

## Republican National Convention 2016 Candidate Selection

### Candidate Overview

#### Jeb Bush

“I will take nothing and no one for granted. I will run with heart. I will run to win.”

- **Background**  
Former Governor of Florida.
- **Immigration**
  - reinforcement of border security
  - everify system
  - change in legal visa system
- **Economy**
  - promise of 4% economic growth and 19 million new jobs over 8 years
  - decrease trade barriers
  - cooperate with China
- **Foreign Policy**  
“We have lost the trust and the confidence of our friends. We definitely no longer inspire fear in our enemies.”
  - plans to have a much more active foreign policy especially regarding military
  - disinterested in multilateralism

#### Ben Carson

“I’m probably never going to be politically correct because I’m not a politician.”

- **Background**  
Retired neurosurgeon.
- **Immigration**
  - pathway to citizenship unfair to past and current immigrants
  - apply Canadian guest worker program to Mexican migrants
  - harsher penalties
- **Economy**
  - free market capitalism
  - cut every agency spending by 10%
- **Foreign Policy**
  - pro-Israel
  - American exceptionalism
  - proactive foreign policy
  - limited knowledge

#### Chris Christie

“I am now ready to fight for the people of the United States of America.”

- **Background**  
Governor of New Jersey, former state prosecutor.
- **Immigration**
  - supports a path to citizenship
  - tuition equality
- **Economy**
  - reduce deficit
  - spending cuts
- **Foreign Policy**
  - against new isolationism
  - increase in anti-terrorism measures

### Donald Trump

“We need a total and complete shutdown of Muslims entering the United States until our country's representatives can figure out what is going on.”

- **Background**  
Real estate developer, television personality.
- **Immigration**
  - extremely opposed to immigration
  - build a wall, have Mexico pay for it
  - deport all illegal immigrants currently in the United States
- **Economy**
  - one-time 14.25% tax on wealth to erase national debt and save \$200 billion in annual interest payments
  - use the savings to save Social Security and slash taxes for the middle class
  - increase his personal tax bill by at least \$725 million
  - 35% boost to the economy with dissolution of debt
- **Foreign Policy**
  - American interests come first; no apologies
  - all freedoms flow from national security
  - increase spending on military
  - defeat Islamic terrorists
  - anti-Muslim rhetoric

### Carly Fiorina

“My story — from secretary to CEO — is only possible in this country.”

- **Background**  
Former CEO of Hewlett Packard.
- **Immigration**
  - against amnesty
  - against sanctuary cities

- **Economy**
  - key to recovery is less government, taxation, and regulation
  - against stimulus package
- **Foreign Policy**
  - supports a coalition against terror in the Middle East
  - against nuclear deal with Iran

### Mike Huckabee

“I know that there is a difference between making a speech and making government accountable to the people who pay for it.”

- **Background**  
Former Governor of Arkansas.
- **Immigration**
  - pathway to citizenship must happen outside US
  - in favor of a fence
  - supporter of the DREAM Act
- **Economy**
  - infrastructure projects
  - cut spending in agencies like the IRS
  - increase spending in agencies like Homeland Security
- **Foreign Policy**
  - against foreign trade with China and Cuba
  - Islamic terror is America’s greatest threat
  - protect US sovereignty

### John Kasich

“We are going to take the lessons of the heartland and straighten out Washington, D.C., and fix our country.”

- **Background**  
Governor of Ohio.
- **Immigration**
  - open to pathway to citizenship
  - more visas for skilled workers
- **Economy**
  - supports the Balanced Budget Amendment
  - against subsidies
  - supports line item veto
- **Foreign Policy**
  - limited international engagement
  - focus on terrorism, oil, and nuclear development
  - supports trade with china

## Ted Cruz

“The power of the American people as we stand up and fight for liberty knows no bounds.”

- **Background**  
Senator from Texas.
- **Immigration**
  - against amnesty
  - in favor of harsher punishments to illegal immigrants
  - give police more power
- **Economy**
  - in favor of constitutional amendment regarding budgeting and tax increases
  - supports the cut cap and balance pledge
- **Foreign Policy**
  - sanctions on Russia
  - United States has responsibility to defend our values

## Rand Paul

“It’s time for a new way, a way predicated on justice, opportunity and freedom.”

- **Background**  
Senator from Kentucky.
- **Immigration**
  - ID cards for everyone, not just illegals
  - legal immigration reform fixes illegal immigration
- **Economy**
  - more Federal Reserve oversight
  - decrease spending
  - Penny Plan
  - 1% reduction in spending can balance the budget over time; penny for every dollar
- **Foreign Policy**
  - neo-isolationism
  - pro-Israel
  - pro-Cuba
  - opposes terror, but protect Constitution first

## Marco Rubio

“The time has come for our generation to lead the way towards a new American century.”

- **Background**  
Senator from Florida.
- **Immigration**
  - fix legal immigration system
  - similar party beliefs on security and border control
- **Economy**

- repeal Dodd-Frank
- freeze spending for everything but defense
- balanced budget amendment and line item veto
- cut cap and balance pledge
- against increasing debt limit
- audit Federal Reserve
- **Foreign Policy**
  - stay involved with ISIS and assist regional allies
  - protect American ideals globally
  - rebuild relations with Mexico
  - anti-Russia
  - moderately neoconservative foreign policy

### **Questions to Consider**

- What differentiates your candidate from the others?
- What are their advantages?
- What are potential weaknesses?
- How will your candidate perform in the General Election?
- How have voter demographics changed since the last election?

### **Sources for Additional Research**

- the various candidates' websites
- Washington Post debate transcripts  
<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/the-fix/wp/2015/12/15/who-said-what-and-what-it-meant-the-fifth-gop-debate-annotated/>
- GOP website  
<https://www.gop.com>
- [inFocus](#) video series