



Wisconsin Legislative Reference Bureau

2016 Wisconsin Presidential Preference Primary

Michael Keane, Senior Legislative Analyst, and
Victoria Enright, Senior Publications Editor
December 2015

© 2015 Wisconsin Legislative Reference Bureau

This work is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License. To view a copy of this license, visit <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/> or send a letter to Creative Commons, PO Box 1866, Mountain View, CA 94042, USA.

2016 WISCONSIN PRESIDENTIAL PREFERENCE PRIMARY

I. INTRODUCTION

On April 5, 2016, Wisconsin voters will have an opportunity to express a preference for one of the candidates seeking the presidential nomination. The Wisconsin presidential preference primary, in which the voters select the delegates who will attend the national nominating conventions, is advisory and not binding on the respective political parties. It is also an “open” primary, in which voters are not required to declare a party affiliation prior to voting.

This report describes the procedure for developing the primary ballot, and the appendix provides materials to assist the state nominating committee in identifying possible presidential candidates for the 2016 presidential primary.

II. THE NOMINATION PROCESS

Preparation of the presidential preference primary ballot begins with the convening of a state nominating committee to determine the candidates who will appear on the ballot. The 2016 committee will meet on January 5, 2016, in the state capitol. The requirement for a state nominating committee dates back to 1967, when legislation eliminated the previous practice of listing slates of delegate candidates on the presidential primary ballot.

Section 8.12 (1) (b), Wisconsin Statutes, requires the committee to place on the ballot “the names of all candidates whose candidacy is generally advocated or recognized in the national news media throughout the United States...” The committee has the “sole discretion” to determine which candidates fit the statutory criteria. The committee may, in addition, place the names of other candidates on the ballot.

Establishing the nominating committee. Representation on the nominating committee is based on a political party being both “recognized” and “certified” by the state. A “recognized political party” is defined by statute as one that qualifies for a separate ballot or ballot column by receiving a specified number of votes at the last general election or by securing a specified number of petition signatures (§ 5.02 (16m), Wis. Stats.)

The narrower definition of “certification” is provided in Section 8.12 (1) (a) of the statutes:

[T]he state chairperson of each recognized political party listed on the official ballot at the last gubernatorial election whose candidate for governor received at least 10% of the total votes cast for that office may certify to the [government accountability board] that the party will participate in the presidential preference primary.

The standard of 10 percent of total votes cast for governor is a more stringent requirement that was enacted by 1985 Wisconsin Act 304 and applied initially to the 1988 presidential preference primary election. Prior to that change, recognized political parties needed only 1 percent of votes cast for any statewide office to participate on the nominating committee. Limiting the nominating committee’s membership to certified parties tends to restrict the committee to representatives of the Democratic and Republican parties. An exception was the 2004 primary, when the Libertarian Party qualified for certified status by virtue of Ed Thompson’s 10.6 percent showing in the 2002 gubernatorial election.

A party must indicate that it will participate in the presidential primary by filing an official certification with the Government Accountability Board (GAB) no later than 5 p.m. on December 8, 2015. Both

the Democratic Party of Wisconsin and the Republican Party of Wisconsin, which were the only two recognized political parties eligible for certification for the 2016 election, certified by the deadline.

Section 8.12 (1) (b) of the statutes dictates that the nominating committee includes the following members:

1. For each party filing a certification, the state chairperson or designee and one national committeeman and one national committeewoman designated by the chairperson.
2. The president and the minority leader of the senate or their designees.
3. The speaker and the minority leader of the assembly or their designees.
4. One additional member, selected by the nominating committee, who serves as committee chairperson.

