



**For Immediate Release
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**Indiana Governor Mitch Daniels Wins the Roanoke Conference Republican Presidential Straw Poll
*Second Annual Conference Brings More Than 300 GOP Activists, Legislators to Ocean Shores***

Ocean Shores, Washington – After a weekend of debate and discussion about important issues facing the United States at the second annual Roanoke Conference, Washington State Republican activists, legislators, young professionals and college students selected Indiana Governor Mitch Daniels as their favorite candidate to face Barack Obama in the 2012 presidential election.

By more than a two to one margin, Roanoke Conference attendees selected Daniels as their top choice from the wide open field of potential Republican candidates for the 2012 Republican presidential nomination. Sixteen potential candidates received votes. The results were as follows:

Governor Mitch Daniels, Indiana	31%
Former Governor Mitt Romney, Massachusetts	14%
Former Governor Tim Pawlenty, Minnesota	13%
Governor Chris Christie, New Jersey	9%
Senator John Thune, South Dakota	8%
Governor Bobby Jindal, Louisiana	5%
Representative Paul Ryan, Wisconsin	3%
Former House Speaker Newt Gingrich, Georgia	3%
Senator Jim DeMint, South Carolina	3%
Former Governor Sarah Palin	3%
Governor Haley Barbour, Mississippi	2%
Former Governor Mike Huckabee, Arkansas	2%
Representative Mike Pence, Indiana	1%
Ambassador Jon Huntsman, Utah	1%
Representative Michele Bachmann, Minnesota	1%
Representative Ron Paul, Texas	1%

The Roanoke Conference is a gathering for Republicans in Washington State offering a unique forum for lively political debate, networking and instruction for those who want to get involved in local, state or national politics. The conference brought together citizens and activists of all ages from the state of

Washington to interact with Republican leaders in a fun, social setting. While in Ocean Shores, attendees participated in debates on critical issues including a balanced federal budget, the Washington ballot initiative process, the rise of government employee union influence and redistricting. In addition, experts provided instructional seminars on getting involved in politics and how to make a difference in the political process.

“The enthusiasm and energy of the Republicans attending the Roanoke Conference demonstrated a desire for real and lasting change in Washington State,” said Roanoke Conference Chairman Steve Buri. “Citizens from all over the state joined together in Ocean Shores with the common desire to advance the principles of individual liberty, the free market and limited government. The Roanoke Conference is a clear sign of the continued resurgence of Republican ideals.”

Attendees at the conference included former U.S. Senator Slade Gorton, U.S. Representative Jamie Herrera Beutler, Attorney General Rob McKenna, Seattle Port Commissioner Bill Bryant, King County Councilman Reagan Dunn, Washington State Republican Party Chairman Kirby Wilbur, Washington State House Republican Leader Representative Richard DeBolt, Washington State Senate Republican Whip Doug Erickson and numerous other representatives and senators from the Washington Legislature. The keynote speaker at this year’s Roanoke Conference was Dana Perino, Fox News contributor and former White House press secretary for President George W. Bush.

For more information about the Roanoke Conference, visit www.roanokeconference.org. You can also follow the conference on Twitter ([@RoanokeConf](https://twitter.com/RoanokeConf)) and on Facebook (www.facebook.com/roanokeconf).

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