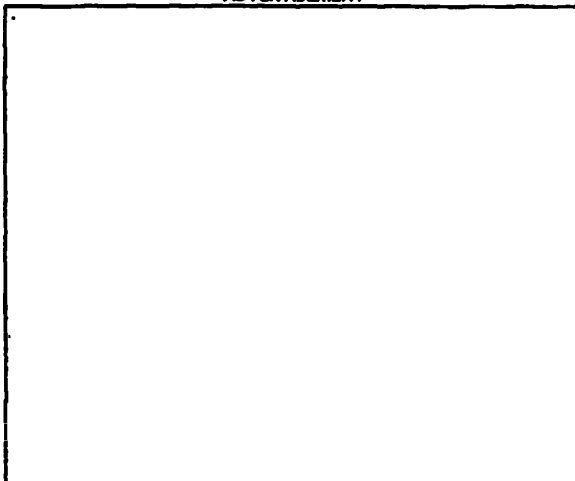
"I am always embarrassed when we are at a nice dinner and my husband answers his cell phone or checks his BlackBerry," 47-year-old Judith Chant of Athens, Ga., said with a sigh. "We've been married for 25 years, so what's really annoying is when our whole family goes out for a nice 'family time' dinner, which is getting harder and harder to do. He always seems to need to answer 'that one.' He's always 'been waiting all day' for it."

A recent poll by market research company Synovate found that 70 percent of 1,000 respondents witnessed impolite technology use in others at least daily. About the same percentage saw the worst etiquette in cell phone users over other gadgets.

Etiquette experts have also noticed the trend.

"So you're at dinner on a date, the phone rings — the other person answers — and proceeds to have the entire conversation, munching his or her meal at the same time, and leaving the other person basically eating dinner

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alone! For that, we can order take-out and watch 'Desperate Housewives,'" fumed Pauline Winick, co-founder of etiquette consulting company The Protocol Centre ([search](#)) in Miami.

The intersection of wireless use and social outings is not just fodder for etiquette sticklers. Dating advice columnists like April Masini of [AskApril.com](#) also find romance-dining challenges.

"Technology is a tool just like a salad fork," she said. "Each new piece of technology should be considered the same way a salad fork should when it comes to using it properly and with grace and elegance."

For most people, using technology with "grace" and "elegance" means absolutely no use of wireless devices during a date.

But as soon as the rule is set, exceptions inevitably follow.

"There are always circumstances where you need to pick up a call, like when my parents call. They don't call me very often, so when they do I know that it's important," New York University student Paul Hammer said. "Or sometimes, you're waiting for someone's call if you have plans later in the night. I really do think it's rude, though, to pick up your phone when you are out with other people," he added.

On a date, many professionals find themselves not only fielding communication from friends, but also from business associates and clients.

Liz Scofield, who teaches computer courses at Lehigh University, said jam-packed schedules are making people addicted to efficiency.

"We are really busy and don't really have time for social situations. We are really good at multitasking. We want to give attention to the person we are with but also to the future. There is a certain aspect of feeling really popular, that you are wanted all the time," she said.

The idea of being wirelessly tethered is an oxymoron, but it's increasingly true for many.

Hammer, ~~experts~~ don't think wireless use is completely handicapping romance — just adding an additional challenge.

"I don't think technology is killing romance. I think it has changed it a little bit. Dating is simple — it is personal interaction. When you start letting technology take over, it takes out that personal interaction. People still want the personal interaction," Beyer theorized.

Scofield agreed that it's the lack of attention that's the insulting part.

"A wireless device does offend the person you're with. At the end of the day, etiquette is about making people feel ~~comfortable~~, welcomed and cherished. If you cast that person aside, you are sending a message that the physical presence is less important than the technological presence."

And while BlackBerries and cell phones make it easier to stay in touch with romantic partners at all times, sometimes it's about quality over quantity.

"Technology can enhance your dating life by giving you new ways to communicate, but you don't want that to run your dating life," Beyer said.

Still not convinced? Here's another reason to pay attention to your dinner date: BlackBerry 'l hunts.

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Americans Prefer Sony, Apple Brands; Microsoft's Appeal Wanes

Thursday, July 20, 2006

By Ewul Plume-Louis

PC PCMag.com

For the seventh year in a row, Sony (SNE) has topped the list in Harris Interactive's annual survey of best brands, the polling agency said July 12.

Dell (DELL) held onto its No. 2 spot from last year, while Apple (APL) broke onto the list for the first time.

Meanwhile, Apple's rise to the tenth position booted out Microsoft (MSFT), specifically the tenth-place position Microsoft shared with Hewlett-Packard (HPQ) last year. Consumers ranked HP's brand seventh out of all surveyed.

The rankings came from the results of a Harris Poll of 2,361 U.S. adults surveyed online between June 7 and June 13, 2006.

Electronics products constituted four of the top 10 brands, with automobiles holding three spots, and consumer and packaged goods grabbing the remaining three. Consumers were asked which three brands they preferred the most, without being prompted by names of specific brands.

Interestingly, Sony maintained its brand image in the wake of several scandals that cast the company in a negative light, especially Sony Music Entertainment's use of digital-rights-management software in November 2005, an action that prompted a consumer suit, Amazon.com (AMZN) minutes for Sony DRM-enabled CDs, and several antivirus companies to target the Sony DRM as malware, dubbing it a rootkit.

Although the software was provided by U.K. vendor First 4 Internet, consumers appeared to pin the negative experience squarely on Sony.

With scrutiny and legal pressures mounting, Sony recalled all unsold CDs and discontinued their use of copy protection software. Sony also offered to exchange consumers' CDs with CDs lacking DRM software.

Sony has also yet to ship its PlayStation 3 game console, and most of the news surrounding the console involves its price, which apparently will be the highest of the three consoles.

Part of the reason for the delay may be the console's use of the next-generation Blu-ray technology, which is locked in a dogfight with the competing HD DVD standard.

Despite the bad press, Sony remained Harris Poll's top brand. According to the NPD Group, which tracks retail sales in the U.S., the copy protection scandal put a dent in Sony's reputation, but not enough for consumers to forget Sony's history of quality products.

"These issues were only recognized by a small segment of the population," said Floss Rabin, director of technology industry analysis for NPD. "Even with the scandal, Sony's quality innovations still resonated with most consumers who can't spell DRM."

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Apple, meanwhile, found its way into the top ten brands for just the first time in 12 years. Apple's popularity spiked in recent years thanks to increased visibility of Apple products and its top-selling MP3 player, the iPod.

"Apple's expanding stores and the continued success of the iPod led to a great growth in brand recognition," Rubin said.

Microsoft did not make the top ten this year mainly due to a decrease in marketing and brand visibility, Rubin said.

"They marketed the Xbox which most people don't attribute to the Microsoft brand," Rubin said. Most people know of the Xbox, but don't readily associate it with Microsoft, he said.

However, Rubin said he believed that will likely change, given Microsoft's marketing clout that will back up the launch of the company's Windows Vista operating system.

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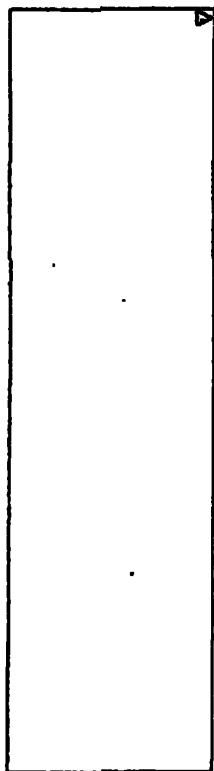
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Pennsylvania	62%	██████
Nevada	59%	██████
Florida	59%	██████
Utah	49%	██████
Washington	48%	██████
Ohio	42%	██████
Missouri	39%	██████
Kentucky	38%	██████
California	29%	██████
Wisconsin	28%	██████
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- 07/04 - 07/11 (9)
- 06/27 - 07/04 (21)
- 06/20 - 06/27 (18)
- 06/13 - 06/20 (15)
- ▼ 06/06 - 06/13 (20)

What Happens When Democrats are "Fighting Wall Str..."

Yes, Virginia (and Kansas and Missouri) - but not ...

SC Democratic Primary Getting Warmer By The Hour

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World Cup Simulated Odds

A Liberal Coalition, But With Whom?

Arkansas Was Tough Target for Unions, Netroots

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Two Raids, Two Dakotas and a Quiet Montana

Pollster Scorecard: SurveyUSA

Pollster Ratings v4.0: Results

Pollster Ratings v4.0: Methodology

6.06.2010

Pollster Ratings v4.0: Results

by Nate Silver @ 6:13 PM

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For a complete methodological discussion, see [here](#). I'm just going to reiterate just a few very high-level bullet points.

— These ratings pertain to just one particular type of poll: those for which the field work was conducted within the 21 days preceding a public election, which surveyed people about their voting intention in that election, and which was released into the public domain in advance of the election.**

— These ratings reflect polling for President (general and primary elections), U.S. Senate, U.S. House, and gubernatorial races since 1998. More recent cycles are weighted more heavily. This is a truly massive amount of data: roughly 4,700 polls.

— The variable called ~~rawscore~~ is the most direct measure of a pollster's track record. However, it is much inferior to PIE — or Pollster-Introduced Error — for evaluating the effectiveness of different pollsters on a going-forward basis. Because polling involves a great deal of luck in the near-term, rawscores must be substantially regressed toward the mean. However, different types of pollsters are regressed to different means. In particular, pollsters that have made a commitment to transparency and disclosure have been shown to have superior results over the long-run. The way we measure this is whether the pollster was a member of either the NCPP or the AAPOR Transparency Initiative as of 6/1/10.

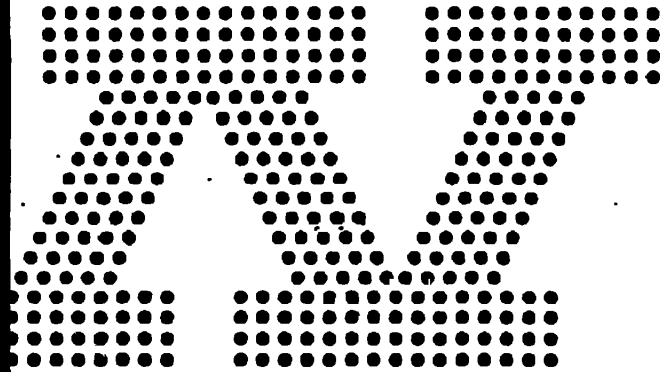
— PIE is expressed as a positive number and reflects the amount of error that a pollster introduces above and beyond that which is unavoidable due to things like sampling variance. The lower a firm's PIE the better.

The list below provides ratings for all firms with a minimum of 10 polls. A complete list of ratings (including for firms with fewer than 10 polls) follows it below the fold.

Ratings for firms with at least 10 polls

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Pollster	PIE	n	rawscore
★ First Poll	+1.05	19	-0.81
★ ABC / Washington Post	+1.12	40	-1.50
★ SurveyUSA	+1.19	634	-0.84
★ Cnn/	+1.20	14	-1.82
★ U. Cincinnati / Ohio Poll	+1.25	22	-1.39
★ Selzer & Co.	+1.31	27	-1.12
★ NBC / Wall Street Journal	+1.53	11	-0.34
★ AP-Gfk	+1.56	16	-0.27
★ Mason-Dixon	+1.57	346	-0.51
★ Pew Research	+1.60	18	-8.06
★ Gallup	+1.66	74	-0.19
★ Market Shares	+1.68	20	+0.07
★ Public Policy Polling	+1.69	197	-0.66
★ Blum & Weprin	+1.70	14	-2.82
★ Rasmussen Reports	+1.74	400	-0.32
★ RT Strategies	+1.75	42	+0.14
★ Fairleigh Dickinson	+1.75	13	+0.67
★ Rutgers	+1.76	10	+0.88
★ Marist	+1.77	06	+0.17
★ Siena	+1.77	11	+0.88
● Strategic Vision	+1.83	120	-0.38
● Tarrance	+1.87	11	-1.69
★ Louisville Courier-Journal	+1.89	10	-1.68
★ CNN / Opinion Research	+1.94	38	-0.59
★ CBS / New York Times	+1.94	44	+0.61
★ U. Massachusetts	+1.99	10	-1.18
★ KRC Communications Research	+1.99	22	-0.69
★ U. New Hampshire	+2.03	53	+0.71
★ National Journal	+2.03	12	-0.84
★ Franklin & Marshall	+2.04	12	-0.81
★ Richard Day Research	+2.05	11	-0.81
★ Elway	+2.05	10	-0.85
★ RKM Research	+2.08	21	-0.41
★ Albuquerque Journal	+2.08	17	-0.46
★ Los Angeles Times	+2.08	39	-0.21
● Global Strategy Group	+2.08	12	-0.59
★ Hotline / Diageo	+2.09	15	-0.49
★ Mitchell	+2.12	21	-0.28
★ YouGov / Economist / Polimetrix	+2.12	132	-0.29
★ EPIC / MRA	+2.14	24	-0.16
★ IBO / TIPP	+2.14	14	-0.27
● Garth Hart Yang	+2.15	12	-0.28
★ Gannett / Monmouth	+2.17	17	-0.10
★ Newsweek	+2.19	16	-0.04
★ Harris Interactive	+2.20	126	+0.16
★ Quinnipiac	+2.22	95	+0.18
★ FOX / Opinion Dynamics	+2.22	32	+0.15
★ Detroit Tribune / News Pollster	+2.26	17	+0.28
★ Star Tribune	+2.26	17	+0.28
★ Suffolk	+2.28	40	+0.32
★ Multienberg	+2.32	15	+0.50
★ Battleground	+2.36	25	+0.58
★ Zogby (telephone)	+2.39	395	+0.40
★ GQR / Democracy Corps	+2.41	36	+0.69
★ Dan Jones	+2.42	13	+1.01
★ Franklin Pierce	+2.43	17	+0.96
★ Big Ten	+2.46	10	+1.31
★ Columbus Dispatch	+2.59	13	+1.78



The Record of Internet-Based Opinion Polls in Predicting the Results of 72 Races in the November 2000 US Elections

George Terhanian, Jonathan W. Siegal, Cary Overmeyer, John Bremer and Humphrey Taylor

International Journal of Market Research

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Title: The Record of Internet-Based Opinion Polls in Predicting the Results of 72 Races in the November 2000 US Elections
Author(s): George Terhanian, Jonathan W. Siegal, Cary Overmeyer, John Bremer and Humphrey Taylor
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The Record Of InternetBased Opinion Polls In Predicting The Results of 72 Races In The November 2000 US Elections

Humphrey Taylor,
John Bremer,
Cary Overmeyer,
Jonathan W. Siegal
and
George Terhanian
Harris Interactive

Introduction

Last winter, the International Journal of Market Research published a paper 'Does internet research work?' (Taylor 2000) which described the work that Harris Interactive was doing to develop internetbased opinion polls in the United States. It described the early stages of the development and the use of demographic and propensity score weighting to correct for biases in raw data collected from samples drawn from the millions of people who had opted in to the 'Harris Poll Online Panel', had agreed to be interviewed on the web and had voluntarily provided our firm with their email addresses.

The November 2000 US elections provided us with a unique opportunity to test the accuracy of our online survey methods and, specifically, our ability to predict elections. In total, our online research in these elections covered 72¹ different races as follows:

- The nationwide vote for president
- The statewide votes for president in 38 states
- The statewide votes for senator in 26 states
- The statewide votes for governor in seven states

We did not cover all 50 states because we were not confident that we could develop adequate online samples in 12 smaller states. Specifically, we felt that some significant subpopulations, such as rural blacks in Mississippi, Alabama, Arkansas and South Carolina, were not adequately represented in our database in these states.

The results

The accuracy of our online polling efforts in these 72 races exceeded our most optimistic expectations.

- In the national vote for president, only two polls correctly showed that the two candidates tied (the final results were 48%.

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for both Bush and Gore) the Harris Interactive online poll and the Harris Interactive telephone poll. However, it is worth noting that almost all the polls did very well in this election.

- Our predictions for the presidential election votes in 38 states were also remarkably accurate. The Research Business Report (2000) has published a detailed comparison of our results with the averages for all the telephone polls in these states, which concluded: 'Harris was off an average 1.8 points for Gore and 2.5 for Bush predictions. Phone polling was off 3.9 on the average (Gore percentage and 4.4 for Bush' and 'According to (our) R&B estimates, Harris Interactive's average predicted Bush percentage and average predicted Gore percentage were twice as accurate as its general telephone polling competition.'
- Our predictions for the 26 Senate races were also quite accurate. We made only one incorrect forecast and our average error was 2.2% for the two main candidates.
- Our predictions for the seven governors' elections were even more accurate. Our average error was 1.9% on the two main candidates.

If we had conducted only the one online poll on the national vote for the presidential election, it would have been easy to believe that our success was just luck. Indeed, when so many national polls are as close to the final result as they were in these elections, our having the candidates tied, and being 'the best poll' was surely luck in part. But when we have 72 different elections to compare, it is obvious that our accuracy cannot be explained by luck or statistical accident. We believe we have clearly demonstrated that internet polls can be designed and executed to measure voting intentions with great accuracy.

A brief summary of our methodology

The key elements of the methods used in our final online election surveys to predict the national vote and the results of 71 elections in 38 states were:

- The development and building of a large national online panel of willing respondents.
- The testing and development of a sampling and weighting approach (to adjust for the different likelihood, or propensity, of different respondents to be in our online or telephone samples), throughout 1999 and 2000.
- The conducting of two smaller, but similar, surveys in September and October, as 'trial runs' for the main event.
- Interactive online interviews conducted between 31 October and 6 November with a total of 240,666 adults who were, based on the answers, categorised as 'likely voters'.
- The weighting of the data in the 39 samples (the national sample and the 38 state samples) using both demographic weights and a propensity score reflecting the probability of respondents being online.

The demographic weights were virtually identical to those used in our nationwide Harris Interactive telephone poll (which was the only other poll to have Bush and Gore tied in its final prediction). They included sex, age, education, and race/ethnicity.

The propensity score was developed based on questions measuring behaviour and attitudes which, as our proprietary research among parallel online and telephone surveys had taught us, were substantially different in samples drawn from our online database, even after demographic weighting.

As to which questions to use to develop propensity scores, we do not believe we have discovered the holy grail. We will continue to test and develop new or better questions to be used in propensity score weighting to reduce the biases in our online samples, not just for political surveys but for marketing, social and other research. In these election surveys we used questions which measured alienation, membership, participation and involvement, which were selected on a strictly empirical basis from hundreds of questions which we tested. Comparing our online and telephone surveys we found that weighting by propensity scores using these questions did the most to reduce biases efficiently.

An earlier paper (Taylor 2000) about the use of propensity score weighting described the use of questions measuring health status, political party identification and the number of telephone lines as effective in reducing the biases in our online surveys. The parallel testing in telephone and online samples of many possible questions needed us to change the questions previously used for propensity score weighting.

It would not have been possible to produce accurate predictions for these elections without using both the demographic weights and the propensity score measure.

The impact of both demographic and propensity score weighting

The tables in this section show the national presidential election vote and the three different kinds of state elections, with the impact of both demographic and propensity score weighting on reducing the errors in our forecasts.