Nominating Committee for the 2016 Presidential Preference Primary

Position	Democratic Party	Republican Party
State Party Chairperson	Martha Laning	Brad Courtney
National Party Committeeman	Jason R. Rae	Steven King
National Party Committeewoman	Martha Love	Mary Buestrin
Senate President		Sen. Mary Lazich
Senate Minority Leader	Sen. Jennifer Shilling	
Assembly Speaker		Rep. Robin Vos
Assembly Minority Leader	Rep. Peter Barca	

The committee must certify to the GAB no later than the Friday following its initial meeting (January 8, 2016) the names of all candidates it has selected to appear on the presidential preference ballot.

Candidate notification and disclaimers. After the nominating committee has certified a slate of nominees, the GAB notifies each person whose name has been placed in nomination and informs the person that his or her name will appear on the Wisconsin presidential preference ballot unless a disclaimer is filed. The disclaimer must state without qualification that the nominee is not and does not intend to become a candidate for the office of president of the United States at the forthcoming presidential election. It must be received by the GAB no later than 5 p.m. on the last Tuesday in January of the presidential election year (January 26, 2016).

Nomination via the petition method. If the nominating committee does not include in the candidate listing the name of a person actively seeking the nomination of one of the parties represented on the committee, that person, or any state group organized on that person’s behalf, may still obtain a ballot position by submitting petitions under Section 8.12 (1) (c), Wisconsin Statutes. The petitions may be circulated no sooner than the first Tuesday in January of the presidential election year (January 5, 2016). The deadline for filing petitions with the GAB is no later than 5 p.m. on the last Tuesday in January (January 26, 2016). The petition must be signed by at least 1,000, but not more than 1,500, qualified electors in each of Wisconsin’s eight congressional districts. An individual petition paper cannot include signers from more than one congressional district, and each petition paper must conform to the requirements of Section 8.40, Wisconsin Statutes.

III. POSSIBLE 2016 PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES

Media reports. At the request of the legal counsel for the GAB, the Legislative Reference Bureau has selected media reports that describe the possible candidates in the 2016 presidential election. The articles are arranged in the appendix in alphabetical order by party affiliation and the status of the individual’s campaign for nomination. The results of the Legislative Reference Bureau review are summarized below. Page numbers correspond to the media reports for each candidate.

Selected Media Reports About 2012 Candidates

Democratic Party	Status	Page	Republican Party	Status	Page
Hillary Clinton	Declared	4	Jeb Bush	Declared	14
Martin O’Malley	Declared	6	Ben Carson	Declared	17
Bernie Sanders	Declared	8	Chris Christie	Declared	19
Lincoln Chafee	Withdrawn	10	Ted Cruz	Declared	20
Lawrence Lessig	Withdrawn	12	Carly Fiorina	Declared	23
Jim Webb	Withdrawn	13	Jim Gilmore	Declared	24
			Mike Huckabee	Declared	25
			John Kasich	Declared	26
			George Pataki	Declared	29
			Rand Paul	Declared	30
			Marco Rubio	Declared	32
			Rick Santorum	Declared	34
			Donald Trump	Declared	37
			Lindsey Graham	Withdrawn	39
			Bobby Jindal	Withdrawn	40
			Rick Perry	Withdrawn	41
			Scott Walker	Withdrawn	42

APPENDIX

DEMOCRATIC PARTY CLINTON (DECLARED)

“Hillary Clinton Announces 2016 Presidential Bid,” by Amy Cozik, *The New York Times*, April 12, 2015.

Ending two years of speculation and coy denials, Hillary Rodham Clinton announced on Sunday that she would seek the presidency for a second time, immediately establishing herself as the likely 2016 Democratic nominee.

“I’m running for president,” she said with a smile near the end of a two-minute video released just after 3 p.m.

“Everyday Americans need a champion. And I want to be that champion,” Mrs. Clinton said. “So I’m hitting the road to earn your vote — because it’s your time. And I hope you’ll join me on this journey.”

The announcement came minutes after emails from John D. Podesta, Mrs. Clinton’s campaign chairman, alerting donors and longtime Clinton associates to her candidacy.

