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Mitt Romney wins Illinois straw poll

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Republican presidential hopeful Mitt Romney

(CNN)—**Mitt Romney** added another straw poll victory to his resume Thursday.

Illinois state Republican party chairman, Andy McKenna, said Romney won the Illinois Straw poll at the Illinois State Fair. "Congratulations to Mitt Romney, whose strong showing today indicates he has begun to put together a strong statewide organization," McKenna said. "There's no question that Illinois' demographics closely match those of the United States and this could be an indication as to whom Illinois voters are leaning toward this coming February."

Romney secured an overwhelming victory with 40.35 percent of the vote. Former Senator Fred Thompson, who is expected to formally enter the race for the GOP nomination next month, came in second with 19.96 percent of the vote.

The Illinois Republican party sponsored the straw poll during its Republican Day festivities at the Illinois State Fair in Springfield.

To be included, participate candidates were required to have participated in one of the previously held debates with other Republican candidates, or have polled above 5 percent in a national, independent poll.

Final results of Thursday's Illinois straw poll:

1. **Mitt Romney** – 40.35%
2. **Fred Thompson** – 19.96%
3. **Ron Paul** – 18.87%
4. **Rudy Giuliani** – 11.61%
5. **John McCain** – 4.12%
6. **Mike Huckabee** – 3.04%
7. **Sam Brownback** – 1.08%
8. **Duncan Hunter** - .65%
9. **Tom Tancredo** - .33%

—CNN Political Desk Editor Jamie Crawford