

RON PAUL WINS JEFFERSON COUNTY AL STRAW POLL

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Ron Paul won the Jefferson County Republican Party's presidential straw poll Saturday at the Birmingham Zoo, with supporters casting more than half of the votes collected. Paul, a Republican congressman from Texas, took about 57 percent of the vote with 115 ballots. Voters paid \$35 to cast the ballot and eat a barbecue lunch. Fred Thompson, an Alabama native and former U.S. senator, came in second with 31 votes, followed by former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani with 18 votes and former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney with 16. Paul scored a similar victory in Tuscaloosa two months ago, when he took 81 percent of the vote at a straw vote sponsored by the West Alabama Republican Assembly, according to the Los Angeles Times. Many of those voters attended the Saturday event.

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