Mr. Podesta said that Mrs. Clinton would meet soon with voters in Iowa and host a formal kickoff event sometime next month.

The announcement effectively began what could be one of the least contested races, without an incumbent, for the Democratic presidential nomination in recent history — a stark contrast to the 2008 primaries, when Mrs. Clinton, the early front-runner, ended up in a long and expensive battle won by Barack Obama. It could also be the first time a woman captures a major party’s nomination.

On Sunday, Hillary Rodham Clinton released a video featuring the stories of a diverse group of Americans to announce that she will seek the presidency for a second time.

Regardless of the outcome, Mrs. Clinton’s 2016 campaign will open a new chapter in the extraordinary life of a public figure who has captivated and polarized the country since her husband, former President Bill Clinton, declared his intention to run for president in 1991. Mrs. Clinton was the co-star of the Clinton administration, the only first lady ever elected to the United States Senate and a globe-trotting diplomat who surprised her party by serving dutifully under the president who defeated her.

She will embark on her latest — and perhaps last — bid for the White House with nearly universal name recognition and a strong base of support, particularly among women. But in a campaign that will inevitably be about the future, Mrs. Clinton, 67, enters as a quintessential baby boomer, associated with the 1990s and with the drama of the Bill Clinton years.

This campaign will begin on a small scale and build up to an effort likely to cost more than any presidential bid waged before, with Mrs. Clinton’s supporters and outside “super PACs” looking to raise as much as \$2.5 billion in a blitz of donations from Democrats who overwhelmingly support her candidacy. Much of that enthusiasm is tied to the chance to make history by electing a woman to the presidency. But some, too, owes to the lack of compelling alternatives in a party trying desperately to hold on to the White House when Republicans control the House and the Senate.

Mrs. Clinton’s declaration on Sunday is to be followed by a series of intimate but critical campaign events in Iowa and New Hampshire. She will use them to reintroduce herself to voters and begin to lay out the

central theme of her candidacy: improving the economic fortunes of the middle class, with an emphasis on increasing wages and reducing income inequality.

What Hillary Clinton Would Need to Do to Win

In the video, she does not appear until after 90 seconds of images featuring personal stories of others, each describing how they are getting ready to start something new.

The video prominently features a black couple expecting a child, a young Asian-American woman, and two men who say they are getting married. It also shows plenty of the white, working-class people who were crucial to her previous White House bid and signals that she intends to make helping the middle class and reducing income inequality major themes of her campaign.

Near the end of the video, Mrs. Clinton finally appears outside a suburban home and says: "I'm getting ready to do something too. I'm running for president."

Her return to the campaign trail this week offers her a fortuitous circumstance: Tuesday is National Equal Pay Day, the point in the year at which, on average, a woman's pay for working in 2014 and 2015 would equal a man's pay just for 2014. Pay equity is an issue that Mrs. Clinton's candidacy will take up in earnest, along with others important to many women, like paid family and medical leave, a higher minimum wage and affordable access to child care.

Unlike in her 2008 campaign, when she played down gender and sought to show she was tough enough to be president, Mrs. Clinton plans to highlight that she is a grandmother and trumpet her chance to make history.

"Being the first woman to run for president with a real chance of winning, that's a wild card, but potentially a net positive, particularly for undecided women," said Scott Keeter, director of survey research at the Pew Research Center.

It was not surprising that Mrs. Clinton chose to make her intentions public in a video circulated on social media. Since she left the State Department in early 2013, she has found a welcome outlet in Twitter, which has allowed her to express her opinions in terse missives while avoiding the news conferences that are likely to become a mainstay now that she is a presidential candidate.

She will also look for ways to demonstrate that, after more than three decades in public life, she understands the ways of modern campaigns and can appeal to younger voters. Mrs. Clinton's 35-year-old campaign manager, Robby Mook, known for exploiting technology, data and analytics to win elections, has already dispatched field organizers to Iowa, New Hampshire, Nevada and South Carolina.