For the nationwide presidential vote, the raw, unweighted data produced an error on the Bush lead of 9%. This was reduced to 4% by demographic weighting and disappeared when the propensity weights were added (Table 1).

table 1: the nationwide presidential election vote

	Raw, unweighted (%)	Harris data Demographically weighted (%)	Propensity score weighted* (%)	Result (%)
George W. Bush	51	49	47	48
Al Gore	42	45	47	48
Ralph Nader	4	4	4	3
Pat Buchanan	1	1	1	0
Other candidates	2	1	1	1
Lead (spread)	9	4	0	0
Error on lead	9	4	0	NA
Average error on two main candidates	4.5	2.0	1	NA

Note: All numbers rounded to the nearest percentage point

*Includes both demographic and propensity score weighting

For the presidential vote in 38 states, for which we produced 38 separate forecasts, the raw, unweighted data produced an average error on the lead of 7.1%, which was reduced to 4.0% by demographic weighting and to 3.4% by propensity score weighting (Table 2).

table 2: the impact of weighting on 38 states on the error on the gap between Bush and Gore

State	Result (gap between Bush and Gore).	Raw, unweighted		Demographic (all weighted)		Propensity score rated*	
		Gap	Absolute error	Gap	Absolute error	Gap	Absolute error
Alaska	31	29	2	27	4	23	8
Arizona	6	9	3	6	0	12	6
California	12	2	10	6	6	6	6
Colorado	8	10	2	8	0	5	3
Connecticut	16	9	9	7	11	11	7
Florida	0	6	6	1	1	3	8
Georgia	12	27	15	11	1	8	4
Hawaii	18	0	18	2	16	15	3
Idaho	40	34	6	40	0	38	2
Illinois	12	1	11	6	6	6	6
Indiana	16	21	5	16	0	17	1
Iowa	0	1	1	0	0	8	8
Kansas	21	20	1	19	2	17	4
Kentucky	15	18	3	15	0	12	3
Maine	5	7	2	2	3	8	3
Maryland	16	1	15	11	5	17	1
Massachusetts	27	21	6	19	8	26	1
Michigan	5	2	7	5	0	5	0
Minnesota	2	1	1	3	5	3	1
Missouri	3	14	10	6	3	3	0
Nebraska	29	29	0	25	4	19	10
Nevada	4	11	7	7	3	3	1
New Hampshire	1	9	8	8	7	2	3
New Jersey	16	8	8	13	3	14	2
New Mexico	0	23	23	15	15	5	5
New York	24	16	8	16	8	15	9
North Carolina	13	20	7	9	4	5	8
Ohio	4	10	6	6	2	3	1
Oklahoma	22	29	7	28	6	22	0
Oregon	0	1	1	1	1	7	7
Pennsylvania	4	1	3	5	1	5	1
Tennessee	4	21	17	10	6	2	2
Texas	21	36	15	23	2	18	3
Utah	40	38	2	39	1	40	0
Virginia	8	16	8	9	1	6	2
Washington	6	0	6	2	6	1	7

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West Virginia	6	11	5	11	5	4	2
Wisconsin	0	4	4	2	2	0	0
Average			7.1		4.0		3.4
Absolute error							

Note: All numbers rounded to the nearest percentage point.

*Includes both demographic and propensity score weighting.

For the state elections for senator in the 26 races covered, the average error on the lead was 9.1% in the unweighted data, 5.8% with only demographic weighting and 4.0% with propensity score weighting (Table 3).

Table 3: the senate election votes in 27 states

	Raw, unweighted (%)	Harris data Demographically weighted (%)	Propensity weighted (%)
Average absolute error on the lead	9.1	5.8	4.0
Average absolute error on two main candidates	4.8	3.1	2.2

In the races for governor in seven states, the unweighted data produced, on average, a 6.5% error, which was reduced to 3.5% by demographic weighting and to 2.9% by propensity score weighting (Table 4).

Table 4: the gubernatorial (governors') election votes in seven states

	Raw, unweighted (%)	Harris data Demographically weighted (%)	Propensity weighted (%)
Average absolute error on the lead	6.5	3.5	2.9
Average absolute error on two main candidates	3.3	2.8	1.8

Essential investments which made these results possible

One myth that needs debunking is that 'online research is cheap'. Bad online research may well be cheap. A 'callin' online poll, with no attempt to select a sample, no weighting and no real interactivity is cheap. But our experience is that good online research costs real money. Of course, the marginal cost of data collection is very inexpensive. There are no interviewers, and only very modest telephone bills, to be paid, in the research described here, the actual data collection costs of surveying 240,666 likely voters were modest. But the capital costs of setting up everything needed to do good online research are substantial.

Our successes in predicting the 2000 elections were only possible because our firm made four substantial investments:

1. Investments in building a big online panel of willing respondents. It would have been possible to predict the national vote with a small database. However, we needed a much larger database to conduct the substantial number of interviews with likely voters in the 38 selected states. (Parenthetically, we need a much bigger database currently over seven million worldwide in order to be able to conduct many surveys, on many topics, for many clients every month.)
2. Investments in new systems, hardware and software. Investment in technology was necessary to be able to survey large numbers of people with better than CATI interactivity (for other research this may involve the use of streaming video, audio or other stimuli).
3. Investment in people and skills: Was needed to hire not only many new people with systems and statistical skills but also people who, because of their background in academic, medical or educational research, were experienced in working with nonprobability samples.
4. Investment in research methods. In order to develop, test and improve both the selection of variables to be used for propensity weighting and the specific weights, it was necessary to run over one hundred parallel online and telephone surveys.

Had we been unable to make these four major investments, our election predictions would surely have been much less accurate.

What these results mean and do not mean

The remarkable accuracy of these online polls in predicting the results of 72 races proves that well-designed online polls can be a very reliable way to predict elections. Or, more specifically, that online polls in the United States and probably in other countries when they achieve a high enough internet penetration can do this.

However, it would be a mistake to assume that all online preselection surveys will be reliable election predictors. There are enormous differences in the ways different organisations are using the internet to conduct research. These differences are much greater than the differences in the methods used to construct telephone surveys.

All users of online (and other) surveys must remember that no amount of weighting can correct for biases in variables which are close to zero or 100% in either the sample or the population not sampled (i.e. those with or without a telephone, those who use or do not use computers, and so on). Fortunately for us, it seems that none of these 100%/0% variables was independently correlated with voting intentions for different political candidates. Therefore, the weighting model worked.

The importance of weighting

These elections were a wonderful way to test the work we had put into developing our online research skills to measure political attitudes and, specifically, to predict elections. These results should also put to rest the main criticism of online research in the United States. Our fiercest critics have argued that because we do not use probability samples of all households or all adults, online research cannot work. Europeans, however, with a long and successful history of using quota sampling, have been more accepting of nonprobability methods.

We have known for a long time that all probability samples have significant, and often substantial, biases which can sometimes be reduced substantially by weighting. The same, we have demonstrated, is true for online polling on political behaviour. However, one key to the development of new survey methods is to run very scared and to keep running scared. We believe, therefore, that it will be a dangerous mistake to assume that, because of our success in the 2000 elections, any of the following are true:

1. The same weighting variables and weights could be used in other countries with equal success.
2. The same weighting variables and weights will work equally well in two or four years time, or further ahead, in other US elections.
3. The same weighting variables and weights will work equally well with samples drawn from other databases, or by other means, in the USA.
4. The same weighting variables and weights will work equally for surveys on all topics, even when using the same database in the USA.

Indeed, it is our strong belief that all of these assumptions, with the possible exception of number (2), will prove to be wrong. If so, the ability to conduct reliable online research will depend on a continuing investment in testing and improving different weighting variables. Research into improving online survey methodology will need to continue for a long time to come.

Lincoln Steffens went to the Soviet Union soon after the Russian Revolution and said: 'I have seen the future and it works.' Following these elections, that's how we feel about internet-based research. Let's hope that pride does not come before a fall and that our forecast is better than Steffens'.

References

Taylor, H.J.F. (2000) Does internet research work? *International Journal of Market Research*, 42, 1, pp. 5163.

Research Business Report (2000) Harris Interactive uses election 2000 to prove its online efficacy and accuracy. November.

endnote

¹ The Arizona race for Senate has been excluded from the analyses presented here due to the inadvertent omission of one candidate from the survey and the inadvertent inclusion of another candidate.

NOTES & EXHIBITS

Humphrey Taylor

Harris Interactive

Humphrey is the Chairman of the Harris poll, a service of Harris Interactive. He has been responsible for more than 8000 surveys in more than 80 countries. In 1966, he founded Opinion Research Centre in London, which was bought by Louis Harris & Associates in 1970. While in Britain, Humphrey conducted all of the private political polling for the Conservative Party and was a close advisor to prime ministers Edward Heath and Margaret Thatcher. In 1976, he moved to New York. He was appointed President of Harris in 1981, CEO in 1992 and Chairman in 1994.

John Bremer

Harris Interactive

John Bremer is currently a Research Scientist at Harris Interactive, where he is primarily concerned with issues pertaining to the representativeness of internet research. Prior to joining Harris Interactive, John served as an Associate in the Analytical Resources Group of DDB Needham, Chicago, where he was responsible for product-specific research projects.

Cary B. Overmeyer

Harris Interactive

As a member of Election 2000, Cary was responsible for handling aspects of project management, including research design, field administration, analysis and reporting. Cary holds an MA in Political Science with a concentration in American Politics from Western Michigan University.

Jonathan Siegal

Harris Interactive

Jon directs Harris Interactive's largest customer research group, accounting for approximately 15% of the company's revenues in 2001. He joined Harris Interactive in 1987 and has conducted a diverse range of public opinion and business research projects for clients throughout the world. From 1997 to 1999, Jon established and directed the

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customer research group at Fannie Mae, the world's largest provider of housing financing. Thereafter, he returned to Harris Interactive to direct the company's Election 2000 research.

George Terhanian

Harris Interactive

George is Vice President of Interactive Research and Methodology for Harris Interactive, where he oversees all aspects of the firm's research activities on the Internet. Prior to joining Harris Interactive in 1996, George worked as an English teacher in public and private schools and as an analyst for the US Department of Education.

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2011

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FOX NEWS ANNOUNCES ENTRY CRITERIA FOR MAY 5 SOUTH CAROLINA GOP DEBATE

FOX News has released its criteria for entry into the South Carolina Republican Party debate on May 5th, announced Michael Clemente, Senior Vice President of News for the network.

In making the announcement, Clemente said, "Every potential debate candidate must meet all six steps of the following criteria no later than 5 PM ET on Friday April 29th in order to be eligible for participation in the debate."

Criteria for entry are as follows:

- Must register a presidential exploratory committee or have announced a formal campaign for president; and
- Must file all necessary paperwork with the Federal Elections Commission (FEC); and
- Must file all necessary paperwork with the South Carolina Republican Party; and
- Must have paid all federal and South Carolina filing fees; and
- Must meet all U.S. Constitutional requirements; and
- Must have garnered at least an average of one percent in five national polls based on most recent polling leading up to April 29th, 2011

In December, FOX News and the South Carolina Republican Party announced they would present two presidential debates. The initial debate will take place on May 5th at the Peace Center in Greenville, South Carolina. The second debate will be held in 2012 prior to the South Carolina primary at a location to be determined.

The debates are currently scheduled to be presented live and exclusively on FOX News Channel (FNC), FOX News Radio, FOX News Mobile and FOXNews.com.

FOX News Channel (FNC) is a 24-hour general news service covering breaking news as well as political, business and entertainment news. For over 100 consecutive months, FNC has been the most-watched cable news channel in the country. Owned by News Corp., FNC is available in more than 90 million homes.

###

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2012 Polling Center

Polls: All Polls

All the latest polls on the 2012 races are listed below by date. Click on the race to get the past results for that contest.

Thursday, August 11, 2011**National GOP Primary**

Mitt Romney 17%
 Rick Perry 15%
 Ron Paul 12%
 Rudy Giuliani 12%
 Sarah Palin 12%
 Undecided 8%
 Michele Bachmann 7%
 Newt Gingrich 5%
 Herman Cain 4%
 Jon Huntsman 4%
 Rick Santorum 2%
 Tim Pawlenty 2%

CNN/Opinion Research Corporation

8/5/11-8/7/11

449

National GOP Primary

Mitt Romney 23%
 Rick Perry 18%
 Ron Paul 14%
 None of the above 11%
 Michele Bachmann 9%
 Newt Gingrich 8%
 Herman Cain 5%
 Jon Huntsman 5%
 Rick Santorum 3%
 Tim Pawlenty 3%

CNN/Opinion Research Corporation GOP Primary

8/5/11-8/7/11

449

Wednesday, August 10, 2011**National '12 General Election**

Barack Obama 52%
 Michele Bachmann 35%
 Undecided 13%

McClatchy-Marist Poll

8/2/11-8/4/11

1000

National '12 General Election

Barack Obama 48%
 Rudy Giuliani 43%
 Undecided 9%

McClatchy-Marist Poll

8/2/11-8/4/11

1000

National '12 General Election

Barack Obama 56%
 Sarah Palin 35%
 Undecided 9%

McClatchy-Marist Poll

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8/2/11-8/4/11
1000

National '12 General Election

Barack Obama 49%
Tim Pawlenty 36%
Undecided 15%
McClatchy-Marist Poll
8/2/11-8/4/11
1000

National '12 General Election

Barack Obama 52%
Rick Perry 33%
Undecided 14%
McClatchy-Marist Poll
8/2/11-8/4/11
1000

National '12 General Election

Barack Obama 48%
Mitt Romney 41%
Undecided 13%
McClatchy-Marist Poll
8/2/11-8/4/11
1000

National GOP Primary

Mitt Romney 21%
Rick Perry 18%
Undecided 14%
Sarah Palin 10%
Rudy Giuliani 9%
Michele Bachmann 8%
Herman Cain 6%
Ron Paul 3%
Bobby Roemer 2%
Gary Johnson 2%
Newt Gingrich 2%
Tim Pawlenty 2%
Jon Huntsman 1%
McClatchy-Marist Poll
8/2/11-8/4/11
301

Tuesday, August 9, 2011

Michigan GOP Primary

Mitt Romney 24%
Michele Bachmann 18%
Undecided 15%
Rick Perry 14%
Herman Cain 7%
Newt Gingrich 7%
Ron Paul 6%
Thaddeus McCotter 5%
Tim Pawlenty 4%

Public Policy Polling
7/21/11-7/24/11
400

Monday, August 8, 2011

Iowa GOP Caucus

Michele Bachmann 22%
Mitt Romney 21%
Ron Paul 15%
Rick Perry 12%
Tim Pawlenty 11%

8/17/2011 4:53 PM

None of the above 7%
 Newt Gingrich 5%
 Herman Cain 4%
 Jon Huntsman 2%

Rasmussen Report
 8/4/11
 627

Thursday, August 4, 2011

Florida GOP Primary

Mitt Romney 23%
 Undecided 17%
 Rick Perry 13%
 Ron Paul 9%
 Sarah Palin 9%
 Herman Cain 8%
 Michele Bachmann 6%
 None of the above 6%
 Newt Gingrich 4%
 Tim Pawlenty 3%
 Jon Huntsman 1%
 Rick Santorum 1%

Quinnipiac University Poll
 7/27/11-8/2/11
 510

Nevada GOP Caucus

Mitt Romney 31%
 Rick Perry 18%
 Michele Bachmann 10%
 Sarah Palin 10%
 Ron Paul 9%
 Herman Cain 7%
 Newt Gingrich 5%
 Undecided 6%
 Jon Huntsman 1%
 Tim Pawlenty 1%

Public Policy Polling
 7/28/11-7/31/11
 732

Vermont GOP Primary

Mitt Romney 29%
 Michele Bachmann 21%
 Rick Perry 11%
 Herman Cain 10%
 Newt Gingrich 9%
 Undecided 9%
 Ron Paul 8%
 Tim Pawlenty 2%
 Jon Huntsman 1%

Public Policy Polling
 7/28/11-7/31/11
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See also: [Rating the contenders](#)

Fox News Poll conducted by Anderson Robbins Research (D) and Shaw & Company Research (R).
Aug. 7-9, 2011. N=319 Republican primary voters nationwide. Margin of error \pm 5.5.

"I'm going to read a list of potential candidates for the 2012 Republican nomination. Please tell me which one you would like to see as the Republican presidential nominee. [See below.]"
Options rotated

	8/7-9/11	7/17-19/11	6/26-28/11
	%	%	%
Mitt Romney	21	17	18
Rick Perry	13	14	13
Sarah Palin	8	9	8
Michele Bachmann	7	10	11
Rudy Giuliani	7	9	10
Ron Paul	6	9	7
Newt Gingrich	6	4	3
Herman Cain	5	5	5
Mike Huckabee (vol.)	3	1	1
Tim Pawlenty	2	2	3
Rick Santorum	2	2	2
Jon Huntsman	2	1	3
Chris Christie (vol.)	1	1	1
Donald Trump (vol.)	1	1	1
George Pataki	1	n/a	n/a
Jeb Bush (vol.)	-	-	1
Buddy Roemer	-	-	-
Gary Johnson	-	-	1
Thaddeus McCotter	-	-	-
Roy Moore	-	-	-
Fred Karger	-	-	-
Someone else (vol.)	1	1	1
Too soon to say (vol.)	7	6	6
Unsure	7	9	4

"If you had to pick from just the ANNOUNCED candidates, which one you would like to see as the Republican presidential nominee? Those candidates are [see below]." Options rotated

	8/7-9/11	7/17-19/11
	%	%
Mitt Romney	26	26
Michele Bachmann	13	15
Ron Paul	10	10
Newt Gingrich	9	9
Herman Cain	9	9
Rick Santorum	4	4
Tim Pawlenty	4	3
Jon Huntsman	2	2

Gary Johnson	1	1
Thaddeus McCotter	1	-
Fred Karger	-	-
Someone else (vol.)	4	2
Too soon to say (vol.)	8	7
Unsure	9	13

CNN/Opinion Research Corporation Poll. Aug. 5-7, 2011. N=449 Republicans and Republican-leaning independents nationwide. Margin of error ♦ 4.5.

"Next, I'm going to read a list of people who may be running in the Republican primary for president in 2012. After I read all the names, please tell me which candidate you would be most likely to support for the Republican nomination for president in the year 2012, or if you would support someone else. Minnesota Congresswoman Michele Bachmann, businessman Herman Cain, former speaker of the House Newt Gingrich, former New York City mayor Rudy Giuliani, former Utah governor Jon Huntsman, former New Mexico governor Gary Johnson, Michigan Congressman Thaddeus McCotter, former Alaska governor Sarah Palin, Texas Congressman Ron Paul, former Minnesota governor Tim Pawlenty, Texas Governor Rick Perry, former Massachusetts governor Mitt Romney, or former Pennsylvania senator Rick Santorum." Options remain

	8/5-7/11	7/18-20/11
	%	%
Mitt Romney	17	16
Rick Perry	15	14
Rudy Giuliani	12	13
Sarah Palin	12	13
Ron Paul	12	8
Michele Bachmann	7	12
Newt Gingrich	5	4
Herman Cain	4	6
Jon Huntsman	4	1
Tim Pawlenty	2	3
Rick Santorum	2	2
Gary Johnson	-	-
Thaddeus McCotter	-	-
Someone else	2	1
None/No one (vol.)	4	8
Unsure	2	1

Without Giuliani and Palin (based on 1st/2nd/3rd choices):

	8/5-7/11	7/18-20/11
	%	%
Mitt Romney	23	22
Rick Perry	18	17
Ron Paul	14	12
Michele Bachmann	9	14
Newt Gingrich	8	5
Herman Cain	5	7
Jon Huntsman	5	1
Tim Pawlenty	3	4
Rick Santorum	3	2
Gary Johnson	-	-
Thaddeus McCotter	-	-
Someone else	2	3
None/No one (vol.)	5	10
Unsure	4	2

USA Today/Gallup Poll. Aug. 4-7, 2011. N=432 Republican and Republican-leaning registered voters

nationwide. Margin of error ♦ 7.

