

 **REPUBLICAN
SURVIVORS:
“AND THEN
THERE WERE FIVE”
– I’M “GOING OUT
ON A LIMB”!**

By Stephen L. Bakke  September 20, 2015



I’ve decided to go out on a limb and make a prediction as to the “final five” republican presidential hopefuls. Ultimately there will be one, of course, but somewhere in the middle there will be five and that’s what I’m going to attempt to predict. Here we go:



WHOOOO?

Jeb Bush – In ‘till the end! Too much money and experience to bow out.

Ben Carson – His sincere humility at times is drowned out by conflicting characteristics of frankness and non-combativeness. Trying to find his political personality. People love him!

Chris Christie – People love when he spouts off. Likable, and as cuddly as a naughty little boy. He’s the personality many of us geeky nerds really want to be (for a few minutes).

Carly Fiorina – Solid! Best at pushing back at Trump. As people get to know her, they like her. Tough and experienced in many things including international security (led the Central Intelligence Agency’s External Advisory Board from 2007 to 2009). Will be in the hunt down to the wire.

Marco Rubio – Extremely fluent on international issues. Clawing upward but still a long way to go. His commitment and intelligence are impressive!



Staying for a while



Dropping Out (I predict)

Donald Trump – Solid 15% to 20% electorate support – not so solid 40% support as shown by the recent polls. He has been an important catalyst for discussion and I would hate to see him drop out too soon. The reason he has “topped out” is that candidates will now start dropping out. It’s started already with Governor Perry. I would ask Trump supporters: “As candidates throw in the towel, how many of their loyal supporters will end up in the Trump Camp?” Consider these candidates: Perry, Santorum, Huckabee, Graham will their supporters rush to Trump? Not many, I assure you! And once Trump sees potential defeat on the horizon, he will DECLARE VICTORY and drop out.

Ted Cruz – He did his job (subject of a future report) and has performed an important function the last two years! But he won’t establish broad-based support due to his cutting edge contrarian agenda and style.

Jim Gilmore – Who?

Lindsey Graham - OK as a senator but not a CEO type of personality. Will continue to fade.

Mike Huckabee – Seems to speak up aggressively on only a couple of issues. Committed and sincere but probably has no real expectations of doing anything other than getting his message out.

Bobby Jindal – Seems to get tangled up in his undershorts. Will be a prominent republican politician in the future, as he better develops his style.

John Kasich – Not a strong ideological conservative, and yet I would like to have him in the top five – but he’s not making much of an impression with the voters. Perfect governor but it seems he will be not much more – maybe that’s where he’s most valuable.

George Pataki – I know, I know a republican governor in a liberal state. But his visibility has been mostly limited to the state of New York. “Flyover country” doesn’t pay much attention to that little corner of the world.

Rand Paul – Terribly valuable contribution to the election debate but his international isolationism (for lack of a better term) doesn’t seem to reflect the electorate’s collective idea on the role the U.S. should play in the world.

Rick Santorum – Ditto Mike Huckabee, but with a twist!

Scott Walker – Nosedive shows no signs of letting up. Solid but too unexciting for national appeal!