I would vote "None of the" if that was an option in 2016. Neither Jeb Bush (or insert the GOP candidates who have announced their candidacy)...

Mrs Clinton's main foe won't even be the Republicans, as they are all rather weak. Her challenger is the vicious, snarky media who seem to...

For all the months of quiet and careful planning, however, her campaign's rollout did not come off as smoothly as envisioned. Rather than gliding into the spotlight as an above-the-fray former secretary of state, Mrs. Clinton entered the 2016 race in the midst of lingering questions about her exclusive use of a private email address while at the State Department and about donations from foreign countries to her family's philanthropic foundation.

Mr. Podesta, the campaign chairman, assured donors that both controversies would pass and that the momentum would shift as soon as Mrs. Clinton was officially a candidate, according to a

Mrs. Clinton will enter the race with a strong base of support: 81 percent of Democrats said they would consider voting for her, according to a CBS News poll conducted in February. That support dwarfs that of her potential rivals for the nomination, including former Gov. Martin O'Malley of Maryland, former Senator Jim Webb of Virginia and Senator Bernard Sanders, an independent from Vermont who could run as a Democrat.

But the roller coaster of a presidential campaign can erode even the most seemingly certain advantages. Just over eight years ago, Mrs. Clinton began that campaign with an email to supporters declaring that she was "in to win." That announcement began a downward trajectory in which she went from being considered the inevitable nominee to finishing in third place in the Iowa caucuses, behind Mr. Obama and John Edwards.

She went on to pick up primary victories in crucial battleground states like Ohio and Pennsylvania, but by then Mr. Obama had an edge in the fight for delegates.

In her 2008 concession speech, Mrs. Clinton sought to energize the women who had supported her candidacy.

"Although we weren't able to shatter that highest, hardest glass ceiling this time, thanks to you, it's got about 18 million cracks in it," she said. "And the light is shining through like never before, filling us all with the hope and the sure knowledge that the path will be a little easier next time."

This time, Mrs. Clinton's aides have signaled that she will take nothing for granted and present herself as a more humble candidate, as unencumbered by the trappings of power and celebrity as is possible for a universally recognized former first lady, secretary of state and presidential candidate.

There may be little room for error, though, for Mrs. Clinton, who will begin her campaign under the glare of intense media scrutiny and criticism from a broad field of potential Republican opponents, including former Gov. Jeb Bush of Florida, Gov. Scott Walker of Wisconsin, and Senators Ted Cruz of Texas, Marco Rubio of Florida and Rand Paul of Kentucky — all of whom will try to prove they are best positioned to defeat her.

Alan Rappeport contributed reporting.

DEMOCRATIC PARTY

O'MALLEY (DECLARED)

"O'Malley Jumps into Presidential Race, Offers Progressive Alternative to Clinton," by Rachel Streitfeld and MJ Lee, *CNN*, May 30, 2015.

- Martin O'Malley aims to present himself as a progressive alternative to Hillary Clinton
- Recent polls suggest former Maryland governor is lagging far behind

Baltimore (CNN)Martin O'Malley launched his presidential campaign Saturday with an appeal to the party's progressive base that he hopes will upend the conventional wisdom that Hillary Clinton is destined to clinch the Democratic nomination.

The former Maryland governor unveiled his campaign in Baltimore, the city where he was once mayor – a role that is central to his political persona. But his Baltimore credentials could become more of a challenge than he initially thought after a riot erupted in the city in April.

Seaking in rolled-up sleeves at Federal Hill Park, O'Malley began with a call for economic fairness and closing the gap between rich and poor in America.

“This is the urgent work calling us forward today: to rebuild the truth of the American Dream for all Americans,” O'Malley said. “And to begin right now.”

He touched upon last month's unrest in Baltimore, saying the aftermath of Freddie Gray's death was about more than race or policing in America, but about “the scourge of hopelessness” in the nation's cities.