"I'm going to read a list of people who are considered the most likely candidates to run in the Republican primaries for president. After I read all the names, please tell me which one you would be most likely to support for the Republican nomination for president in 2012, or if you would support someone else. Minnesota Congresswoman, Michele Bachmann; Businessman, Herman Cain; Former Speaker of the House, Newt Gingrich; Former Utah governor, Jon Huntsman; Texas Congressman, Ron Paul; Former Minnesota governor, Tim Pawlenty; Texas governor, Rick Perry; Former Massachusetts governor, Mitt Romney; Former Pennsylvania senator, Rick Santorum." Options rotated

	%
Mitt Romney	26
Rick Perry	17
Ron Paul	13
Michele Bachmann	13
Newt Gingrich	7
Herman Cain	4
Tim Pawlenty	3
Jon Huntsman	3
Rick Santorum	1
Other	3
None/Any/Unsure	10

McClatchy-Marist Poll. Aug. 2-4, 2011. N=301 Republican voters and Republican-leaning independent voters nationwide. Margin of error ♦ 6.

"If the 2012 Republican presidential primary were held today, whom would you support if the candidates are former Massachusetts governor Mitt Romney, Texas Governor Rick Perry, former Alaska governor Sarah Palin, former New York City mayor Rudy Giuliani, Minnesota Congresswoman Michele Bachmann, businessman Herman Cain, Texas Congressman Ron Paul, former Pennsylvania senator Rick Santorum, former Georgia congressman Newt Gingrich, former Minnesota governor Tim Pawlenty, former New Mexico governor Gary Johnson, former Louisiana governor Buddy Roemer, former U.S. ambassador to China Jon Huntsman, political activist Fred Karger."

	8/2-4/11	6/15-18/11
	%	%
Mitt Romney	21	19
Rick Perry	18	13
Sarah Palin	10	11
Rudy Giuliani	9	13
Michele Bachmann	8	8
Herman Cain	6	5
Ron Paul	3	5
Rick Santorum	3	1
Newt Gingrich	2	2
Tim Pawlenty	2	5
Gary Johnson	2	-
Buddy Roemer	2	n/a
Jon Huntsman	1	2
Fred Karger	-	-
Unsure	14	15

Pew Research Center. July 20-24, 2011. N=546 Republican and Republican-leaning registered voters nationwide. Margin of error ♦ 5.5.

"As I name some possible Republican candidates for president in 2012, please tell me which one, if any, you would most like to see nominated as the Republican Party's candidate. [See below.]" If unsure: "As of today, who would you say you LEAN toward?" Options rotated

	%
Mitt Romney	21
Rick Perry	12
Sarah Palin	11
Michelle Bachmann	11
Ron Paul	9
Herman Cain	8
Newt Gingrich	3
Tim Pawlenty	3
Jon Huntsman	2
Rick Santorum	1
Other/None (vol.)/Unsure	20

Gallup Poll. July 20-24, 2011. N=1,088 Republicans and Republican-leaning Independents nationwide. Margin of error ♦ 4. Interviews conducted as part of Gallup Daily tracking.

"Next, I'm going to read a list of people who may be running in the Republican primaries for president in the 2012 election. After I read all the names, please tell me which of those candidates you would be most likely to support for the Republican nomination for president in 2012, or if you would support someone else. Minnesota Congresswoman, Michelle Bachmann; businessman, Herman Cain; former speaker of the House, Newt Gingrich; former New York City mayor, Rudy Giuliani; former Utah governor, Jon Huntsman; former Alaska governor, Sarah Palin; Texas Congressman, Ron Paul; former Minnesota governor, Tim Pawlenty; Texas governor, Rick Perry; former Massachusetts governor, Mitt Romney; former Pennsylvania senator, Rick Santorum." Options rotated

	%
Mitt Romney	17
Rick Perry	15
Sarah Palin	12
Rudy Giuliani	11
Michelle Bachmann	11
Ron Paul	8
Herman Cain	3
Newt Gingrich	3
Tim Pawlenty	2
Jon Huntsman	2
Rick Santorum	2
Other	1
Any/All (vol.)	1
None (vol.)	5
Unsure	8

Without Perry, Palin, Giuliani (based on 1st/2nd/3rd choices):

	%
Mitt Romney	27
Michelle Bachmann	18
Ron Paul	11
Newt Gingrich	7
Herman Cain	5
Tim Pawlenty	4
Rick Santorum	3
Jon Huntsman	2
Other	2
Any/All (vol.)	1
None (vol.)	8
Unsure	12

CNN/Opinion Research Corporation Poll. July 18-20, 2011. N=455 Republicans and Republican-leaning independents nationwide. Margin of error \pm 4.5.

"Next, I'm going to read a list of people who may be running in the Republican primary for president in 2012. After I read all the names, please tell me which candidate you would be most likely to support for the Republican nomination for president in the year 2012, or if you would support someone else. Minnesota Congresswoman Michele Bachmann, businessman Herman Cain, former speaker of the House Newt Gingrich, former New York City mayor Rudy Giuliani, former Utah governor Jon Huntsman, former New Mexico governor Gary Johnson, Michigan Congressman Thaddeus McCotter, former Alaska governor Sarah Palin, Texas Congressman Ron Paul, former Minnesota governor Tim Pawlenty, Texas Governor Rick Perry, former Massachusetts governor Mitt Romney, or former Pennsylvania senator Rick Santorum." Options rotated

Without Perry and McCotter (based on 1st/2nd/3rd choices):

	7/18-20/11	6/3-7/11	5/24-26/11
	%	%	%
Mitt Romney	17	24	15
Michele Bachmann	15	4	7
Sarah Palin	15	20	13
Rudy Giuliani	14	12	16
Ron Paul	9	7	12
Herman Cain	8	10	10
Newt Gingrich	4	10	8
Tim Pawlenty	4	3	5
Rick Santorum	3	1	2
Jon Huntsman	1	1	1
Gary Johnson	1	n/a	1
Someone else	1	2	3
None/No one (vol.)	8	2	5
Unsure	2	3	2

ABC News/Washington Post Poll. July 14-17, 2011. N=1,001 adults nationwide. Results below are among registered voters who are Republican or lean Republican.

"If the 2012 Republican presidential primary or caucus in your state were being held today, and the candidates were [see below], for whom would you vote?" If unsure: "Which candidate would you lean toward?" Options rotated

	%
Mitt Romney	26
Sarah Palin	16
Michele Bachmann	13
Rick Perry	8
Ron Paul	7
Herman Cain	7
Newt Gingrich	4
Jon Huntsman	3
Tim Pawlenty	2
Rick Santorum	2
Other (vol.)	1
None (vol.)	1
Unsure	8

"If Sarah Palin does not run for president, for whom would you vote? . . . Which candidate would you lean toward?"

	%
Mitt Romney	30
Michele Bachmann	17
Ron Paul	10
Rick Perry	8

Herman Cain	7
Newt Gingrich	6
Jon Huntsman	3
Tim Pawlenty	3
Rick Santorum	3
Other (vol.)	1
None (vol.)	2
Unsure	9

"If Rick Perry does not run for president, for whom would you vote? . . . Which candidate would you lean toward?"

	%
Mitt Romney	28
Sarah Palin	17
Michele Bachmann	14
Ron Paul	8
Herman Cain	7
Newt Gingrich	4
Jon Huntsman	3
Rick Santorum	3
Tim Pawlenty	2
Other (vol.)	1
None (vol.)	2
Would not vote (vol.)	1
Unsure	8

NBC News/Wall Street Journal Poll conducted by the polling organizations of Peter Hart (D) and Bill McInturff (R). July 14-17, 2011. N=1,000 adults nationwide. Results below are among registered voters who say they would vote in a Republican presidential primary.

"Let me read you a list of people who might seek the 2012 Republican nomination for president. If you were voting today in the 2012 Republican primary for president, which one of the following candidates would you favor: [see below]?" If unsure: "Well, which way do you lean?" Options rotated

	%
Mitt Romney	30
Michele Bachmann	16
Rick Perry	11
Ron Paul	9
Newt Gingrich	8
Herman Cain	5
Rick Santorum	3
Tim Pawlenty	2
Jon Huntsman	2
Other (vol.)	2
None (vol.)	2
Unsure	10

Quinnipiac University Poll. July 5-11, 2011. N=913 Republican and Republican-leaning registered voters nationwide. Margin of error ♦ 3.2.

"If the 2012 Republican primary for president were being held today, and the candidates were Rick Perry, Sarah Palin, Newt Gingrich, Mitt Romney, Tim Pawlenty, Michele Bachmann, Rick Santorum, Ron Paul, Jon Huntsman, Herman Cain, and Thaddeus McCotter, for whom would you vote?"

	%
Mitt Romney	25

Michele Bachmann	14
Sarah Palin	12
Rick Perry	10
Herman Cain	6
Newt Gingrich	5
Ron Paul	5
Tim Pawlenty	3
Rick Santorum	1
Jon Huntsman	1
Thaddeus McCotter	-
Unsure/No answer	18

Without Perry (Perry supporters allocated based on 2nd choice):

	7/5-11/11	5/31 - 6/6/11
	%	%
Mitt Romney	28	25
Michele Bachmann	16	6
Sarah Palin	13	15
Herman Cain	7	9
Ron Paul	6	8
Newt Gingrich	5	8
Tim Pawlenty	3	5
Jon Huntsman	1	1
Rick Santorum	1	4
Thaddeus McCotter	-	n/a
Unsure/No answer	18	20
Gary Johnson	n/a	-

Without Palin (Palin supporters allocated based on 2nd choice):

	%
Mitt Romney	28
Michele Bachmann	17
Rick Perry	10
Herman Cain	6
Newt Gingrich	6
Ron Paul	6
Tim Pawlenty	3
Jon Huntsman	1
Rick Santorum	1
Thaddeus McCotter	-
Unsure/No answer	22

Gallup Poll. July 7-10, 2011. N=482 Republicans and Republican-leaning independents nationwide.
Margin of error ♦ 6.

"Thinking about the men and women who are running or are likely to run for the Republican Party's 2012 presidential nomination, who are you most likely to support for the Republican nomination?" Open-ended

	%
Mitt Romney	13
Michele Bachmann	9
Rick Perry	4
Sarah Palin	3
Herman Cain	2
Jon Huntsman	1
Tim Pawlenty	1
Newt Gingrich	1
Rick Santorum	1
Ron Paul	1

Other	6
None/Would not vote	9
Any/All	1
Unsure	49

NBC News/Wall Street Journal Poll conducted by the polling organizations of Peter Hart (D) and Bill McInturff (R). June 9-13, 2011. N=1,000 adults nationwide. Results below are among registered voters who say they would vote in a Republican presidential primary.

"Let me read you a list of people who might seek the 2012 Republican nomination for president. If you were voting today in the 2012 Republican primary for president, which one of the following candidates would you favor: [see below]?" If unsure: "Well, which way do you lean?" Options rotated

	%
Mitt Romney	30
Sarah Palin	14
Herman Cain	12
Rick Perry	8
Ron Paul	7
Newt Gingrich	6
Tim Pawlenty	4
Rick Santorum	4
Michele Bachmann	3
Jon Huntsman	1
Other (vol.)	1
None (vol.)	2
Unsure	8

"Now, let me read you a slightly shorter list of people who might seek the 2012 Republican nomination for president. If you were voting today in the 2012 Republican primary for president, which one of the following candidates would you favor: [see below]?" If unsure: "Well, which way do you lean?" Options rotated

	%
Mitt Romney	43
Ron Paul	11
Michele Bachmann	11
Rick Santorum	9
Newt Gingrich	8
Tim Pawlenty	7
None (vol.)	3
Unsure	8

USA Today/Gallup Poll. June 8-11, 2011. N=851 Republicans and Republican-leaning independents nationwide. Margin of error ± 4. Interviews conducted as part of Gallup Daily tracking.

"I'm going to read a list of people who may be running in the Republican primaries for president in the 2012 election. After I read all the names, please tell me which of those candidates you would be most likely to support for the Republican nomination for president in 2012, or if you would support someone else. Former speaker of the House, Newt Gingrich; former New Mexico governor, Gary Johnson; former Alaska governor, Sarah Palin; Texas Congressman, Ron Paul; former Minnesota governor, Tim Pawlenty; former Massachusetts governor, Mitt Romney; former Pennsylvania senator, Rick Santorum; former Utah governor, Jon Huntsman; Minnesota Congresswoman, Michele Bachmann; businessman, Herman Cain." Options rotated

	%
Mitt Romney	24
Sarah Palin	16

Herman Cain	9
Ron Paul	7
Tim Pawlenty	6
Rick Santorum	6
Michele Bachmann	5
Newt Gingrich	5
Gary Johnson	2
Jon Huntsman	1
Rick Perry (vol.)	1
Other	1
None (vol.)	8
Unsure	10

Fox News Poll conducted by Anderson Robbins Research (D) and Shaw & Company Research (R).
June 5-7, 2011. N=338 Republican primary voters nationwide. Margin of error ♦ 5.5.

"I'm going to read a list of potential candidates for the 2012 Republican nomination. Please tell me which one you would like to see as the Republican presidential nominee. [See below.]"
Options rotated

	%
Mitt Romney	23
Rudy Giuliani	13
Sarah Palin	12
Herman Cain	7
Newt Gingrich	7
Tim Pawlenty	5
Ron Paul	5
Michele Bachmann	4
Rick Santorum	4
Jon Huntsman	2
Buddy Reamer	1
Roy Moore	-
Fred Karger	-
Gary Johnson	-
Mike Huckabee (vol.)	2
Chris Christie (vol.)	1
Jeb Bush (vol.)	1
Donald Trump (vol.)	1
Someone else (vol.)	1
Too soon to say (vol.)	5
Unsure	7

CNN/Opinion Research Corporation Poll. June 3-7, 2011. N=433 Republicans and Republican-leaning independents nationwide. Margin of error ♦ 4.5.

"I'm going to read a list of people who may be running in the Republican primary for president in 2012. After I read all the names, please tell me which candidate you would be most likely to support for the Republican nomination for president in the year 2012, or if you would support someone else. Minnesota Congresswoman Michele Bachmann, businessman Herman Cain, former Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich, former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani, former Utah Governor Jon Huntsman, former Alaska Governor Sarah Palin, Texas Congressman Ron Paul, former Minnesota Governor Tim Pawlenty, former Massachusetts Governor Mitt Romney, or former Pennsylvania Senator Rick Santorum?" Options rotated

Other candidate scenarios (based on 1st/2nd/3rd choices):

Without Giuliani:

6/3-7/11	5/24-26/11
%	%

Mitt Romney	28	19
Sarah Palin	23	15
Newt Gingrich	11	11
Herman Cain	10	11
Ron Paul	10	13
Michele Bachmann	5	7
Tim Pawlenty	3	5
Jon Huntsman	1	3
Rick Santorum	1	2
Someone else	2	3
None/No one (vol.)	3	6
Unsure	3	2
Gary Johnson	n/a	2
Buddy Roemer	n/a	1
Fred Karger	n/a	0

Without Giuliani and Palin:

	6/3-7/11	5/24-26/11
	%	%
Mitt Romney	35	21
Newt Gingrich	16	12
Ron Paul	13	15
Herman Cain	10	13
Michele Bachmann	7	9
Tim Pawlenty	4	5
Jon Huntsman	2	3
Rick Santorum	1	3
Someone else	2	5
None/No one (vol.)	8	9
Unsure	3	2
Gary Johnson	n/a	2
Buddy Roemer	n/a	1
Fred Karger	n/a	0

Reuters/Ipsos Poll conducted by Ipsos Public Affairs. June 3-6, 2011. N=456 Republicans nationwide. Margin of error ♦ 4.6.

"Several commentators have said the Republican presidential field for the 2012 presidential election is becoming clear. If the 2012 Republican presidential primaries were being held today, for whom of the following would you vote . . . ?"

	%
Sarah Palin	22
Mitt Romney	20
Ron Paul	7
Herman Cain	7
Rick Perry	6
Michele Bachmann	6
Newt Gingrich	6
Tim Pawlenty	2
Jon Huntsman	2
Wouldn't vote	1
None/Other	8
Unsure	13

ABC News/Washington Post Poll. June 2-5, 2011. N=1,002 adults nationwide. Results below are among Republicans and Republican-leaning independents. Margin of error ♦ 5.

"If the 2012 Republican presidential primary or caucus in your state were being held today, for whom would you vote?" Open-ended. If necessary: "Which candidate would you lean toward?"

	6/2-5/11	4/14-17/11
	%	%
Mitt Romney	21	16
Sarah Palin	17	5
Rudy Giuliani	8	n/a
Newt Gingrich	6	2
Ron Paul	6	2
Herman Cain	4	n/a
Tim Pawlenty	4	1
Michele Bachmann	3	1
Rick Perry	3	0
Chris Christie	1	1
Mitch Daniels	1	1
Mike Huckabee	1	6
Jon Huntsman	1	-
Rick Santorum	1	-
Donald Trump	-	8
Halley Barbour	0	1
Jim DeMint	0	-
Gary Johnson	0	n/a
George Pataki	0	n/a
Mike Pence	0	1
John Thune	0	0
Other	3	5
No one	5	12
Anyone	-	4
Unsure	14	33

Pew Research Center. May 25-30, 2011. N=535 Republican and Republican-leaning registered voters nationwide. Margin of error ♦ 5.5.

"I'm going to read you a list of possible Republican presidential candidates. Not everyone will have heard of them. For each one that I name, please tell me whether or not you have heard of this person. First, [see below]. Have you heard of [see below] or not?" If yes: "How much of a chance is there that you would vote for [see below] if he/she is a candidate for president in 2012? Is there a good chance, some chance, or no chance?"

	Among those who have heard of:				
	HEARD OF %	Good chance %	Some chance %	No chance %	Unsure %
Herman Cain	44	39	35	18	8
Mitt Romney	85	32	43	18	7
Tim Pawlenty	52	27	44	19	10
Michele Bachmann	60	25	42	23	10
Sarah Palin	98	24	33	39	4
Rick Santorum	48	20	41	29	10
Newt Gingrich	90	16	39	38	6
Ron Paul	80	14	36	42	8
Jon Huntsman	35	13	35	36	15
Gary Johnson	19	11	31	42	16

CNN/Opinion Research Corporation Poll, May 24-26, 2011. N=473 Republicans and Republican-leaning independents nationwide. Margin of error ♦ 4.5.

"I'm going to read a list of people who may be running in the Republican primary for president in 2012. After I read all the names, please tell me which candidate you would be most likely to support for the Republican nomination for president in the year 2012, or if you would support someone else. Minnesota Congresswoman Michele Bachmann, businessman Herman Cain, former Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich, former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani, former Utah Governor Jon Huntsman, former New Mexico Governor Gary Johnson, political activist Fred Karger, former Alaska Governor Sarah Palin, Texas Congressman Ron Paul, former Minnesota Governor Tim Pawlenty, former Louisiana Governor Buddy Roemer, former Massachusetts Governor Mitt Romney, or former Pennsylvania Senator Rick Santorum?" Opinions were:

Other candidate scenarios (based on 1st/2nd/3rd choices):

Without Giuliani and Cain:

	%
Mitt Romney	21
Sarah Palin	16
Ron Paul	15
Newt Gingrich	12
Michele Bachmann	10
Tim Pawlenty	6
Rick Santorum	3
Jon Huntsman	3
Gary Johnson	-
Buddy Roemer	-
Fred Karger	0
Someone else	6
None/No one (vol.)	6
Unsure	2

"How satisfied are you with the field of Republican candidates running for president? Are you very satisfied, fairly satisfied, not very satisfied, or not satisfied at all?"

