

Huckabee Wins Conservative Group's Straw Poll

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Former Arkansas Governor Mike Huckabee has won a Republican presidential straw poll held by a conservative group in South Carolina.

Huckabee appeared at the Palmetto Family Council's stump and straw poll Thursday night in Columbia. He received 206 votes out of about 600 cast.

Texas Congressman Ron Paul finished second with 179 votes. Former Tennessee Senator Fred Thompson was a distant third.

Huckabee and California Congressman Duncan Hunter attended in person. Other candidates phoned in or videos were shown.

The only candidate without a presence at the meeting was former New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani. His campaign says he skips events linked to straw polls. The crowd booed his absence.

The group emphasized the war, family, opposition to gay marriage and ending abortion.

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