“There is something to be learned from that night, and there is something to be offered to our country from those flames,” he said.

A small group of protesters tried to interrupt his speech, shouting remarks like “black lives matter” and blowing on whistles. As O'Malley discussed the problem of income inequality and concentration of wealth, one protester angrily yelled out: “You did that! It was you!”

But the protesters largely failed to be a disruptive presence at the launch event, where O'Malley's supporters, numbering in the hundreds, reacted enthusiastically to his speech.

O'Malley also took a shot at Clinton and Republican Jeb Bush, using an attack on Goldman Sachs to suggest they were too close to Wall Street to be advocates for the less fortunate in America.

“Recently, the CEO of Goldman Sachs let his employees know that he'd be just fine with either Bush or Clinton. I bet he would,” O'Malley said. “Well, I've got news for the bullies of Wall Street: The presidency is not a crown to be passed back and forth by you between two royal families. It is a sacred trust to be earned from the people of the United States, and exercised on behalf of the people of the United States.”

Taking on Hillary

Perhaps O'Malley's biggest challenge is finding a way to dent the Clinton political machine while also proving that he's a competitive candidate in his own right – not just a backup for progressives who would rather see Sen. Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts in the White House. A Quinnipiac University poll released this week places Clinton 56 percentage points ahead of O'Malley.

Saturday's announcement was not a surprise. Over the past year, the 52-year-old traveled repeatedly to the early nominating states of Iowa, New Hampshire and South Carolina to spark voters' attention to his likely bid.

On the road, O'Malley touts a string of progressive actions he oversaw as governor of Maryland. Under his leadership, the state tightened gun laws, implemented a progressive tax code and legalized same-sex marriage. He also expanded the state's health care rolls, championed Obamacare and signed a bill raising the state's minimum wage to \$10.10 an hour.

Yet O'Malley found himself defending that Maryland record recently when riots broke out in Baltimore over the death of a 25-year-old African-American man under police custody.

The treatment of Freddie Gray, which sparked a national dialogue about police conduct toward racial minorities, drew renewed scrutiny to the controversial zero-tolerance policing strategy that O'Malley advocated for as mayor – part of an aggressive strategy to crack down on crime.

In an interview with CNN's Jake Tapper last month, O'Malley declared that Baltimore saw a "record reduction in violent crime" under his watch.

There are "probably now 1,000 mostly young, poor African-American men who did not die violent deaths in our city" because of these policies, O'Malley said.

O'Malley may also face questions about his popularity in his home state. His standing took a hit last year when Maryland voters rejected his handpicked successor in the governor's race, Democrat Anthony Brown. Brown lost the statehouse to Republican Larry Hogan.

"I can tell you my feelings were hurt," O'Malley said about the loss. "We had done a lot of really good things in Maryland, and in the end you did not hear much about it during the campaign."

But he added, "I was not on the ballot."

A fresh voice for the party

O'Malley is aiming to present himself as a fresh voice for the party – one who speaks for a different generation than Washington heavy hitters such as the 67-year-old Clinton. The former governor plays guitar in his Celtic rock band O'Malley's March, and at some gigs he has occasionally bared his biceps in sleeveless shirts.

Beyond Clinton and O'Malley, Bernie Sanders is the only other Democrat who has announced a 2016 presidential bid. Sanders is also popular among liberals and garnered 15% in the Quinnipiac poll.

O'Malley has remained optimistic about his own prospects, telling CNN in March he could turn around his low numbers by outworking the competition.

"When you start off as potential candidate for president and your name recognition is low, you have to just go from county to county, from town to town and engage people in order to change that around," O'Malley said then. "I guess another way to say it is this: Look, it is not unusual for there to be an inevitable frontrunner early in a contest who has fantastic name recognition, and is therefore inevitable right up until he or she is no longer inevitable."

CNN's Dan Merica contributed to this report.