	Very satisfied %	Fairly satisfied %	Not very satisfied %	Not satisfied at all %	Unsure %
5/24-26/11	15	45	28	11	1
9/7-9/07	19	54	19	6	1
5/4-6/07	20	50	21	5	3

Gallup Poll, May 20-24, 2011. N=971 Republicans and Republican-leaning independents nationwide. Margin of error ♦ 4. Interviews conducted as part of Gallup Daily tracking.

PER GALLUP: Mitch Daniels included May 20-22, but removed for May 23-24 after he announced he was not running. Daniels supporters' second choice was substituted for their Daniels vote.

Preference for Republican nominee:

	%
Mitt Romney	17
Sarah Palin	15
Ron Paul	10
Newt Gingrich	9
Herman Cain	8
Tim Pawlenty	6
Michele Bachmann	5
Jon Huntsman	2
Gary Johnson	2
Rick Santorum	2
Mike Huckabee (vol.)	1
Other	2
None/Unsure	22

Without Palin:

	%
Mitt Romney	19
Newt Gingrich	12
Ron Paul	12
Herman Cain	8
Michele Bachmann	7
Tim Pawlenty	7
Jon Huntsman	3
Gary Johnson	3
Rick Santorum	2
Other	4
None/Unsure	25

Suffolk University Poll. May 10-17, 2011. N=468 Republican presidential primary voters nationwide.

"If the Republican primary for president of the United States were held today and the candidates were [see below], for whom will you vote or toward whom would you LEAN at this time?" Among respondents who initially selected Huckabee or Trump, and who were successfully re-contacted (n=51): "Now that Mike Huckabee / Donald Trump has withdrawn from the race, who will you vote for in the Republican primary?" Combined responses

	%
Mitt Romney	20
Sarah Palin	12
Newt Gingrich	9
Mike Huckabee	8
Rudy Giuliani	7
Ron Paul	5
Michele Bachmann	4
Herman Cain	4
Mitch Daniels	4
Tim Pawlenty	3
Rick Santorum	3
Donald Trump	1
Jon Huntsman	0
Gary Johnson	0
Buddy Roemer	0
Unsure	20

AP-GfK Poll conducted by GfK Roper Public Affairs & Corporate Communications. May 5-9, 2011. N=378 Republicans and Republican-leaning Independents nationwide. Margin of error ♦ 6.9.

"Thinking about the people who may be candidates in the upcoming elections for the Republican presidential nomination, would you say you are more satisfied with your choices or more dissatisfied with your choices?" Options rotated

	Satisfied %	Dissatisfied %	Neither (vol.) %	Unsure %
5/5-8/11	41	45	8	6
3/24-28/11	52	33	7	9

CNN/Opinion Research Corporation Poll. April 29-May 1, 2011. N=475 Republicans and Republican-leaning independents nationwide. Margin of error ♦ 4.5.

"Next, I'm going to read a list of people who may be running in the Republican primary for president in 2012. After I read all the names, please tell me which candidate you would be most likely to support for the Republican nomination for president in the year 2012, or if you would support someone else. Minnesota Congressman Michele Bachmann, Indiana Governor Mitch Daniels, former Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich, former Arizona Governor Mike Huckabee, former Utah Governor Jon Huntsman, former Alaska Governor Sarah Palin, Texas Congressman Ron Paul, former Minnesota Governor Tim Pawlenty, former Massachusetts Governor Mitt Romney, former Pennsylvania Senator Rick Santorum, or businessman Donald Trump." Options rotated

	4/29 - 5/1/11	4/9-10/11	3/11-13/11
	%	%	%
Mike Huckabee	16	19	19
Donald Trump	14	19	10
Mitt Romney	13	11	18
Sarah Palin	11	12	12
Newt Gingrich	10	11	14
Ron Paul	10	7	8
Michele Bachmann	5	5	n/a
Mitch Daniels	5	3	3
Tim Pawlenty	3	2	3
Rick Santorum	2	2	3
Jon Huntsman	1	n/a	n/a
Someone else	3	3	4
None/No one (vol.)	4	4	3
Unsure	2	1	2
Haley Barbour	n/a	-	1

"... And who would be your second choice? ..." Options rotated
Results below based on 1st and 2nd choices, omitting Trump and Bachmann.

	4/29 - 5/1/11	4/9-10/11
	%	%
Mike Huckabee	18	24
Mitt Romney	18	16
Sarah Palin	16	16
Newt Gingrich	12	16
Ron Paul	12	9
Mitch Daniels	6	4
Tim Pawlenty	3	3
Rick Santorum	2	2
Jon Huntsman	1	n/a
Someone else	3	3
None/No one (vol.)	6	6
Unsure	2	1
Haley Barbour	n/a	-

Quinnipiac University Poll. April 26-May 1, 2011. N=1,408 registered voters nationwide. Results below are based on Republicans and Republican leaners.

"If the 2012 Republican primary for president were being held today, and the candidates were [see below], for whom would you vote?"

	%
Mitt Romney	18
Mike Huckabee	15
Sarah Palin	15
Donald Trump	12
Mitch Daniels	5
Newt Gingrich	5
Ron Paul	5
Michele Bachmann	4

Tim Pawlenty	4
Gary Johnson	1
Rick Santorum	1
Jon Huntsman	1
Unsure/No answer	15

Fox News Poll conducted by Anderson Robbins Research (D) and Shaw & Company Research (R).
April 25-27, 2011. N=322 Republican registered voters nationwide. Margin of error ♦ 6.

"I'm going to read a list of potential candidates for the 2012 Republican nomination. Please tell me which one you would like to see as the Republican presidential nominee. [See below.]"
Options rotated

	4/25-27/11	4/3-5/11
	%	%
Mitt Romney	19	14
Mike Huckabee	17	15
Sarah Palin	9	12
Donald Trump	8	11
Newt Gingrich	7	7
Ron Paul	7	3
Herman Cain	4	2
Tim Pawlenty	3	4
Michele Bachmann	3	2
Rick Santorum	3	2
Mitch Daniels	2	3
Jon Huntsman	1	1
Gary Johnson	1	1
Fred Karger	1	n/a
Roy Moore	1	n/a
Buddy Roemer	-	n/a
Someone else (vol.)	1	1
Too soon to say (vol.)	9	5
Unsure	4	8
Rudy Giuliani	n/a	9
Haley Barbour	n/a	1

Gallup Poll. April 15-20, 2011. N=1,047 Republicans and Republican-leaning Independents nationwide. Margin of error ♦ 4. Interviews conducted as part of Gallup Daily tracking.

"Next, I'm going to read a list of people who may be running in the Republican primaries for president in the 2012 election. After I read all the names, please tell me which of those candidates you would be most likely to support for the Republican nomination for president in 2012, or if you would support someone else. Mississippi governor, Haley Barbour; Indiana governor, Mitch Daniels; former speaker of the House, Newt Gingrich; former Arkansas governor, Mike Huckabee; former New Mexico governor, Gary Johnson; former Alaska governor, Sarah Palin; Texas Congressman, Ron Paul; former Minnesota governor, Tim Pawlenty; former Massachusetts governor, Mitt Romney; former Pennsylvania senator, Rick Santorum; former Utah governor, Jon Huntsman; Minnesota Congressman, Michele Bachmann; businessman, Donald Trump." Options rotated

	%
Mike Huckabee	16
Donald Trump	16
Mitt Romney	13
Sarah Palin	10
Ron Paul	6
Newt Gingrich	6
Michele Bachmann	4
Mitch Daniels	3
Tim Pawlenty	3

Rick Santorum	2
Haley Barbour	2
Jon Huntsman	1
Gary Johnson	-
Chris Christie (vol.)	-
Herman Cain (vol.)	-
Someone else	1
None (vol.)	6
Unsure	8

McClatchy-Marist Poll. April 10-14, 2011. N=468 Republican voters and Republican-leaning independent voters nationwide. Margin of error ♦ 4.5.

"If the 2012 Republican presidential primary were held today, whom would you support if the candidates are Mississippi Governor Haley Barbour, Indiana Governor Mitch Daniels, former Georgia congressman Newt Gingrich, former Arkansas governor Mike Huckabee, former Alaska governor Sarah Palin, Minnesota Governor Tim Pawlenty, former Massachusetts governor Mitt Romney, former New York City mayor Rudy Giuliani, Minnesota Congressman Michele Bachmann, former Pennsylvania senator Rick Santorum, former Utah governor and current U.S. Ambassador to Japan Jon Huntsman, businessman Herman Cain, businessman Donald Trump, Texas Congressman Ron Paul."

	%
Mitt Romney	18
Mike Huckabee	17
Donald Trump	13
Rudy Giuliani	9
Sarah Palin	8
Ron Paul	7
Newt Gingrich	4
Michele Bachmann	3
Herman Cain	2
Mitch Daniels	2
Tim Pawlenty	2
Rick Santorum	2
Haley Barbour	1
Jon Huntsman	1
Unsure	11

NBC News/Wall Street Journal Poll conducted by the polling organizations of Peter Hart (D) and Bill McInturf (R). March 31-April 4, 2011. N=238 registered voters nationwide who say they would vote in a Republican presidential primary.

"Let me read you a list of people who might seek the 2012 Republican nomination for president. If you were voting today in the 2012 Republican primary for president, which one of the following candidates would you favor: [see below]?" If unsure: "Well, which way do you lean?" Options rotated

	%
Mitt Romney	21
Mike Huckabee	17
Donald Trump	17
Newt Gingrich	11
Sarah Palin	10
Tim Pawlenty	6
Michele Bachmann	5
Rick Santorum	3
Haley Barbour	1
Other (vol.)	1
None (vol.)	4

Unsure

4

"Let me read you a slightly shorter list of people who might seek the 2012 Republican nomination for president. If you were voting today in the 2012 Republican primary for president, which one of the following candidates would you favor: [see below]?" If unsure: "Well, which way do you lean?" Options rotated

	%
Mitt Romney	40
Newt Gingrich	20
Tim Pawlenty	12
Michele Bachmann	11
Haley Barbour	3
Other (vol.)	1
None (vol.)	6
Unsure	7

Fairleigh Dickinson University PublicMind Poll. March 21-28, 2011. N=800 registered voters nationwide. Results below are among Republicans and Republican-leaning independents.

"In 2012 there will be an election for president of the United States. To run as the Republican candidate for president, who would you prefer: [see below]?" If unsure: "Which way do you lean?" Options rotated

	%
Mike Huckabee	21
Mitt Romney	19
Sarah Palin	11
Chris Christie	11
Newt Gingrich	8
Tim Pawlenty	5
Other (vol.)/Unsure	23

Gallup Poll. March 18-22, 2011. N=1,082 Republicans and Republican-leaning independents nationwide. Margin of error \pm 4. Interviews conducted as part of Gallup Daily tracking.

"Next, I'm going to read a list of people who may be running in the Republican primaries for president in the 2012 election. After I read all the names, please tell me which of those candidates you would be most likely to support for the Republican nomination for president in 2012, or if you would support someone else. Mississippi Governor Haley Barbour; Indiana Governor Mitch Daniels; Former speaker of the House Newt Gingrich; former Arkansas governor Mike Huckabee; former New Mexico governor Gary Johnson; former Alaska governor Sarah Palin; Texas Congressman Ron Paul; former Minnesota governor Tim Pawlenty; former Massachusetts governor Mitt Romney; former Pennsylvania senator Rick Santorum; South Dakota Senator John Thune; former Utah governor Jon Huntsman; Minnesota Congresswoman Michele Bachmann." Options rotated. Mike Pence removed after 2010. John Thune removed after Feb. 2011.

	3/18-22/11	2/18-20/11	11/13-14/10	9/25-26/10
	%	%	%	%
Mike Huckabee	19	18	16	12
Mitt Romney	15	18	19	19
Sarah Palin	12	16	16	16
Newt Gingrich	10	9	13	9
Ron Paul	6	5	6	7
Michele Bachmann	5	4	n/a	n/a
Mitch Daniels	4	3	1	2
Tim Pawlenty	3	3	4	3
Haley Barbour	2	3	4	3
Jon Huntsman	2	1	n/a	n/a
Rick Santorum	2	2	1	2
Gary Johnson	2	1	1	1

Donald Trump (vol.)	1	-	-	-
Chris Christie (vol.)	-	1	1	1
Someone else	2	3	2	4
Any/All (vol.)	1	-	-	1
None (vol.)	7	4	5	7
Unsure	8	10	9	11
Mike Pence	-	1	1	1
John Thune	-	1	2	2

Ballot scenarios:

Per Gallup: Ballot without Huckabee re-configured to substitute Huckabee voters' second choice. Ballot without Palin re-configured to substitute Palin voters' second choice. Ballot without Huckabee and Palin re-configured to substitute Huckabee or Palin voters' second choice or -- if their first and second choices are Huckabee and Palin -- third choice.

	ALL	w/o Huckabee	w/o Palin	w/o Palin and Huckabee
	%	%	%	%
Mike Huckabee	19	n/a	23	n/a
Mitt Romney	15	19	16	22
Sarah Palin	12	17	n/a	n/a
Newt Gingrich	10	13	12	16
Ron Paul	6	8	7	9
Michele Bachmann	5	5	6	7
Mitch Daniels	4	4	4	5
Tim Pawlenty	3	3	3	4
Haley Barbour	2	3	2	3
Jon Huntsman	2	2	2	2
Rick Santorum	2	2	2	2
Gary Johnson	2	2	2	2
Donald Trump (vol.)	1	2	2	2
Someone else	2	3	2	3
Any/All/None (vol.)/Unsure	15	18	18	24

Pew Research Center. March 8-14, 2011. N=538 Republican and Republican-leaning registered voters nationwide. Margin of error ♦ 5.5.

"As I name some possible Republican candidates for president in 2012, please tell me which one, if any, you would most like to see nominated as the Republican Party's candidate. [See below.]" If unsure: "As of today, who would you say you LEAN toward?" Options rotated

	%
Mitt Romney	21
Mike Huckabee	20
Sarah Palin	13
Newt Gingrich	11
Ron Paul	8
Tim Pawlenty	3
Mitch Daniels	2
Rick Santorum	2
Haley Barbour	2
Chris Christie (vol.)	2
Other (vol.)	1
None (vol.)	5
Unsure	10

NBC News/Wall Street Journal Poll conducted by the polling organizations of Peter Hart (D) and Bill McInturff (R). Feb. 24-28, 2011: N=282 registered voters nationwide who say they would vote in a Republican presidential primary.

"Let me read you a list of people who might seek the 2012 Republican nomination for president. If you were voting today in the 2012 Republican primary for president, which one of the following candidates would you favor: [see below]?" If unsure: "Well, which way do you lean?" Options related

	%
Mike Huckabee	25
Mitt Romney	21
Newt Gingrich	13
Sarah Palin	12
Ron Paul	6
Tim Pawlenty	3
Mitch Daniels	3
Rick Santorum	2
Jon Huntsman	1
Haley Barbour	-
Other (vol.)	2
None (vol.)	4
Unsure	8

Newsweek/Daily Beast Poll conducted by Douglas E. Schoen LLC. Feb. 12-15, 2011. N=918 likely voters nationwide. Results below are among Republicans and Independents.

"In thinking about the 2012 Republican primary for president, suppose you had a choice between Sarah Palin, Tim Pawlenty, Haley Barbour, Mike Huckabee, Mitt Romney, Mitch Daniels, Newt Gingrich, Donald Trump and Jon Huntsman. If the election were held today, who would you vote for?"

	%
Mitt Romney	19
Mike Huckabee	18
Sarah Palin	10
Donald Trump	8
Newt Gingrich	7
Tim Pawlenty	5
Mitch Daniels	1
Haley Barbour	1
Jon Huntsman	1
Unsure	31

CNN/Opinion Research Corporation Poll. Jan. 21-23, 2011. N=479 Republicans and Republican-leaning independents nationwide. Margin of error ± 4.5.

"Next, I'm going to read a list of people who may be running in the Republican primary for president in 2012. After I read all the names, please tell me which candidate you would be most likely to support for the Republican nomination for president in the year 2012, or if you would support someone else. Mississippi Governor Haley Barbour. Indiana Governor Mitch Daniels. Former speaker of the House Newt Gingrich. Former Arkansas governor Mike Huckabee. Former Alaska governor Sarah Palin. Texas Congressman Ron Paul. Former Minnesota governor Tim Pawlenty. Indiana Congressman Mike Pence. Former Massachusetts governor Mitt Romney. Former Pennsylvania senator Rick Santorum. South Dakota Senator John Thune." Options related

	%
Mike Huckabee	21
Sarah Palin	18
Mitt Romney	18
Newt Gingrich	10
Ron Paul	7
Haley Barbour	3

Mitch Daniels	3
Tim Pawlenty	3
Mike Pence	1
Rick Santorum	1
John Thune	1
Someone else (vol.)	5
None/No one (vol.)	4
Unsure	2

"If you had to choose, would you rather see the Republican Party nominate a presidential candidate who agrees with you on every issue that matters to you but may not be able to beat Barack Obama, or a presidential candidate who can beat Barack Obama but does not agree with you on every issue that matters to you?"

	Agrees on every issue %	Can beat Obama %	Unsure %
1/21-23/11	29	68	2

NBC News/Wall Street Journal Poll conducted by the polling organizations of Peter Hart (D) and Bill McInturff (R). Jan. 13-17, 2011. N=1,000 adults nationwide. Results below are among Republicans and strict independents.

"Let me read you a list of people who might seek the 2012 Republican nomination for president. If you were voting today in the 2012 Republican primary for president, which one of the following candidates would you favor: [see below]?" If unsure: "Well, which way do you lean?" Options rotated

	%
Mitt Romney	19
Mike Huckabee	18
Sarah Palin	14
Newt Gingrich	10
Ron Paul	8
Tim Pawlenty	5
Mitch Daniels	3
Rick Santorum	3
Haley Barbour	2
John Thune	1
Other (vol.)	2
None (vol.)	6
Unsure	8

ABC News/Washington Post Poll. Jan. 13-16, 2011. N=425 Republicans and Republican-leaning independents nationwide. Margin of error ♦ 5.5.

"I'm going to read a list of possible candidates for the Republican nomination for president in 2012. After you hear the list, please tell me, if the 2012 Republican presidential primary or caucus in your state were being held today, for whom would you vote: [see below]? ... Which candidate would you lean toward?"

	%
Mike Huckabee	21
Sarah Palin	18
Mitt Romney	17
Newt Gingrich	9
Chris Christie	8
Rick Perry	3
Mitch Daniels	2
Tim Pawlenty	2

Mike Pence	2
Rick Santorum	1
Haley Barbour	1
Jim DeMint	1
Jon Huntsman	1
John Thune	-
Other (vol.)	1
None of these (vol.)	6
Unsure	6

CNN/Opinion Research Corporation Poll. Dec. 17-19, 2010. N=470 Republicans nationwide. MoE 4.5.

"I'm going to read you the names of a few people who might run for the Republican presidential nomination in 2012. For each one, please tell me whether you would be very likely, somewhat likely, not very likely, or not likely at all to support them if they decided to run for the Republican nomination in 2012. ..."

