

Romney wins ND Republican straw poll

Oct 26 2007 9:28PM
Associated Press

Bismarck, N.D. (AP) Former Massachusetts Governor Mitt Romney won the North Dakota Republican straw poll tonight.

Republican officials say Romney got 29 percent of the vote, while Rudy Giuliani got 22 percent, Fred Thompson got 21 percent and John McCain got 14 percent.

Mike Huckabee and Ron Paul each got 4 percent, while Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice got 2 percent. Nobody else got any votes.

Rice is not running for president, but Fargo Republican activist Crystal Dueker (DUKE'-ur) made a speech on her behalf.

Actual vote totals weren't announced, and state Republican director Mike Schatz wouldn't say how many people voted. He says about 250 people attended the straw poll.

The event doesn't affect how North Dakota's delegates to the Republican National Convention will vote next year.

State Republican chairman Gary Emineth says the straw poll will help stoke Republican enthusiasm for next year's elections.

Republican activists are taking part in a party "roundup" in Bismarck this weekend.

(Copyright 2007 by The Associated Press. All Rights Reserved.) APNP 10-26-07 2117CDT