



## Va. Conservatives Pick Gingrich for '08

by Robert B. Bluey — 11-11-2006 @ 06:35 PM

By an overwhelming margin, Virginia conservatives picked former House Speaker **Newt Gingrich** as the man they favor to be the Republican nominee for President in 2008.

After four hours of voting and 146 total ballots cast, attendees at the Virginia Conservative Convention handed Gingrich an easy victory over runner-up Gov. **Mitt Romney** of Massachusetts.

Gingrich won 31% of the vote, more than double Romney's 14%. Finishing in a tie for third were Senators **Sam Brownback** (R.-Kan.) and **John McCain** (R.-Ariz.).

The straw poll was sponsored by HUMAN EVENTS and the Virginia Conservative Action PAC, which hosted the conference at the Richmond Convention Center. Presidential candidates addressed the crowd in taped videos, which aired before voting commenced.

The Virginia ballot resembled the straw poll conducted by National Journal's Hotline at the Southern Republican Leadership Conference, held in Memphis, Tenn., in March.

Complete results are printed below. Nine ballots were disqualified and no write-ins were allowed.

|               | Votes | Percent |
|---------------|-------|---------|
| Newt Gingrich | 45    | 31%     |
| Mitt Romney   | 21    | 14%     |
| Sam Brownback | 18    | 12%     |
| John McCain   | 18    | 12%     |
| Mike Huckabee | 11    | 8%      |
| Rudy Giuliani | 10    | 7%      |
| Duncan Hunter | 6     | 4%      |
| Bill Frist    | 4     | 3%      |
| Chuck Hagel   | 2     | 1%      |
| George Pataki | 2     | 1%      |