	Very likely %	Somewhat likely %	Not very likely %	Not likely at all %	Unsure %
Alaska Governor Sarah Palin					
12/17-19/10	23	26	23	28	-
12/1-2/08	32	35	21	12	-
Former Massachusetts governor Mitt Romney					
12/17-19/10	24	35	25	15	2
12/1-2/08	28	33	23	13	3
Former Arkansas governor Mike Huckabee					
12/17-19/10	27	40	20	11	2
12/1-2/08	34	31	21	13	1
Former House speaker Newt Gingrich					
12/17-19/10	19	35	22	22	2
12/1-2/08	27	25	28	19	1

Clarus Research Group. Dec. 10-16, 2010. N=365 Republican voters nationwide. Margin of error 5.1.

"As you may know, there are a number of Republicans who are considering running for president in 2012. Please tell me which ONE of the following would you most likely vote for if the presidential primary were held today: Mitt Romney, Sarah Palin, Mike Huckabee, Newt Gingrich, Chris Christie, John Thune, Haley Barbour, Tim Pawlenty, Ron Paul, Bobby Jindal, Marco Rubio, or Mitch Daniels?" Options rotated

	%
Mitt Romney	19
Mike Huckabee	18
Sarah Palin	17
Newt Gingrich	10
Chris Christie	9
Marco Rubio	5
Ron Paul	4
Bobby Jindal	4
Tim Pawlenty	3
Haley Barbour	2
John Thune	2
Mitch Daniels	2
Unsure	5

McClatchy-Marist Poll. Nov. 15-18, 2010. N=337 Republican voters and Republican-leaning independent voters nationwide. Margin of error ± 5.5.

"If the 2012 Republican presidential primary were held today, whom would you support if the candidates are [names and titles read]?"

	%
Mitt Romney	20
Mike Huckabee	16
Sarah Palin	13
Newt Gingrich	10
Chris Christie	9
Rick Perry	5
Mitch Daniels	4
George Pataki	3
Mike Pence	3
Tim Pawlenty	2
Haley Barbour	1
Unsure	14

Quinnipiac University Poll. Nov. 8-15, 2010. N=2,424 registered voters nationwide. Results below are based on Republicans and Republican leaners.

"It is a long way off but I would like to ask you some questions about the 2012 presidential election. If the 2012 Republican primary for president were being held today, and the candidates were Sarah Palin, Mike Huckabee, Newt Gingrich, Mitt Romney, Mitch Daniels, Tim Pawlenty, Haley Barbour, and John Thune, for whom would you vote?"

	ALL %	Men %	Women %
Sarah Palin	19	14	25
Mitt Romney	18	20	15
Mike Huckabee	17	17	18
Newt Gingrich	15	18	11
Tim Pawlenty	6	6	5
Mitch Daniels	2	3	2
Haley Barbour	2	3	1
John Thune	2	2	1
Someone else (vol.)	1	1	1
Wouldn't vote (vol.)	1	1	1
Unsure/No answer	17	15	19

Republican nomination continued

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THE DAILY BEAST

Newt Jeopardizes Fox Debate

The former speaker is the latest to kiss off what was to be the first Republican presidential face-off.

With just one week to go before the Fox News debate in South Carolina, the biggest star—and until recently a Fox News contributor—seems to be bowing out.

Fox News executives had quietly extended the deadline for participation until May 3 to accommodate Newt Gingrich, seeing him as the event's biggest draw. But that gambit has failed.

"It's becoming increasingly clear that we're not going to make the deadline," Gingrich spokesman Rick Tyler told Hotline On Call. "We had always planned to be in the debate and want to be in the debate, but I don't think we will."

Fox News isn't giving up or delaying the event, at least not yet. "We're confident that we'll have enough candidates to have a vigorous and worthwhile debate," Fox Vice President Michael Clemente said in a statement.

Pushing back the deadline may have given the impression that the network was doing its former on-air star a favor and conveyed a frantic effort to salvage the debate, which is being spearheaded by Washington Manoeuvring Editor Bill Sammon. "Sammon was counting on Newt to participate," says one person with knowledge of the situation. "This is a real blow to the debate."

So who's in? Fox News expects to go with a lineup of Tim Pawlenty, Rick Santorum, Ron Paul, Gary Johnson and Herman Cain—although not all meet the established criteria, which includes forming a presidential exploratory committee and averaging at least 1 percent in recent national polls. Michele Bachmann could join if she forms a committee in the coming days, while Mitt Romney has not committed to the debate.

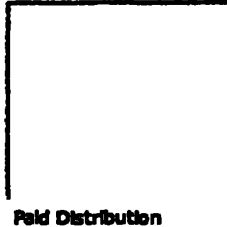
Given the late-starting race, says Clemente, "in order to be as inclusive as possible, Fox News wants to make the deadline as close to the debate as possible in case there are late polls that may help candidates qualify. Any presidential debate is a reflection of the field at a given moment. As journalists, our job is not to monitor the field, but to take stock of the field by

asking questions of those who toss their hats into the ring."

Since Gingrich has been weighing a White House run for a decade, does his all-but-certain withdrawal mean he's leaning against running? Tyler somewhat a note of caution, saying that "business engagements" and "contractual obligations" are preventing him from legally leaving a committee for now.

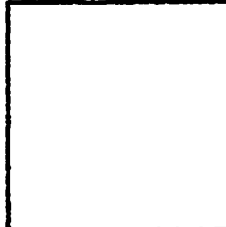
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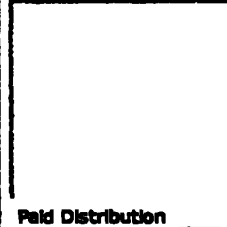


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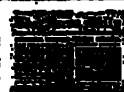
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Larry O'Donnell Hates Santorum: Says He's Mentally Ill, and Gay Fred Karger More Qualified for Iowa Debate

By Tim Graham | August 14, 2011 | 23:28

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How badly do liberals hate Rick Santorum? Last Tuesday, Lawrence O'Donnell insisted an openly-gay fringe candidate was more worthy of inclusion in the Iowa presidential debate than Santorum was, employing a poll by liberal Harris Interactive. O'Donnell claimed Santorum "has left many of us concerned for his mental health" at his opposition to gay marriage. Forgive us if we don't buy that O'Donnell's heart bleeds with compassion for Santorum's allegedly fragile state.

In addition, coarse liberal radio host Randi Rhodes mocked Santorum and his wife Karen and their home schooling of their children. She asserted "Children who are raised by wolves are better off than kids homeschooled by Rick Santorum."

Somehow, it's doubtful if a Democrat ran for president against his party's grain on a single uncomfortable social issue — let's say it was a champion of the unborn — that O'Donnell would be thumping a tub for their inclusion in debates. But that wasn't slowing Larry down:

ODONNELL: Time for tonight's rewrite. Fox News is barring this man from its Republican presidential debate this week simply because he is gay. Fred Karger meets all of Fox's requirements for being in the debate, which are "the candidate be registered with the National Elections Commission as a presidential exploratory committee or presidential campaign. The candidate meets all U.S. Constitutional requirements and has garnered at least an average of one percent in five national polls based on most recent polling leading up to the registration day."

Karger's campaign cites five polls, the most recent a Harris Interactive poll which saw this candidate still with 10 to 15 percent of two percent. Karger has also placed at one percent in three polls, one of them a Fox News poll. And just under one percent in a fifth. And to reiterate, "Fox's own recent call for an average of one percent in five national polls, and the two percent showing in the most recent Harris Poll gets him there."

But Fox News knows that Fred Karger is openly gay. And Fox News is not about to let an openly gay presidential candidate in a Republican debate. But Fox News will allow this man in the debate. Former Fox News contributor Rick Santorum, who polls 50 percent higher than Fred Karger in the Harris Interactive Poll.

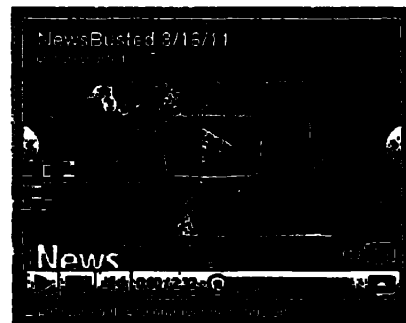
Santorum, of course, is not openly gay. But he is deeply homophobic and human sexuality and has left many of us concerned for his mental health when he finds himself irrevocably drawn, at no one's prompting, into discussions of gay life.

This is one of those classic double standards that liberals like to engage in — because Fred Karger is running for president to discuss his gay life, and all the other issues are secondary. Somehow, O'Donnell doesn't think Karger has a mental-health problem. But a politician willing to question gay marriage must by definition have a screw loose.

O'Donnell went on a long tangent about Santorum managing to suggest the difference between traditional marriage and "gay marriage" is like the difference between a napkin and a paper towel. It's not a terrible analogy, since it allowed O'Donnell to claim he's not a f---y-pants who wears 888 socks and 8945 shoes because he uses paper towels like a napkin. Then he harrumphed: "Someone who has no comprehension of the American situation in paper towels and napkins has no better chance of becoming president than an openly gay politician."

On August 9, Randi Rhodes went on this anti-Santorum bender:

RHODES: Frankly, when I look at, you know, seven children of Rick Santorum all being



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Barred 2012ers make debate plans

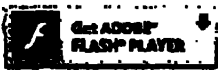


McCotter will spend the night responding to questions at the Iowa state fair. | AP Photo

By JUANA SUMMERS | 8/11/11 9:52 AM EDT Updated: 8/11/11 3:17 PM EDT

Rep. Thad McCotter wasn't allowed into Thursday night's presidential debate, but he's still going to be answering all the questions.

While the eight approved candidates are on stage, the Michigan congressman will spend the evening responding to the moderators' questions at the Iowa State Fair grounds, which will then be broadcast on his campaign's Facebook account and website — at least that's the hope.



"We're trying to set it up so that we have a place and a person to sort-of host

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it, and have it be an honest to God livestream," said Christopher Rants, McCotter's Iowa director. "We want to do it live so people can watch it live."

McCotter's in a unique spot for the debate — he didn't meet the polling threshold set by Fox for entry, despite buying a spot on the straw poll ballot. That's left him very eager to make an impression, even without the cameras directly on him.

But the other candidates who were left out of Thursday's debate have taken a more laid-back approach. Former governors Buddy Roemer and Gary Johnson, who posted YouTube video responses to questions when they were denied entry to previous debates, have decided not to this time around.

Roemer, who's renting a one-bedroom apartment in Manchester, N.H., while mounting his campaign, said he plans to watch from either his campaign headquarters or apartment, and make himself available to reporters at the debate's conclusion.

"It's kind of a non-event for me," Roemer said of the Iowa debate. "The cost was too great to get in for me. It's turned out to be a media circus without much meaning."

He downplayed the influence of the debate nationally, saying that New Hampshire voters likely won't watch.

And Johnson, who spoke out passionately after he failed to land a spot in the last GOP debate, seems to have also focused his attention elsewhere.

He'll talk about the debate on Fox Business, but has set no other plans so far, said spokeswoman Elizabeth Renda.

Also staying quiet is former Ambassador John Bolton, who has not yet entered the race but will announce a decision in the next three weeks. Bolton, a Fox News commentator, has no planned appearances or public schedule, according to his assistant.

Perhaps the most visible candidate on the debate sidelines is Fred Karger, a Republican political consultant who has never been allowed to debate and has not garnered a large following for the presidential campaign he's mounting.

Karger will be in Iowa on Thursday night, he told POLITICO, and is looking for tickets to attend the debate himself.

"I'll hopefully watch it, and do the spin room and blog for the Huffington Post," said Karger, who blogged for the liberal news website during the past two debates.

Karger is also looking to boost his write-in performance by passing out postcards that include a photo of him standing with President Ronald Reagan and Nancy Reagan. He worked in the Reagan White House in the early 1980s, which he's now trying to draw attention to in the hope that it will jump-start his fledgling campaign.

"Of all the candidates running, I have the closest tie to him," Karger said.

"That is something that in Iowa, and of course the Republican caucuses, is a great asset. I have the kind of optimism that hasn't come out in other candidates."

Read more about:

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TOP STORIES



2012

Meet Fred Karger, the Gay Presidential Candidate Who's Blocked from Debates

BY BRANDON L. THORP

AUG 9, 2011 5:39 PM

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4

Fred Karger looks like a presidential candidate. He sounds like a presidential candidate. Hell, he is a presidential candidate — the only (openly) gay one currently in the running, who's now polling neck-and-neck with Newt Gingrich for the Republican presidential nomination.

His campaign has gained unexpected momentum in the months since he received a brief, friendly warning in the *New York Times*, due perhaps to his habit of not saying hateful and/or crazy things on the stump. So why is Fox News refusing to let him attend the presidential debate on Thursday?

It's the polls, says Fox vice president Michael Clemente. According to the rules of the debate, a candidate must receive an average of 3% in five different polls to qualify for inclusion. While Karger is — according to some polls, he's got a whopping 2% of the vote, which puts him about level with Tim Pawlenty and Jon Huntsman. The problem is that some of those polls were conducted online. They were good, reliable polls — the Harris Interactive poll, which has on occasion proven the most accurate in the world, has Karger beating T-Paw and Huntsman. Doesn't matter, says Fox. It's online. Karger can't debate.

I spoke with Karger last night, and he sounded agitated. This is not his usual state. Previously, I'd met him at a bar — one full of gay liberal union members — and despite the bluish glow of his surroundings, Karger was perfectly at ease. Not in that greasy, back-slapping political way that makes some people feel dirty. He was just a friendly, extroverted dulle in a suit and hair gel who wanted to make friends and talk shop. But Fox's behavior has gotten to him.

And not only because it's unfair. You didn't waste up with the no-online-polls rule until after Karger had fulfilled the other requirements. As he sees it, the Grand Old Party needs him at this debate. "I want to be in this debate because any centrist view isn't represented in that hall," he says. "The other candidates are very far to the right. The American people aren't."

Of course, just about every wackadoodle/everyman candidate thinks he represents a great, marginalized majority of the American public. But with Karger, it might actually be true. Consider this appealing package: Karger is an old colleague of Ronald Reagan's. He worked as a political consultant for the man from 1980 through his reelection, and he's worked ever since in the private sector. He believes in entrepreneurship, small government, blah blah etc., but he's no anarcho-capitalist. "Of course the government can do good," he told me at the bar, when I mentioned the recent, alarming takeover of the secular wing of the Republican party by doctrinaire libertarians. On the phone, he admitted to having raised money for Hillary Clinton in 2008. "I'm the one Republican candidate who has actually voted for Democrats. I don't just reach across the aisle. Not even Obama can say that," Karger calls himself "trans-partisan."

Karger's all for the retention of effective government programs, charter schools, abortion rights, and the legalization of same-sex marriage. And he's for civility. I asked Karger the question I always ask Republicans — "What's worst about President Obama? That he's a closet Muslim or

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that he's a closet Stalinist?" — and Karger laughed.

"My biggest overall beef with President Obama is a lack of leadership," he said. "He just caves too easily. You know, on that campaign, he did the most magnificent job. But he's just not a leader ... If you're the president, you need to be strong. He was elected for a reason, but when he's tried to do the things he was elected to do, he's just been steam-rollered again and again."

To clarify: That was a Republican politician complaining that President Obama hasn't been hard enough on Republicans.

It's a refreshing stance, the kind of thing you might expect to hear from someone who, say, acknowledges that Americans with differing political views are still Americans, and may occasionally get some things right. It also all but guarantees that, even if he should attain tens of millions in campaign funds and the ear of a sympathetic media, Karger will be slaughtered in the primaries.

Karger disagrees, naturally. He looks at the 46% of Republicans whose favorite Republican is, according to the aforementioned Harris poll, "None of The Above," and wonders if those could be his people, if only they knew his mind.

Some of them will know, if only Karger can get to the debate. And he may. There's still time for Fox to change its mind. A petition urging them to do so may be found here. Even folks disinclined to help Republicans may want to take a moment to sign the thing, if only on the off-chance of seeing Karger go after Michele Bachmann.

Over the phone, the last question I asked Karger was whether he intended to use the debate to take on the Family Values crowd, or if he'd just as soon dodge them, seeing as Republicans are notoriously opposed to having gay stuff shoved, ahem, "down their throats."

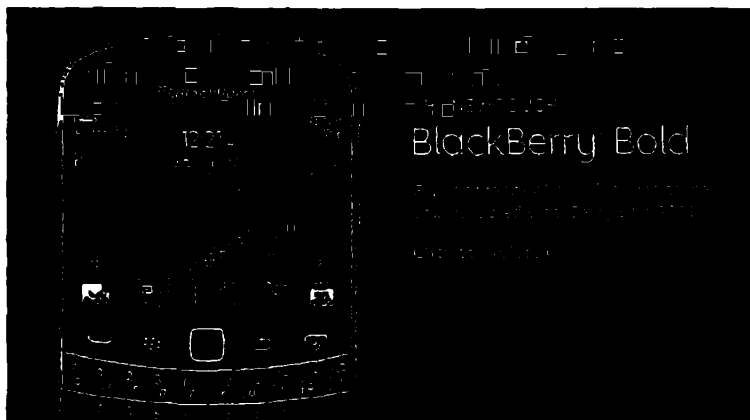
"Oh, no," said Karger. "That's a big motivation for me." He mentioned the three candidates who've signed the National Organization for Marriage's execrable "marriage pledge" — Michelle Bachmann, Mitt Romney, and Rick Santorum — and said he couldn't wait to go toe-to-toe. "Let them start attacking my community. They'll have Fred Karger to deal with." He paused. "Look, what they need to understand, what needs to be said, is that gay people aren't an election issue. They're just not. They're human beings. There's a difference."

That's where we left off. Fred Karger was in traffic in SanCal, en route to a barber. He wants to be freshly groomed for the debate.

[Image via Getty]

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 skoe211

09 Aug 2011 5:51 PM

Fuck off, Fred Karger.

"Karger is an old colleague of Ronald



Associated Press

Liveblog: The Third Republican Primary Debate

Elsbeth Reeve Aug 11, 2011 2,069 Views Comments (8)

Eight Republican candidates are debating in Iowa Thursday night, and this debate, the third, promises to be the most *Celebrity Deathmatch*-like so far. It comes just a couple days before the Ames straw poll, so it's important for the candidates to capture voters' attention and show why they're better than the other guys. That means not only are the lesser-known contenders more likely to go after frontrunner Mitt Romney, they'll also have the knives out for Michele Bachmann, as her solid performance in the June debate helped her shoot to the top of many polls. Tonight marks Jon Huntsman's first debate, and Tim Pawlenty needs to at least "show signs of life," Chris Cillizza says.

We'll be liveblogging their quips, zings, and bad ties. Plus that policy stuff, too.

11:20p.m.: Fun debate, guys! Takeaways: It is not easy, but getting easier, being a girl. The candidates are further to the right on tax increases than some House Republicans. Despite the fiscal focus of the Tea Party, social issues still matter a lot. The wars matter less.

11:01p.m.: The candidates offer their closing statements. Themes include solutions, God, and the excellence of the people of Iowa. Also, Pawlenty makes a Splitterman reference: with great power blessings



(Photo via Associated Press.)

That's a pork chop on a stick, guys. Nothing like a pork chop on a stick in August.

7:40p.m.: Not here tonight? Buddy Roemer, gay activist Fred Karger, and Gary Johnson. (Johnson's absence means there probably won't be much talk about legalizing marijuana this time. Sorry stoners.) They didn't perform well enough in the polls.

Want to add to this story? Let us know in comments or send an email to the author at ereeve@nationaljournal.com. You can share ideas for stories on the Open Wire.