DEMOCRATIC PARTY SANDERS (DECLARED)

"Sen. Bernie Sanders Launches Presidential Campaign Focusing on Inequality," by Michael A. Memoli, *Los Angeles Times*, April 30, 2015.

Sen. Bernie Sanders of Vermont, an avowed socialist, says he'll seek Democratic nomination for president

Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, an independent and avowed socialist, formally launched his campaign for the presidency Thursday, promising to make the economic unease of America's middle class the driving force of his long-shot bid.

In an era in which running for the nation's highest office has become a vehicle for self-promotion for some, Sanders' kickoff was a classic underdog pitch to draw greater attention to his chief issues, economic inequality and a political system increasingly tilted to the well-off.

"This campaign is not about Bernie Sanders," the ruffled 73-year-old said at a news conference outside the Capitol. "It is about a grass-roots movement of Americans standing up and saying: 'Enough is enough. This country and our government belong to all of us, not just a handful of billionaires.'"

"The major issue is, how do we create an economy that works for all of our people rather than a small number of billionaires?" he added.

Sanders, the longest-serving independent in the history of Congress, will campaign for the Democratic Party's nomination, which he said gives him a better platform to engage in debates mobilize support.

"The reality is that if you want to engage in debates, if you want to mobilize people, it is hard to do it outside the two-party system," he told CBS News.

His entry makes him a leading potential challenger to former secretary of State and party heavyweight Hillary Rodham Clinton, if not for votes and campaign donations then for pressing her to maintain fidelity to progressive causes.

Already, the influence of Sanders and other prominent liberals like Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) has appeared to influence the early days of Clinton's campaign. She has vowed to be a champion for the working class, and her kickoff video noted that while Americans "have fought their way back" from the Great Recession, "the deck is still stacked in favor of those at the top."

"I agree with Bernie," Clinton said in a tweet welcoming him to the race. "Focus must be on helping America's middle class. GOP would hold them back."

Sanders was elected as Vermont's lone House representative in 1990. During his eight terms, he was embraced by his state's Democratic Party, which didn't field a candidate in either his 2006 or 2012 campaigns for Senate.

In Congress, Sanders has advocated for higher taxes on the wealthy and increasing the minimum wage, and is a lead opponent of President Obama's proposed major trade deal among Pacific nations. In 2010, Sanders controlled the Senate floor for more than eight hours in opposition to an extension of lower tax rates.

Sanders also voted against the 2002 authorization that paved the way for the Iraq war. Clinton's vote for that resolution figured prominently in her 2008 presidential run against Obama.

A national Quinnipiac University poll conducted in mid-April showed Clinton leading the race for the Democratic nomination with 60% support from primary voters. Sanders polled at 8%, just behind Vice President Joe Biden, but ahead of such potential Democratic hopefuls as former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley, former Virginia Sen. Jim Webb and former Rhode Island Sen. Lincoln Chafee.

But recent surveys from Public Policy Polling, a Democratic-leaning firm, showed Sanders cracking double-digit support in the early nominating states of Iowa and New Hampshire.

Still, the polling firm's director, Tom Jensen, said Clinton's front-runner status appears secure.

"He does have a chance to pick up enough support to bring attention to his issues and be part of the conversation," Jensen said of Clinton's first announced opponent for the nomination. "Certainly Sanders

is more serious than O'Malley, Webb and Chafee because he has a real message and the credibility of being a big voice on the left for decades now.”

Candidates who occupy the role of forcing others to speak to issues that may be uncomfortable for them, a position Sanders is likely to ultimately end up in, are a time-honored tradition in politics. Among Republicans, Sen. Lindsey Graham of South Carolina has suggested that he might run a campaign focused on national security issues, an effort perhaps to counter Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul's less hawkish views. Former Pennsylvania Sen. Rick Santorum has also held firm to strong socially conservative views on issues like abortion and gay marriage as others have flirted with softer views.

Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz (D-Fla.), the Democratic Party chair, welcomed Sanders to the contest, saying the senator was “well-recognized for his principled leadership and has consistently stood up for middle-class families.”

Sanders made no mention of Clinton in his remarks to reporters or in an email announcement to supporters. “This is not the Red Sox versus the Yankees,” the New England lawmaker vying against the New York-based Clinton campaign told reporters.

“In a democracy, what elections are about are serious debates over serious issues, not political gossip, not making campaigns into soap operas,” he said.

In response to reporters' inquiries, though, Sanders said questions swirling about donations to the Clinton Foundation were a “fair issue,” but not one that he was most concerned with.

“What is more fair game to my campaign is the role of money in politics,” he said, specifically attacking the billionaire Koch brothers' influence in Republican politics. “I wonder now in this day and age whether it is possible for any candidate who is not a billionaire or who is not beholden to the billionaire class to be able to run successful campaigns. If that is the case, I want you all to recognize what a sad state of affairs that is for American democracy.”

Sanders said he would run a “vigorous” campaign that would rely on small donors to sustain it.

“We're in this race to win,” he said. “If you raise the issues that are on the hearts and minds of the American people, if you try to put together a movement ... that's not raising an issue, that's winning elections.”

After his news conference, Sanders returned to the Capitol for Senate business. He will travel to the early primary state of New Hampshire this weekend for his first events as a candidate. He also plans a larger kickoff event in his home state in May.

DEMOCRATIC PARTY

CHAFEE (WITHDRAWN)

“Lincoln Chafee Ends Democratic Bid for President,” by John Wagner and David Weigel, *The Washington Post*, October 23, 2015.

Chafee: ‘I’ve decided to end my campaign’

Speaking at the Democratic Women's Forum National Issues Conference Oct. 23, former Rhode Island governor Lincoln Chafee (D) announced an end to his campaign for president and vowed to fight for other Democrats' wins in 2016. (AP)

Democratic presidential hopeful Lincoln Chafee announced Friday that he is withdrawing from the race, ending a bid that had failed to gain any traction.

Chafee, a former governor and U.S. senator from Rhode Island, used an appearance in Washington at a Democratic National Committee forum on women's leadership to make his announcement.

Chafee bowed out with a plea for "an end to the endless wars and the beginning of a new era for the United States and humanity."

"Do we want to be remembered as a bomber of weddings and hospitals?" Chafee said. "Or do we want to be remembered as peacemakers, as pioneers of a more harmonious world?"

Chafee's exit further narrows a Democratic field led by Hillary Rodham Clinton and Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) that also includes former Maryland governor Martin O'Malley.

Vice President Joe Biden announced Wednesday that he would not make a late entry into the race, and former Virginia senator Jim Webb dropped out of the Democratic race earlier this week, leaving open the possibility of an independent bid.

Clinton, Sanders and O'Malley were all scheduled to address the same DNC forum in Washington later Friday morning.

Speaking at the forum, DNC Chairwoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz called Chafee "a class act" and said she looks forward to him continuing to campaign for Democrats.

Chafee was polling at less than 1 percent in recent national polls and averaging less than 1 percent in recent polls from Iowa and New Hampshire, the first two nominating states, according to Real Clear Politics.

Chafee, a former Republican, made a splash in the run-up to the launch of his bid, saying in an interview that Clinton's 2002 Senate vote to authorize military action in Iraq should disqualify her from becoming commander in chief.

Coverage of his campaign announcement in June was dominated by his embrace of the metric system — "it doesn't take long before 34 degrees is hot" — and Chafee never seemed to get on track after that.

He was largely a bystander in the first Democratic debate this month in Las Vegas, and through September, he had raised only \$44,506 for his candidacy. According to Democracy in Action, a watchdog group, Chafee spent 35 days campaigning in New Hampshire, more than any other candidate. Visits to states that were further from his native Rhode Island were more scarce — just four in Iowa and two in South Carolina.

