

Fred Thompson wins straw poll in Olathe, Kansas

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by Editor

Olathe, Kansas, is an exurb of Kansas City, Missouri. It's in southwest Johnson County, a county with 20-25% of the state's population. The Olathe Republican Party is one of the best-organized local GOP organizations in the state. The group hosted its annual GOP picnic on Saturday, July 7. We'll estimate that, including kids, about 100 people were present.

As usual, people could pay a dollar and participate in the straw poll. People were allowed to pay (and vote) more than once. On the question of presidential choice, there were 108 votes. We were told that Fred Thompson carried overwhelmingly with about 89 votes, and that Brownback got 12 votes. Though, read on for a couple "however's":

- 1. Mitt Romney evidently wasn't on the ballot. This was probably an unintentional error; of course, the fact that the straw poll organizers forgot Romney says something about his strength in Kansas. Most of the other candidates were on the ballot, including Ron Paul and Tommy Thompson.
- 2. We were told that one person paid \$50 for 50 Fred Thompson votes. And, that another person paid \$5 for 5 Brownback votes. So, subtracting 49 extra votes from Fred's total and 4 extra votes from Brownback's total gets us to about 40 votes for Fred Thompson and about 8 votes for Brownback.

The crowd present on Saturday was part of the conservative core of Kansas Republicans: strongly pro-life, strongly for protecting our borders. It's becoming clear that in Kansas, this conservative base is trending towards a Fred Thompson candidacy.

Conservatives still respect Brownback, but he has some fences to mend (and one long fence to build) over the immigration issue.