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Reeve

9

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Fox News Blocks Fred Karger From Debate

Conservative network changes requirements, says gay Republican candidate ineligible

BY STEPHANIE BUTNICK | Aug 10, 2011 10:00 AM | Print | Email | [Twitter](#) | [Share](#)



Fred Karger.
Fred Karger/Flickr

Fred Karger, the Jewish, openly gay Republican presidential candidate profiled in Tablet in April, has been banned from participating in Fox News' presidential debate Thursday. A Fox representative posts that even though Karger received nearly 2 percent in some of the most accurate polls—satisfying the debate requirement that a candidate receive more than 1 percent of the vote in five different polls—the polls were administered online and therefore don't count.

Gawker reports:

"I spoke with Karger last night, and he sounded agitated. This is not his usual state. Previously, I'd met him at a bar — one full of gay liberal union members — and despite the bluish glow of his surroundings, Karger was perfectly at ease. Not in that greasy, back-slapping political way that makes some people feel dirty. He was just a friendly, extroverted dude in a suit and hair gel who wanted to make friends and talk shop. But Fox's behavior has gotten to him.

And now only because his unfair. Fox didn't come up with the no-online-polls rule until after Karger had fulfilled the other requirements. As he sees it, the Grand Old Party stands him at this debate. 'I want to be in this debate because my centrist views aren't represented in that hall,' he says. 'The other candidates are very far to the right. The American people aren't.'"

In April, Michelle Goldberg reported that Karger had spent approximately \$500,000 on his campaign, much of it from his own personal savings, and that the former GOP operative had started actively fundraising and campaigning. His strategy, Goldberg explained, was to draw attention to Republican candidate Mitt Romney's affiliation with the Mormon church in an effort to shed light on the religion's involvement with the movement against gay rights:

"A once-powerful GOP operative with a background in attack ads and opinion research, he plans to get himself into the Republican presidential debates, where he'll be able to call out the anti-gay politics of his fellow nominees. Homophobia blighted much of his life. Now he thinks he can use homophobia against his bête noir, Mitt Romney."

An online petition calling for Fox News to allow Karger to enter the debate had reached 2,500 signatures as of yesterday. No word if the petition will be taken into consideration by Fox since, yes, it was conducted online.

Meet Fred Karger, the Gay Presidential Candidate Who's Blocked from Debates [Gawker]
Fox News: Follow the rules, let Fred Karger debate! [Change.org]
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ADINA HOFFMAN & PETER COLE
The amazing discovery that revolutionized our idea of Jewish life and history.

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Avraham Mendelsohn, an accused serial pedophile who fled ultra-Orthodox Brooklyn for Israel, has never faced trial, thanks to extradition complications, a community that may have preferred to keep things quiet, and, after charges, a D.A. who had political reasons not to pursue the case.

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The Republicans' Jewish Problem
Today on Tablet

The Lives of Others
Hungary has made a hard turn to the political right, but Holocaust survivor Karl Pfeiler, who in three decades of journalism has exposed Hungarian communists and Austrian fascists, refuses to let anti-Semitism return unchecked.



TRUTH WINS OUT

NEWSROOM BLOG VIDEO ABOUT TWO "EX-GAY" TAKE ACTION THE CENTER EVENTS DONATE SHOP

TWO Assails FOX for Banning Fred Karger From Thursday's GOP Presidential Debate in Iowa

Posted August 10th, 2011 by Wayne Besen

FOX IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FOX is imposing a Litmus Test of Ideas and May Be Engaging in Anti-Gay Discrimination

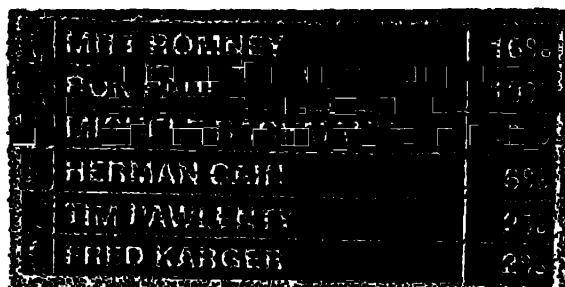
BURLINGTON, VT. — Truth Wins Out condemned FOX today for excluding openly gay Republican presidential candidate Fred Karger from the cable network's Thursday debate in Iowa. The decision appears to be a viewpoint litmus test imposed by FOX on Republican candidates and may even reflect anti-gay discrimination.

"Fred Karger played by the rules, yet FOX is still ruling him ineligible," said Truth Wins Out's Executive Director Wayne Besen. "It seems that FOX is stomping on ideological diversity among debate participants and may be excluding Karger because he is gay. He is outpolling better-known candidates and has earned the right to present his views to the American people."

Karger has qualified for a debate invitation because met these requirements for presidential candidates to be included:

1. Registered with the Federal Elections Commission as a presidential exploratory committee or presidential campaign.
2. Met all U.S. Constitutional requirements.
3. Garnered at least an average of one percent in five national polls based on most recent polling leading up to the registration day.

In an Aug. 2-4 Harris Interactive poll, Karger garnered 2 percent of the vote, which tied former Minnesota Gov. Tim Pawlenty and beat former Sen. Rick Santorum (1%) and former House Speaker Newt Gingrich (1%).



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- **Tony (not Troll Tony):** @Ray Seger Good comment Ray. Hits all the bases and then some. I like! One difference between the Germans and Americans...
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While Karger is not expected to win the nomination, if he is given a debate platform he could potentially finish in the top five. Most of the other candidates will divide the Religious Right's vote, which they are desperately courting. This could possibly leave Karger votes from Republicans repulsed by candidates like Bachmann or Santorum.

"It appears that one has to be an ultra-conservative clone to get invited to a FOX debate," said TWO's Besen. "If Karger's polling is respectable with little media exposure, it is reasonable to believe he could rapidly increase the number of supporters if given the opportunity to debate. It is unconscionable to essentially fix the nomination by blacklisting candidates that do not sign off on the GOP special interest checklist."

Truth Wins Out is a non-profit organization that fights anti-LGBT religious extremism. TWO specializes in turning information into action by organizing, advocating and fighting for LGBT equality.

Tags: Fox, Fred Karger, Truth Wins Out, Wayne Besen

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Comment by Frances Ballou-Homer — August 10, 2011 @ 8:13 pm

2. Hasn't Karger gotten the memo? If you want to get anywhere in the Teapublican Party, playing by the rules is NOT on the agenda.

Comment by Marilyn — August 10, 2011 @ 10:55 pm

3. A debate is an open exchange of ideas! So it makes a lot of sense to bar an openly gay candidate from expressing his view point! What's new? This Fox News with its prejudice proudly on display!

Comment by Alan — August 11, 2011 @ 12:39 am

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National

Iowa Debate Tonight, 2 Candidates Left Out



Mark Wechter, Independent Examiner

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Karger and McCotter Snubbed in tonight's IA debate

Credits: DailyCafier.com

August 11, 2011. Ames. The much anticipated Iowa Straw Poll debate is finally upon us. Republican candidates for President will take the stage tonight at Iowa State University in Ames, Iowa. The debate takes place just two days before this Saturday's famed Iowa Straw Poll. One pundit compared this week's events to the first inning of a World Series game for the potential Republican nominees. The nationally televised event hasn't gone without its share of well deserved controversy however.

To political observers, the Iowa Straw Poll is about as undemocratic as a poll can get. In recent years, it has turned into a fundraising event for the Iowa state Republican Party more than a gauge of the support for the various candidates. Basically, the candidates are allowed to purchase tens of thousands of tickets to the Straw Poll. Each candidate then enlists their army of supporters to fan out around Iowa, handing tickets to vote to all Iowa residents who appear supportive. Another example is the cost for booth rentals. Ron Paul spent \$35,000 to reserve the most prime booth spot for just one day.

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While there are 9 candidates on the Iowa Straw Poll ballot, only 8 of them will be allowed to participate in the debate. And a tenth candidate, not included in either, may have the most

legitimate complaint of all.

Candidates participating in the nationally televised debate tonight are: Mitt Romney, Michele Bachmann, Tim Pawlenty, Ron Paul, Herman Cain, Jon Huntsman, Rick Santorum and Newt Gingrich. The one candidate who will appear on Saturday's ballot but is being invited from tonight's debate is Michigan Congressman Thaddeus McCotter. When asked for a reason for the snub, debate sponsor Fox News cited the debate's qualification rules. In order to be invited to participate, Fox News VP Michael Clemente explained, "A candidate must be polling at least 1 percent in nationally recognized polls".

Critics and some GOP Presidential candidates in particular, point out the flawed reasoning in Mr. Clemente's argument. Republican Presidential candidate Fred Karger of California issued the following statement to Fox News and Iowa Straw Poll debate organizers:

"Dear All - I am a declared Republican candidate for President of the United States who meets all of the requirements to participate in the Fox News Debate on August 11, 2011 in Ames Iowa. Your criteria states:

Candidates must satisfy the following by 4 p.m. CDT on Tuesday, August 9, 2011

1. Registered with the Federal Elections Commission as a presidential exploratory committee or presidential campaign.
2. Meet all U.S. Constitutional requirements.
3. Garnered at least an average of one percent in five national polls based on most recent polling leading up to the registration day.

Attached is a new national poll that came out yesterday. It was conducted by Harris Interactive. I am at 2 percent, tied with former Governors Tim Pawlenty and Jon Huntsman. With this latest national poll, I now meet your objective criteria of averaging at least 1 percent in five national polls."

Unfortunately for candidate Karger, this is a Republican Party event and Fred Karger is the first openly gay candidate for the Republican nomination for President. While your criteria can't suggest Mr. Karger's snub and his sexual orientation have anything to do with each other, we would challenge debate organizers and Fox News to defend their apparently undemocratic actions.

While Fox News and the Iowa Republican Party have instituted their 1 percent threshold for participation, Fred Karger has consistently polled higher than 1 percent since the announcement of his candidacy way back in March of this year. On top of that, Karger has also consistently outpolled three of the candidates who will be allowed to participate in the Iowa Straw Poll events this weekend. Those include Rick Santorum, John Huntsman and Thaddeus McCotter.

The Iowa Straw Poll debate will air tonight at 8:00 CST on Fox News. The event is sponsored by the Iowa Republican Party, Fox News and the Washington Examiner. The debate is scheduled to run for two hours.



By Mark Wachter
Independent Examiner

Mark Wachter is a former elected official and a veteran of many independent political organizations. From Chicago's legendary Solidarity Party to...

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Posted on Advocate.com August 11, 2011 02:20:00 PM ET

Is Bachmann Ready for the Cameras Tonight?

By Lucas Grindley

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Tonight's Republican debate in Ames, Iowa, will provide one of the first chances to see the glare of a national television camera to pressure Michele Bachmann into answering questions about her husband's clinic, reparative therapy, and the rash of teen suicides in her district.

Bachmann has successfully dodged questions about her beliefs and specifically about a hidden-camera investigation that found so-called reparative therapy offered by her family's Christian counseling clinics. In one interview with a local TV station, her satellite feed actually cut out suddenly without explanation.

Fox News will be moderating, so the onus will likely be on host Bret Baier to confront the Minnesota congresswoman on gay rights. The other candidates would be far less likely than gay candidate Fred Karger to raise the issue, had the network allowed him into the debate.

Karger was told that despite averaging 1% in five national polls, he still hadn't qualified to debate. Fox said the polls were either too old or of questionable validity; Karger says he might file a complaint with the Federal Election Commission.

Bachmann's underground fighting gay rights has come under increased scrutiny since the last debate, as she and other candidates signed antigay pledges from the Iowa Family Leader and the National Organization for Marriage. The pledges have her ostentatiously touting support in amending the U.S. Constitution so it bans same-sex marriage, seeking to put marriage equality up for a vote in the District of Columbia, and promising to create a panel to investigate the opposition to these ideas for supposed harassment. The list doesn't stop there. She is now on record proclaiming that gay people make inferior parents, that gay men are a health risk, and that homosexuality is a choice.

And after Mother Jones reported that state public health officials had designated Bachmann's district as a "suicide contagion area" for teenagers, House Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi called on Bachmann to respond to criticism that her actions had contributed to the problem.

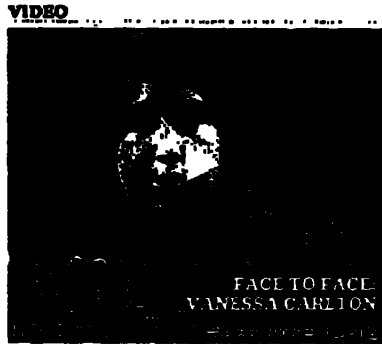
ThinkProgress reports Bailey that Bachmann's political career was threatened with help from a now-defunct group called iMIVest, which opposed the passage of a hate-crimes bill in Minnesota because it would give "moral legitimacy of homosexuality by setting it along side constitutionally protected freedom of religion and racial characteristics."

Watch the debate tonight from the Stephens Auditorium at Iowa State University at 9 p.m. Eastern.

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Fox denies Karger debate slot, petition begins

By Lynda Waddington | 08.08.11 | 11:15 am

Although 2012 Republican presidential candidate Fred Karger has said he met all the requirements needed to earn a slot in Thursday's Fox News debate in Ames, the network continues to deny him access. The situation has prompted supporters to launch a petition in support of Karger.

According to debate rules, candidates allowed to participate must have satisfied the following requirements no later than 4 p.m. on Aug. 9:

Karger noted last week in a letter that he believed he had met the requirements and that it was his intention to be on the debate stage in Ames this Thursday.

Michael Clemente, vice president of news for Fox News, told The Des Moines Register that Karger does not qualify because the polls he cited as satisfying the requirements are not good enough. Karger cited an Aug. 4 Harris Poll, a July 25 Zogby Poll, a May 23 Zogby Poll, a June 29 McClathy-Marist Poll and an April 28 Fox News poll.

The Fox News poll, Karger noted, was the first national one to include him. Clemente asserts that the poll is too old to be used to meet the requirement.

The campaign has launched a website, Let Fred In!, and as of Monday morning supporters are petitioning Fox News to allow Karger on the debate stage.

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Fox News: Follow the rules, let Fred Karger debate!

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- Fox News Chairman and CEO(Roger Ailes)
- Senior Producer for Political Programming & Events(Kathy Ardleigh)

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STARTED BY



[Fred Karger](#)
Laguna Beach, CA

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OVERVIEW

Fred Karger, the first openly gay candidate for President, meets all of the requirements to participate (1) in this weeks Fox News Corporation and The Republican Party of Iowa-sponsored Presidential debate. But, Fox News has now changed its criteria for inclusion after Fred met them. Federal Election Law that says that news organizations that sponsor Presidential debates must select candidates for debates based upon "pre-established, objective criteria" (3).

The criteria states (4):

Candidates must satisfy the following by 4 p.m. CDT on Tuesday, August 9, 2011

1. Registered with the Federal Elections Commission as a presidential exploratory committee or presidential campaign.
2. Meet all U.S. Constitutional requirements.
3. Garnered at least an average of one percent in five national polls based on most recent polling leading up to the registration day.

Fred Karger is a registered candidate for President with the Federal Elections Commission. Fred meets all US Constitutional Requirements. Fred now meet's the objective criteria of averaging at least 1% in five national polls:

2% in Harris Interactive Poll August 4th

1% in Zogby Poll July 25th

1% in Zogby Poll May 23rd

1% Fox News Poll April 28th

Less than 1% in McClatchy-Marist Poll June 29th

The Average of these Five Polls is MORE than 1%!

Let Fred In! (www.LetFredIn.com)

Read More:

1) "Karger-mentum: Long Shot Fred Karger Scores 2% in Poll, Possible Debate Appearance" Huffington Post. http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2011/08/05/karger-mentum-long-shot-f_n_919585.html

2) "Gay Republican Presidential Candidate: I qualify for Ames Debate; Fox News says No," Des Moines Register. <http://causes.desmoinesregister.com/2011/08/05/gay-republican-presidential-candidate-i-qualify-for-ames-debate-fox-news-says-no/>

3) "CONTRIBUTION AND EXPENDITURE LIMITATIONS AND PROHIBITIONS - Candidate Debates" Federal Election Law. <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/cfr/2010/janqtr/11cfr110.13.htm>

4) "Rules Outlines for Republican Debate on Aug. 11" Des Moines Register. <http://www.desmoinesregister.com/article/20110723/NEWS09/110723014/Rules-outlined-Iowa-Republican-debate-Aug-11>

Read Petition Letter

PETITION LETTER

Allow Fred Karger to participate in Thursday's Iowa Presidential Debate

Greetings,

I just signed the following petition addressed to: Fox News and The Republican Party of Iowa.

Allow Fred Karger to participate in Thursday's Iowa Presidential Debate

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4) "Rules Outlines for Republican Debate on Aug. 11" Des Moines Register. <http://www.desmoinesregister.com/article/20110723/NEWS09/110723014/Rules-outlined-Iowa-Republican-debate-Aug-11>

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[Your name]

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edwin serrano

I'm a true blue hispanic democrat. LET FRED SPEAK!

To: Fox News, Fox News Chairman and CEO (Roger Ailes), and Senior Producer for Political Programming & Events (Kathy Ardleigh)

Subject: **Allow Fred Karger to participate in Thursday's Iowa Presidential Debate**

Letter: Greetings, ,

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3) "CONTRIBUTION AND EXPENDITURE LIMITATIONS AND PROHIBITIONS - Candidate Debates" Federal Election Law. http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/cfr_2010/janqtr/11cfr110.13.htm

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Sincerely,

Signed By:

Name	Location	Date
Fred Karger	Laguna Beach, CA	08/08/2011
Michael Jacobsen	Manchester, NH	08/08/2011
Kevin Minitier	West Hollywood, CA	08/08/2011
Jared Trullinger	Iowa City, IA	08/08/2011
Anna Williams	Fort Mitchell, KY	08/08/2011
Firth Alexander	Johns Island, SC	08/08/2011
Michael Modes	Harrisburg, PA	08/08/2011
Larry Summers	New Albany, IN	08/08/2011
Alex Burke	Summerfield, NC	08/08/2011
Andy Szekeres	Denver, CO	08/08/2011
Michael Jones	Boston, MA	08/08/2011
Andrew Cote	Seattle, WA	08/08/2011
Matt Hammond	Washington, DC	08/08/2011
Dave Rubin	NY, NY	08/08/2011
shane richardson	yucalpa, CA	08/08/2011
Edward Craig	Eugene, OR	08/08/2011
John Becker	Burlington, VT	08/08/2011
Brock Gemberling	Selinsgrove, PA	08/08/2011
Michael Lambright	Jamalca Plain, MA	08/08/2011
Shaulo Joseph	New York, NY	08/08/2011
Eric Jackman	Rindge, NH	08/08/2011
Josh Alfonso	Deerfield Beach, FL	08/08/2011
Cristi Sturgill	Mount Vernon, KY	08/08/2011
CHRIS BAXTER	PENSACOLA, FL	08/08/2011
Amanda Benson	Fort Morgan, CO	08/08/2011
toni marano	laguna Niguel, CA	08/08/2011
Randy Woodard	winston salem, NC	08/08/2011
James Szwagierczak	Moose Jaw, Canada	08/08/2011
Dan(iel) Feltzger	Allentown, PA	08/08/2011

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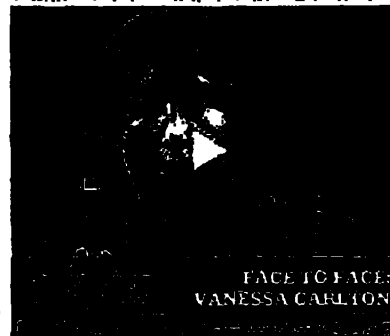
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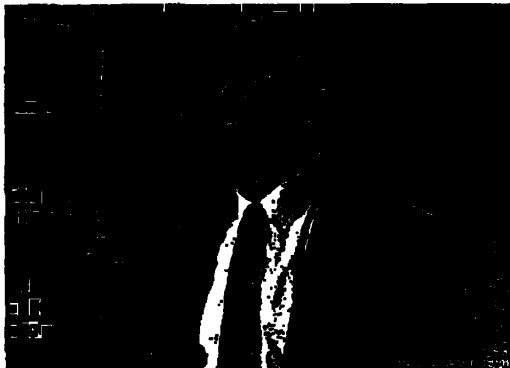
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Fox News Sidelines Karger in Debate

By Lucas Grindley

Gay GOP presidential candidate Fred Karger says Fox News won't let him into a Republican presidential debate even though he's met all of the network's conditions for qualifying.

