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## Romney wins Michigan Republican straw poll

By Daily News staff

**CLARIFICATION:** After receiving some comments questioning the results, the Daily News called The Associated Press's Lansing bureau. The reporter there had rounded to 11 percent the 10.8 percent figure for Paul and the 10.6 percent figure for Giuliani, and said the vote totals were Paul with 106 votes and Giuliani with 104. Those raw vote totals were not in the AP story from which this local story originally was drawn.

Michigan native Mitt Romney won a presidential straw poll at the Mackinac Republican Leadership Conference.

In results released Sunday, Romney got 39 percent of the 979 votes cast.

Second, with 27 percent, was Arizona Sen. John McCain -- who defeated future President George Bush in the 2000 Michigan Republican primary.

Tied for third, with 11 percent, were former New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani and Ron Paul. Former senator and actor Fred Thompson had 7 percent. Duncan Hunter got 1 percent.

Mike Huckabee and Sam Brownback were scheduled to appear at the conference, but Huckabee backed out Thursday and Brownback canceled Friday. Both said they had conflicts. Tom Tancredo had not planned to appear. Huckabee got 3 percent of the vote, while Brownback got less than 0.5 percent. Tancredo did not receive any votes.

The unscientific straw poll was conducted by Hotline, a Washington-based political newsletter. The Michigan Republican party unofficially certified the results. Only conference registrants who were Michigan residents were eligible to vote.

Midland County Republican chairperson Diane Bristol and approximately 24 other Midland County Republicans were on the island during the event, which began Friday.

Bristol, Midland County GOP Secretary Cathy Leikhim and Midland County Clerk Scott Haines received the Number 1 Republicans honor. Haines, who did not attend the conference, is a member of the Republican State Committee.

Some of the other Midland County residents on the island were county executive committee members Fran Hunt, Eric Friedman, Dennis Starner and Julie Atkinson, along with her husband, Ron; 98th District House candidates Jim Stamas and Tom Darger; and Midland GOP Precinct Delegate Paul Marcela and wife, Sharon.

U.S. Rep. Dave Camp of Midland -- who is one of Romney's Michigan co-chairmen -- introduced the former Massachusetts governor at a Saturday luncheon.

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