Karger told *The Advocate* today that he is prepared to file a complaint with the Federal Election Commission if he's not allowed to debate in Ames, Iowa later this week. He's also launched a petition in conjunction with his Let Fred In website after learning through news reports (because he says Fox News isn't take his calls) that the network was rejecting his registration.



The Fox News Channel's rules had required candidates to average at least 1% in five "recent" national polls before registration day. And so Karger points to five polls that have him doing just that.

But Fox's vice president for news, Michael Clemente, told *The Advocate* in a statement that either the polls are too old, with the latest coming from April, or that the Internet-based polling methodology used by Zogby and Harris Interactive is insufficient.

"Such polls do not qualify for the purposes of meeting the debate criteria," he said.

Karger responded, "These aren't the nonscientific polls that your friends use, these are real polling agencies here," objecting to entire polling companies being tossed out.

Both pollsters are independent and are not affiliated with any party. A search of FoxNews.com shows that the network has regularly reported on Zogby's polls over the years. The same is true for Harris Interactive. The Fox News executive didn't explain what makes the polls Karger cites any less credible than the ones his network has reported on in the past.

The April poll was actually conducted by Fox News itself. But Clemente points out that the network has since run two new polls and that Karger didn't reach the 1% threshold.

That explanation is "total B.S.," if you ask Karger. "They said recent polls but they didn't say how recent," Karger says about the rules, which were outlined in late July. "By federal law, they have to have what's called 'praxisting criteria,' and that means they can't just be random like you're in and you're not."

Karger claims the network accepted polls as old as five months when admitting candidates to its poorly advertised debate in South Carolina.

Gay rights has been a top issue in the Iowa caucuses these days, with candidates Michele Bachmann and Rick Santorum signing an antigay pledge from the Family Leader.

"I am sure it will become an issue, and I want to be there to defend equality," he said. "No one else will, certainly."

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Fox denies Ames debate slot to Fred Karger

By Lynda Waddington | 08.08.11 | 1:40 pm | [More from The Iowa Independent](#)

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The Fox News poll, Karger noted, was the first national one to include him. Clemente asserts that the poll is too old to be used to meet the requirement.

The campaign has launched a website, Let Fred In!, and as of Monday morning supporters are petitioning Fox News to allow Karger on the debate stage.

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There should be no debate over rules

The Iowa Republican Straw Poll has always been the Velcro to the dryer-lint of controversy that tumbles through the media during a presidential campaign. This year, the debate that precedes the fundraiser in Ames is gathering some word as at least two candidates contest their exclusion.

Fred Karger, best known as the only openly gay candidate in the 2012 GOP race, says he's considering filing a complaint with the Federal Elections Commission if Fox News keeps him out of Thursday's debate. Fox News Vice President Michael Clemente said in a statement the poll results Karger has presented don't meet the debate criteria.

Fox News has also poll-excluded Thaddeus McCotter, a Michigan congressman, even though the debate co-sponsors, the Republican Party of Iowa, approved criteria that included him. Fox News' criteria require candidates to register a campaign or exploratory committee with the FEC and meet all U.S. constitutional requirements. They also must garner "at least an average of 1 percent in five national polls, based on most recent polling leading up to the registration day."

The Republican State Central Committee voted last month to include in the debate any candidates who are on the Aug. 13 straw poll ballot. McCotter was the only one who purchased space at the straw poll who has not qualified for the debate.

I asked Iowa GOP chairman Matt Strawn whether he was disappointed that Fox News didn't adopt the central committee's criteria. He said: "Yeah, and any time you have a joint agreement with an entity, there's going to be some tension." However, he said, it's up to the candidates to ensure that they meet the criteria.

McCotter was guaranteed a spot on the straw poll ballot because he purchased campaign space at the event. It's understandable that Fox would not want a situation where candidates could essentially buy a spot at the debate. But it puts the Republican Party in an awkward position.

The party allowed candidates who didn't buy space to be included on the ballot, without setting any criteria. That's why Mitt Romney, Newt Gingrich and Jon Huntsman are on the ballot. They'll be in the debate, but McCotter, who bought space in the straw poll, will not. McCotter will get a chance to speak to 10,000 or more committed caucusgoers, and that may be worth the \$15,000 pricetag. He also might have expected the party to go to bat for his inclusion in the debate – but that wasn't part of the deal.

Setting debate criteria is tough. There's almost unbearable tension between the desire to be as inclusive as possible while still having a debate worth watching. Too many candidates with no realistic chance of winning the nomination means the competitive centerlines get too little airtime.

Strawn said Monday that the important thing is that the criteria be clear and absolute. At least two candidates are arguing that the Fox criteria are not clear.

Karger and McCotter have each submitted a list of polls that includes interactive or online surveys, such as recent Harris Interactive survey that had each candidate at 1 percent. Clemente's statement said Fox News would not accept online surveys.

Karger, in an interview, said Fox News did not specify in its criteria what polls it would accept. He said he did not file complaints about his exclusion from the New Hampshire or South Carolina debates because the criteria either required a higher percentage or listed specific polls.

We could spend a lot of space on whether online polls are credible. But the bottom line is that since Fox's written criteria don't define a poll, Karger and McCotter have room to complain.

The straw poll, which has winnowed the field in past cycles, already raises questions of fairness because voters and candidates have to pay to play. The Iowa GOP should insist that all candidates who qualify based on the written criteria be included in the debate.

And as soon as this event is over, state party officials should get to work setting up clear and incontestable criteria for the next straw poll and any future debates. Let people argue about whether the straw poll is too important, but do not tolerate any appearance that Iowa's process is unfair.

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News from America's only radio station for the LGBT community.

UPDATE: Karger responds to Fox News's rejection for GOP debate

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Openly gay Republican presidential hopeful Fred Karger says he will file a complaint with the Federal Election Commission if Fox News continues to reject his participation in Thursday's debate in Ames, Iowa.

UPDATE BELOW FOLD

UPDATE: Fox News's Vice President of News, Michael Clemente, issued a statement to OutQ News Wednesday morning:

CLEMENTE: Candidates were told that online polls don't count. No serious person in polling has ever counted an online poll—which is why they are always labeled 'not scientific.'

OutQ News broke the story last week that the cable news network was denying Karger's claim that he qualifies for the event. The former G-O-P consultant turned 2012 contender says he has clearly met Fox News's published requirement of having an average of one percent in at least five national polls, including one just released Tuesday.

But in a statement to OutQ News, Fox News said that three of those polls were *online* surveys, one was "out of date," and another did NOT meet its one-percent threshold.

So Karger, along with his attorneys, sent a letter to Fox News Monday demanding "an explanation." His campaign also launched an online petition that has garnered more than two thousand signatures.

Karger tells OutQ News that he's ready to take Fox News "to the mat on this" because he feels he deserves to be treated equally.

Karger: And I just want a place on that stage. I believe I'm entitled to it. I've been at this for a year and a half, and if not this debate, I will fight and hopefully get in the next one.

Karger will be in Iowa for the rest of the week where he will launch a write-in campaign for the state's straw poll, which serves as an early indication of a presidential candidate's political standing. He will also participate in the state fair and other events designed specifically for 2012 hopefuls.

Karger says he will decide whether to file a complaint against Fox News with the FEC by early next week.

Fox News did not immediately respond to our request for comment.

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Written by Xorje Olivares

August 9, 2011 at 6:18 pm

Posted in Politicians

Tagged with Ames, debate, FEC, Federal Election Commission, Fox News, Fred Karger, GOP, Iowa, Michael Clemente, Michele Bachmann, Mitt Romney, presidential, Republican, Thursday, Tim Pawlenty, Vice President of News

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OutQ News on Sirius & XM Channel 108

12044313711

8 presidential candidates qualify for Ames debate

JENNIFER JACOBS JEJACOBS@DMREG.COM
THE DES MOINES REGISTER
AUGUST 18, 2011 ET

Eight presidential candidates have qualified for the Fox News/Iowa GOP debate Thursday night. Expected to appear at the nationally televised event in Ames are: Massachusetts' Mitt Romney, Minnesota's Michele Bachmann, Minnesota's Tim Pawlenty, Texas' Ron Paul, Georgia's Herman Cain, Utah's Jon Huntsman, Pennsylvania's Rick Santorum and Georgia's Newt Gingrich, according to Michael Clemente, Fox's vice president of news. The two-hour debate, with commercial breaks, will start at 8 p.m.

Rules required candidates to have an average of at least 1 percent support in five national polls by 4 p.m. Tuesday to be eligible to participate, Fox officials said. Some candidates were

shut out, including Michigan's Thaddeus McCotter, the most recent candidate to enter the race, and California's Fred Karger, an openly gay candidate. McCotter's name will be on the ballot for the Iowa straw poll on Saturday because his campaign paid the \$15,000 necessary to participate in the Republican Party of Iowa fund-raiser.

All tickets for the debate, at Iowa State University in Ames, have been issued, Iowa GOP officials said. Moderators will be Byron York and Susan Ferrehio from the Washington Examiner newspaper, one of the debate co-sponsors, and Fox News anchors Chris Wallace and Bret Baier.

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The Morning Pride: August 10, 2011

Jack Ford on Aug 10, 2011 at 8:42 am

Welcome to The Morning Pride, ThinkProgress LGBT's 8:45 AM round-up of the latest in LGBT policy, politics, some culture too! Here's what we're reading this morning, but let us know what you're checking out too.



- A San Francisco married same-sex binational couple faces the threat of deportation, but Chris Geldner explains that the couple's situation is much more complicated than was originally reported.
- Openly gay Republican presidential candidate Fred Karger has been denied the opportunity to participate in Thursday's Fox News debate, despite the fact he meets all the criteria set forth. Lawrence O'Donnell took Fox News to task last night for discriminating against Karger because he's gay.
- Peter LaBarbera and his one-man anti-gay operation, Americans For Truth About Homosexuality, has launched a campaign to prevent gay men from donating blood called the "Keep the Gay Blood Ban" (KGB²).
- Chilean President Sebastián Piñera introduced legislation yesterday that would recognize same-sex civil unions.
- A sixth student has filed suit against Anoka-Hennepin School District for its gag policy on LGBT issues, claiming she faced severe harassment as an out lesbian.
- The Dallas school board will soon consider whether to create policies that would protect transgender students and employees from discrimination.
- Conservatives are angry at an Ontario Catholic School teacher who taught students about sexual orientation, including such dastardly concepts as "Gay males and lesbians are not overly sexual," "Gay men are not always hitting on young boys," and "Gay people are not very different from straight people."
- The Quebec government has published a guide for taking care of LGBT seniors.
- A new documentary called Lead With Love looks at four families responding to learning that their child is

Fox News Sidelines Karger in Debate

in UNITED STATES, 09082011

Gay GOP presidential candidate Fred Karger says Fox News won't let him into a Republican presidential debate even though he's met all of the network's conditions for qualifying.

(Lucas Grindley) - Karger told The Advocate today that he is prepared to file a complaint with the Federal Election Commission if he's not allowed to debate in Ames, Iowa later this week. He's also launched a petition in conjunction with his Let Fred In website after learning through news reports (because he says Fox News isn't



Fred Karger

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"Such polls do not qualify for the purposes of meeting the debate criteria," he said.

Karger responded, "There aren't the same old polls that your friends use, there are real polling agencies here," obligating an entire polling company to being tossed out.

Both pollsters are independent and are not affiliated with any party. A search at FoxNews.com shows that the network has regularly reported on Zogby's polls over the years.

The same is true for Harris Interactive. The Fox News executive didn't explain what makes the polls Karger cites any less credible than the ones the network has reported on in the past.

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That explanation is "kind B.S.," if you ask Karger. "They said recent polls but they didn't say how recent," Karger says about the rules, which were outlined in late July. "By federal law, they have to have what's called 'presiding criteria,' and that means they can't just be random like you're in and you're not."

Karger claims the network accepted polls as old as five months when admitting candidates to its poorly attended debate in South Carolina.

Gay rights has been a top issue to the five red states these days with candidates Mitt Romney and Rick Santorum nipping at each other's heels in the primary season.

"I am sure it will become an issue, and I want to be there to defend equality," he said. "No one else will, certainly."

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Contributors



Jennifer Josef, ILGA-USA

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US: candidate locked out of debate

Posted on 16 August 2011

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1 Vote

Openly gay Republican Presidential hopeful Fred Karger has been refused a place in a crucial televised debate by US conservative cable network Fox News.

Fox News is seen in the US as a key platform for candidates in the upcoming Iowa Republican Primary vote.

The outraged Karger campaign said that despite meeting all of the network's requirements by polling at an average of 1 percent popularity in five national opinion polls, Fox News declined Karger's request to take part in the debate. Independent polling has put Karger at near even with other Republican candidates, including Minnesota governor Tim Pawlenty and former US ambassador John Huntsman, who will take part in the debate.

Karger said his campaign team had written to Fox News Senior VP Michael Clemente twice and, "provided all the evidence which would absolutely allow me a place on that stage ... We have earned it."

Although many have written him off as a serious candidate, Karger has been a strong voice for LGBT equality inside the Republican Party as a supporter of same-sex marriage. The debate snub has come as surprise to Karger, who has been touting his Republican credentials, having been a senior political consultant on the presidential campaigns of US presidents Ronald Reagan, Gerald Ford, and George Bush Sr.

Tags: FOX news, Fred Karger, Republicans

This post was written by:

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Political Update with VIDEO: The first openly gay presidential candidate, and San Diego's mayoral race

ESTHER RUBIO-SHEFFREY - SDGLN STAFF WRITER
August 10th, 2011

0 2 3 0

National Headlines

The top three contenders hoping to challenge President Obama in 2012 and currently vying for the GOP Presidential nomination are Mitt Romney, Ron Paul and Michele Bachmann, according to a recent poll by Harris Interactive.

Romney came in first with 16%, and both Paul and Bachmann tied at 10%, but an overwhelming 49% of them called also said they would not support any of the 12 candidates as the 2012 Republican presidential nominee.

This is not exactly good news for the candidate, but for Fred Karger — the first openly gay candidate to seek the GOP nomination for President of the United States — it was good news.

Not content with simply making history, Karger wants FOX News to allow him to take part in the Republican Party's Iowa debate, scheduled for Thursday, Aug. 11 ... and technically, the rules are on his side.

Because although his 2% rating is as low as the possibility that he will win the GOP nomination, this was the fifth national poll in which Karger received at least an average support of 1%, one of the three ratings determined by both Fox News and the Iowa Republican Party's state central committee. So if Fox News sticks by its claim to take part in an unofficial caucus on Thursday in Ames, Iowa,

Not surprisingly, Fox News has been less than receptive to the idea, and despite his own efforts and a petition originated at Change.org that gathered over 2,000 signatures in January, it seems unlikely the openly gay candidate will be allowed into the debate.

Nevertheless, Kayser is on his way to Iowa, and is keeping his supporters up to date via Twitter. Expect some sort of showdown tomorrow.

If you're wondering why Kager has declined to speak what makes this an impossible question, here is his explanation:

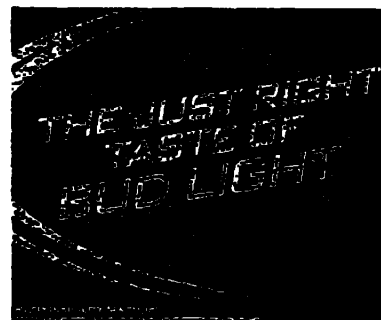
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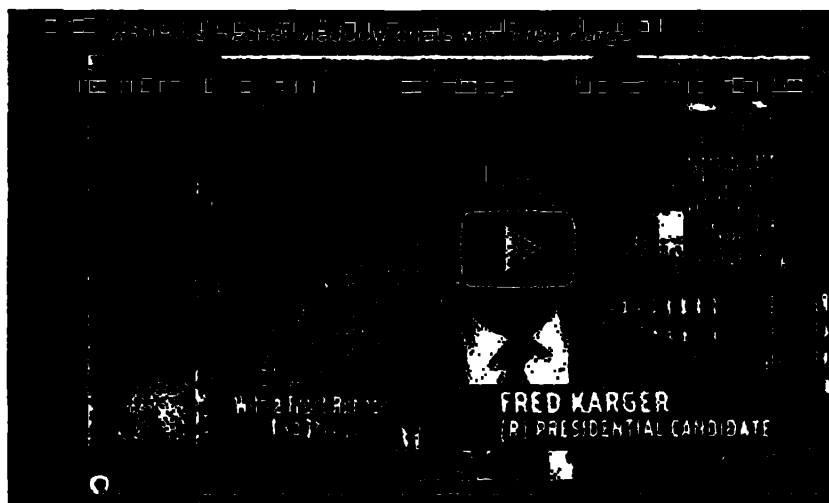
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While many would argue that a politician is always campaigning, on the mayoral front, each of the top four candidates appears to be out and about engaging voters in their official capacities, rather than as candidates.

Given the economy, it is no secret that jobs are going to be a major, if not the major political issue of 2012, both on a national and a local level. On that note, one of the major local issues candidates have been campaigning in a visible manner.

Carl DeMaio has several official campaign events in the coming weeks, but as a city councilmember, he recently launched an initiative dubbed the "Pathway to Prosperity." The goal is simple - create more local jobs.

"We need to get San Diegoans back to work -- and I'm aggressively pursuing ideas to make city government a help, rather than a hindrance, to economic recovery in our region," DeMaio said.

In addition to presenting seven "winning points" to achieve this goal, DeMaio also created a 15-person Task Force comprised of well-known San Diego business leaders and other experts, to assist him in creating effective strategies.

San Diegoans will have plenty of opportunities to chime in with their own ideas, too. They can share them by calling the job creation hotline at (619) 236-6210, or by attending a series of town hall meetings, where alongside business owners, they can help formulate and refine proposals for job creation. The first of these meetings will take place Sept. 18.

Assemblymember Wilson Fletcher is taking a similar approach on jobs; however, his focus is on bringing innovative jobs to California. He was recently appointed the chairman of the Select Committee on Job Creation and New Economy, by Assembly Speaker John Perez.

"There is a great need to work together to ensure our state is a more competitive place to grow innovative companies," Fletcher said. "This committee will pinpoint what is preventing large and small businesses from investing and expanding in the state so we can empower them to create jobs."

While it remains to be seen what will become of the candidate's current proposals and responsibilities, it is almost an absolute certainty that any achievement will be touted on the campaign trail, as San Diegoans inch closer to selecting their next mayor.

It is much easier for District Attorney Bonnie Dumanis to keep her name in the news headlines, given her "day job" responsibilities, but like Rep. Bob Filner, she is giving voters a chance to hear her point of view by taking part in a panel discussion, an event not officially related to the mayoral campaign.

Both Dumanis and Filner will take part in the third annual *Politically Speaking* event, sponsored by San Diego's Best Quarter Chamber of Commerce on Friday, Aug. 18. Rep. Duncan Hunter, state Sen. Debbie Burbach and Assemblymember Brian Jones will also join them.

In addition to the panel discussion, the \$45 admission price includes a hosted bar, heavy hors d'oeuvres, political comedy and satire, and a chance to mingle with the politicians. According to event organizers, LGBT rights and other issues that affect the community will be among the topics of discussion.

Additionally, Filner will join a panel discussion that includes labor leaders and other community leaders, on Monday, Aug. 15. The free event will feature a panel of experts on the economy, and Filner will have a chance to share his point of view on the economy, and the challenges faced by politicians, business, and the media in "rock the laptop" of blood from the American people.

Whether on the campaign trail, or not, the San Diego mayoral candidates are attempting to strike key chords with voters, and have only just begun.

To submit questions you would like to ask the candidates a writer, request coverage of the campaign event, or for any inquiries regarding campaign coverage in the San Diego Gay & Lesbian News, please email Editor@SanDiegoGLN.com or call toll-free to (877) 727-6446 x711.

As a matter of full disclosure, SDGLN Publisher Johnathan Hale has a personal relationship with Carl DeMaio. Their relationship in no way impacts the editorial decisions made by Ken Williams, SDGLN Editor in Chief, and does not influence our political coverage. All candidates are allowed to submit two photos per month for our front-page photo. Williams can be reached at (877) 727-6446 x713.

Tags: [Bob Filner](#), [Bonnie Dumanis](#), [Carl DeMaio](#), [Editor@SanDiegoGLN.com](#), [Frank Kessel](#), [Wilson Fletcher](#), [Bonnie Dumanis](#), [Politically Speaking](#)

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GOP chair says there was “clear, bright line” for debate participants

by O. Kay Henderson on August 10, 2011

in Politics & Government

Eight Republican presidential candidates will share a stage in Ames Thursday night.

The two-hour debate among the candidates will air on the FOX News channel. FOX required candidates to show they'd ~~garned~~ ~~at least an average of one percent~~ in a handful of recent polls. FOX executives decided Michigan Congressman Thaddeus McCotter did not meet their criteria. McCotter's a ~~recent entrant~~ in the G-O-P race who's participating in Saturday's Straw Poll. Fred Karger is an openly gay candidate who has said he'll consider participation in a nationally televised debate to be a victory for his campaign. He won't be allowed in the debate either.

The Iowa Republican Party is co-sponsoring the debate and party chairman Matt Strawn says the final decision on participants was made by FOX executives.

“There was a clear, bright line relative to polling information and you're either on one side of it or you're not,” Strawn ~~mys~~ says.

In July, the Republican Party's state central committee had voted to include in the debate all the candidates who had paid to participate in this Saturday's Straw Poll, but FOX chose not to include McCotter. McCotter's campaign is expressing disappointment.

“I'd love to discuss, with Iowans, my positions on the issues and give them a chance to consider them,” McCotter told Radio Iowa last week.

Strawn ~~expects many Iowa Republicans~~ to watch Thursday night's debate and then decide who to support at Saturday's Straw Poll.

Candidates ~~Michele Bachmann~~, Herman Cain, Newt Gingrich, Ron Paul, Tim Pawlenty and Rick Santorum — all of whom have been campaigning in Iowa over the past two weeks — will participate in Thursday's event. Former Massachusetts Governor Mitt Romney is ~~arriving today~~ for campaign events

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in Pella and Des Moines and he will be on the debate stage Thursday as well. Former Utah Governor Jon Huntsman is scheduled to be in the debate, too, and it's likely to be his sole appearance in Iowa. Huntsman is focusing his campaign in states that hold contests after Iowa's Caucuses.

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Brandon Davis,
GLAAD's Media
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This week in the Los Angeles Times, Mark Z. Barabak profiled openly gay Republican presidential candidate Fred Karger. Karger recounted in the piece how he did not come out until he was 58 years old and said, "I want to send the message to gay younger people and older people and everyone in between that you can do anything you want in life, and don't feel bad about yourself and don't feel you have to live your life the way I did." On last night's

episode of MSNBC's The Last Word, host Lawrence O'Donnell criticized FOX News for excluding Karger from an upcoming Republican presidential debate and said that Karger meets all of the network's requirements for participation.

In the same segment, O'Donnell also criticized former Sen. Rick Santorum (R-Pa.) for comments he made this week bemoaning marriage in a speech. On Friday, Santorum provided another metaphor to discuss marriage. Santorum: "It's like saying this glass of water is a glass of beer. Well, you can call it a glass of beer, but it's not a glass of beer. It's a glass of water. And water is what water is. Marriage is what marriage is."

In Minnesota on Tuesday, teens, parents and others within the Anoka-Hennepin School District held the first ever Anoka LGBTQ Youth Pride at Mississippi River Community Park. More than 600 people reportedly showed up for the event.

Also in Minnesota, the state's chapter of the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations this week announced that it is opposed to a ballot initiative aiming to ban marriage for same-sex couples in the state. Minnesota AFL-CIO President Sher Krutson said, "The labor movement is, and has always been about protecting and advancing the rights of all people. We will not stand by and allow discrimination to become part of Minnesota's constitution."

Lesbian Legal this week announced that a settlement had been reached in an incident during which musician Ari Gold and his boyfriend Timothy Ratson were asked by the driver of a New York Shuttle bus to move to the back of the vehicle. The couple was released for their tickets, the driver has been "appropriately disciplined," and employees will reportedly be trained on nondiscrimination laws and policies.

The Associated Press reported that Brian McInerney testified Tuesday in the case against his brother, Brandon, and said books about Red youth found in Brandon's bedroom belonged to him, not his brother. Prosecutors have claimed that Brandon was driven by white supremacists and anti-gay beliefs when he shot Lawrence King in 2008. A childhood friend of Brandon also testified Tuesday and made claims about King.

Chilean President Sebastian Pinera on Tuesday introduced civil unions legislation. Pinera said in a speech that all couples "deserve respect, dignity and the support of state."

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Native American Advocates Discuss Suquamish Tribe Marriage Equality Ruling



On August 1, the Suquamish Tribal Council unanimously voted to extend marriage equality to gay and lesbian couples, making them the second

Native American tribe in the U.S. to do so. GLAAD asked Native American advocates to reflect on the ruling's significance.

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**BACHMANN FALLS ASLEEP DURING PHOTO SHOOT
GAY OLD PARTY**

Fox News Refuses to Let Gay Candidate Join Iowa Presidential Debate

by [Kirsten Boyd Johnson](#)

by [Kirsten Boyd Johnson](#)

4:58 pm August 10, 2011

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In Leah's

Fred Karger for President

There is some other GOP presidential candidate we never actually even heard of named Fred Karger, but he is according to some poll tied with Tim Pawlenty, which feels about right. Karger is also one of the vanishingly rare openly gay Republicans people hear about on quiet days when the wind is still, which means Fox News will not be allowing him to participate in their upcoming Iowa presidential debate. WHY EVER NOT?? Here, let us make a simile: showing a gay on Fox News who might "do something gay" like pull some kind of gay guerrilla move like blowing a kiss to Rick Santorum or mention gays don't deserve the death penalty or **WORSE YET MENTION THAT GAY MARRIAGE IS IRRELEVANT TO THE ECONOMY**, on screen, live, is equal to the kind of terror Fox News debate producers feel when they imagine an out-of-left-field Michael Rachman - Harman Cain french kiss.

Karger sent a letter to Fox News explaining that he met all the requirements to enter the debate, which are basically to earn at least 1% in five national polls. He's also tied with Pawlenty and Jon Huntsman.

Fox News responded: hahahahaha polls are fake anyway. NO.

From the Des Moines Register:

[Fox News VP Michael] Clemente said each of the polls cited by Karger are either online, interactive or out of date and do not qualify for the purpose of meeting the debate criteria.

The latest national poll Karger highlighted was conducted by Harris Interactive, earlier this week showing Karger has 2 percent of the support, tied with former Minnesota Gov. Tim Pawlenty and former Utah Gov. Jon Huntsman.

Karger has been stunned by some mainstream Republicans, particularly religious conservatives who disagree that same-sex couples should have the same marriage rights as opposite sex couples.

Karger has filed a complaint with the Federal Election Commission earlier this year, for example, after Republican National Committee member Steve Scheffler of West Des Moines wrote in an e-mail to Karger that "I will work overtime to help ensure that your political aspirations are aborted right here in Iowa."

WOAH. So apparently Republicans do turn out to be secretly pro-abortion when there's a gay running around on the loose. [Des Moines Register/ Fred Karger For President]

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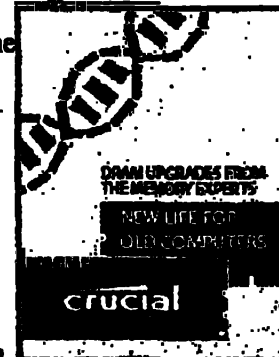
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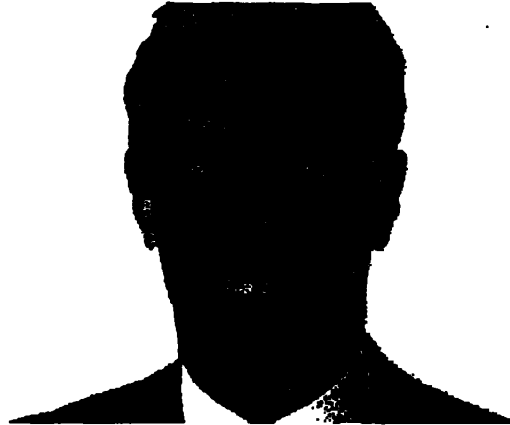


"In Ken Layne's new novel Dignity, abandoned housing developments and forlorn desert strip malls become a creche for a new society ... as refugees from the failing

Candidate left out of debate finds other ways to reach Iowans

Fred Karger said earlier this week that he believed a recent Harris poll showing him with 2 percent of the vote qualified him to be included in the debate, but organizers disagreed. (COURTESY PHOTO)

Fred Karger didn't get to answer any questions in front of the FOX cameras Thursday, but that didn't stop the GOP presidential candidate from offering his take on the issues facing the nation.



He watched the action on TV at Old Main, an Ames restaurant and pub, and blogged his responses to debate questions on the Huffington Post website.

"All of them were just attacking each other, and attacking Obama," said Karger, who also live Tweeted during the debate. "It shows how divided we've become, and it's just not something we should be doing."

If elected, Karger said he would focus on lifting the nation out of the recession. Throughout his career, he has worked on nine presidential campaigns and served as a senior consultant on campaigns for presidents Ronald Reagan, George H. W. Bush and Gerald Ford.

"When Reagan came into office, things did look good then either ..." Karger said. "The key is you keep on working. You keep doing what it takes to turn things around."

Karger, who announced his bid for the presidency in March, is the first openly gay presidential candidate from a major political party in American history.

He'll appear at the State Fair on Friday and is planning a write-in campaign at Saturday's Iowa straw poll.

U.S. Presidential Candidate Fred Karger Denied Place at Fox News Debate

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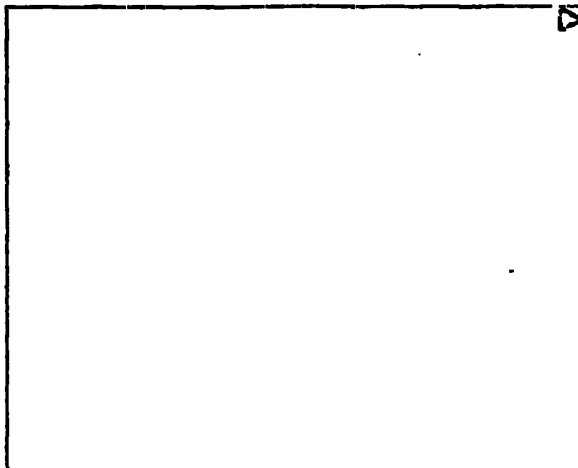
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Friday, August 12th, 2011 | by <http://en.wikinews.org>

Fred Karger, the first openly gay person to seek the presidential nomination of a major U.S. political party, was denied a place at Thursday's Fox News-sponsored Republican Party debate in Iowa. Karger insists that he meets the requirement of polling an average of one percent in at least five recent national polls, but Fox News refutes his claim.

Karger, who previously served as an adviser to Presidents Gerald Ford, Ronald Reagan and George H. W. Bush, announced his candidacy earlier this year. He brands himself as "a different kind of Republican" that wants to open the party to outsiders like himself. However, his polling numbers have remained low.

For inclusion in the debate, Karger cites an August 4 Harris poll that shows him with two percent support, an April 28 Fox News poll and Zogby polls from May 23 and July 25 that show one percent support, combined with a June 29 McClathy-Marist poll that includes Karger with less than one percent support for an overall average of one percent in five polls. Fox News' vice president of news Michael Clemente disputes this finding and remarked to the Des Moines Register that the April 28 poll cited was no longer considered recent and that the polls used were not sufficient to fulfill the requirements.



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In response, Karger tweeted "I am mad as hell and I am not going to take it any more... We will not be treated differently any more." He claims that Fox News did not specify which polls could not be included in the criteria. He opened a website titled "Let Fred In!" and supporters have started a petition to Fox News. The filing deadline for the debate is scheduled to end today at 4 p.m. CDT. If Karger is not included, he plans to file a complaint with the Federal Election Commission.

The debate, which will be held two days before the nonbinding Ames Straw Poll is expected to include Mitt Romney, Michele Bachmann, Tim Pawlenty, Jon Huntsman, Jr., Herman Cain, Ron Paul and Newt Gingrich. Like Karger, Congressman Thaddeus McCotter was not invited to the debate, despite securing a spot on the straw poll ballot.

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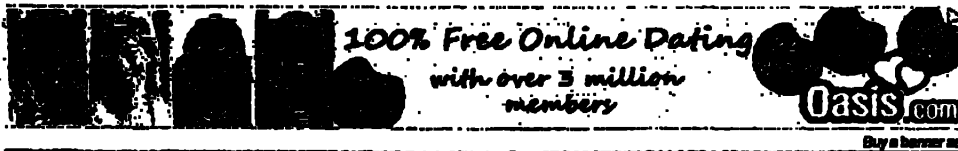
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Openly Gay GOP Presidential Candidate Fred Karger Was in Iowa But Not on Stage

by [Karen O'connor](#) on August 12, 2011 | 8:18 AM



Fred Karger Facebook photo

Openly gay progressive Republican presidential candidate Fred Karger may not have been on the Iowa stage for the FOX-sponsored live GOP candidates debate Thursday night – but he was there! (See ThinkProgress compilation video of antigay sound bites below).

Fred emailed me this morning:

Tonight watched the debate at a viewing party at the Olde Main Brewing Company in Ames – was interviewed by KING TV the NBC Seattle affiliates. This afternoon was interviewed by Carl Cameron, chief political correspondent of Fox News. My team put Fred Karger for President signs all around the debate site and surrounding the FRC and NOM Bus from Hete. Did 30 minutes on Ed Fallon Radio Show. Blogged for HuffPo all during the debate and tweeted a lot. Finally was in the "spin room" for 90 minutes post debate and did lots of interviews. Tired, but what a day.

State Fair tomorrow. Des Moines Register soap box, pork producers tent, Australian Broadcasting Station following me around and lots of Fed T-shirted volunteers. Sat, more volunteers and giving away Fred Frisbees and waging write in campaign at Straw Poll + few surprises.

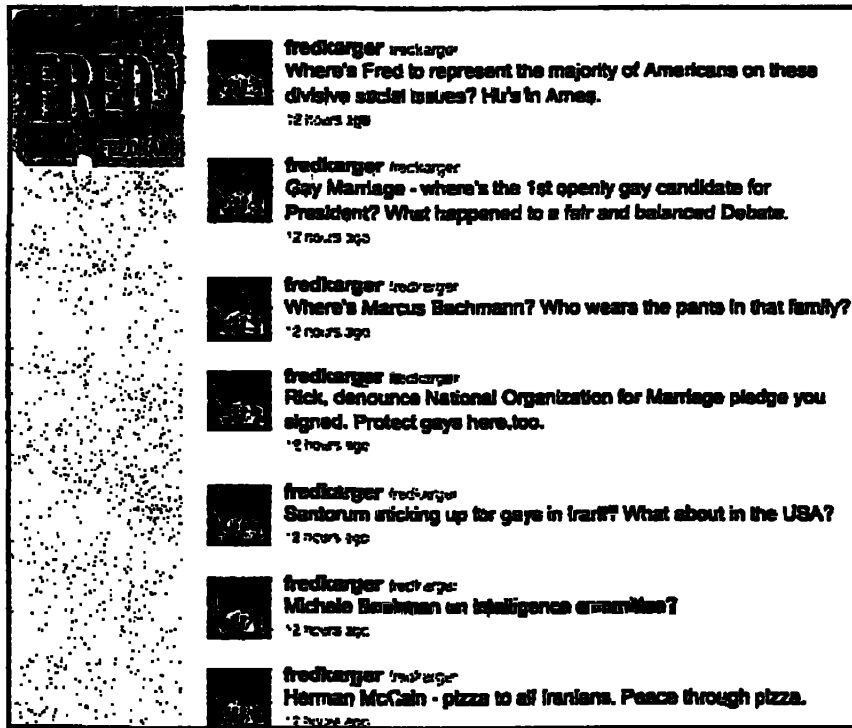
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On Huffington Post's live-blogging, Jason Linkins posted:

The biggest reason that Fred Karger is trying against long odds to qualify for a debate is so that he can bring his beef with Romney on marriage equality to the highest stage possible. Here's an undiluted taste of the fight that Fred Karger wants: "Mitt Romney, your father would be ashamed of you. Federal marriage amendment, your Church make you say that?"

That wouldn't have been good television, Fox News Channel?

Here are some of Fred's Tweets:



While long-shots like Newt Gingrich think he's got a real chance to win the the nomination in this antigay-version of the Republican Party – Fred is under not such illusion. He explained why he's running in [Tuesday's LA Times profile](#):

By running for president and trying to get on stage for at least one debate — the overriding goal of his candidacy — Karger hopes to send a message to people like himself: a boy growing up outside Chicago and, later, a closeted adult, shamed by society's view of his sexuality and too scared to admit, even to himself, who he was.

They need to understand, Karger says, that not only is it OK to be gay, it's also possible to be gay and an unflinching candidate for the nation's highest office.

"I want to send the message to gay younger people and older people and everyone in between that you can do anything you want in life, and don't feel bad about yourself and don't feel you have to live your life the way I did," Karger says over a long lunch at Musso & Frank, the famed Hollywood haunt.

[ThinkProgress](#)' [Iain Velez](#) put together sound bites from the televised debates. One point many [politicos](#) are picking up on Friday morning is how GOP contender Mitt Romney favors states' rights/federalism when it comes to so-called "Obama-care" – but NOT when it comes to the traditional rights of states to define marriage. He (and the other right wing GOP candidates) wants a Federal Constitutional Marriage Amendment:

ROMNEY: You might wonder, why is that? Why wouldn't you just let each state make their own decision? And the reason is, people move from state to state of course in a society like ours. They have children as they go to different states, if one state recognizes the marriage and the other does not, what's the right of that child? What kind of divorce potential proceeding would there be in a state that didn't recognize the marriage in the first place?