Chafee's presidential race was the least successful of his career — a career twice boosted by happenstance. In 1999, when Rhode Island Sen. John Chafee died, the state's Republican governor handed the seat to his son, Lincoln. By his own admission, the new senator (and former mayor of Warwick, R.I.) was befuddled by the job, telling CNN's Anderson Cooper last week that he voted for a major banking reform bill because he'd "just arrived at the Senate" and thought he'd get some do-overs. He won a full term in 2000 even after admitting to some youthful and regrettable experiments with drugs.

"Now when I hear someone talking about a Rhode Island politician whose father was a senator, who got to Washington based on his family name, used cocaine, and wasn't very smart, I know there's only a

50-50 chance it's me," then-Rep. Patrick Kennedy, the Democratic son of Edward M. Kennedy, joked at a 2001 Providence political roast.

Meanwhile, Chafee established himself as perhaps the most liberal member of the Republican conference. He opposed the Iraq War, and several of President George W. Bush's policy initiatives. In 2006 he faced a stiff, Club for Growth-backed primary challenge from the conservative Cranston, R.I., mayor, Steve Laffey, who considered Chafee a lightweight.

"This guy's a U.S. senator?" Laffey recalled in his memoir, "Primary Mistake." "They can't all be like this, or we're really in trouble!"

Chafee, backed by national Republicans, won the primary but lost a general election to now-Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse (D-R.I.). He took a teaching job at Brown University, but made a surprise return to politics in 2010 as an independent candidate for governor. Chafee was running a strong third when the Democratic nominee, Frank Caprio, made a fateful gaffe. Told that President Obama would visit the state but not endorse him, Caprio said, "He can take his endorsement and really shove it as far as I'm concerned." His poll numbers cratered overnight, and liberal voters flocked to Chafee, who narrowly won.

It was not a recipe for a successful term. Chafee, who took office near the end of the Great Recession, was a distant and unpopular governor, deciding against reelection after polling showed him losing to any serious candidate. His exit from the political scene was welcomed; his decision to run for president inspired a baffled editorial from Rhode Island's biggest newspaper.

"His administration was marked by his persistent refusal to understand or address the state's economic problems; a bizarre crusade against the use of the words "Christmas tree" to describe the state's Christmas tree; prickly denunciations of people who challenged his policies; his hustling of a top aide, Richard Licht, into a judgeship, in violation of the spirit of the state's revolving-door law; and a series of actions that seemed designed only to make life harder for the state's struggling middle class," wrote the Providence Journal. "The idea that such a dismal record in an executive position would be a recommendation for the presidency (of the United States!) seems preposterous."

On the campaign trail, Chafee leaned more on his record as a naysaying senator than on his four years as governor. In what will have been his only debate performance, he went negative against Clinton for her Iraq War vote. The day after, when CNN asked when he would get out of the race, Chafee suggested that "the establishment does not want to hear an antiwar voice."

Yet Chafee strongly hinted at his exit from the race Thursday night with a tweet that said: "I look forward to speaking at DNC Women's Forum tomorrow morning. I'll address my future in the campaign there."

John Wagner is a political reporter covering the race for the 2016 Democratic presidential nomination.

DEMOCRATIC PARTY

LESSIG (WITHDRAWN)

"Lawrence Lessig Ends His Long-Shot Presidential Bid," by Nick Corasaniti, *The New York Times*, November 2, 2015.

Lawrence Lessig, a Harvard professor, ended his campaign for the Democratic presidential nomination, despite being able to raise \$1 million before Labor Day.

Lawrence Lessig, the Harvard professor who began a late campaign for president, announced that he was ending his bid for the Democratic nomination, citing his exclusion from the debate stage.

“No doubt a better candidate could have gone further, though I doubt anyone could have worked harder, but regardless, I must today end my campaign for the Democratic nomination and turn to the question of how to best to continue to press for this reform now,” Mr. Lessig said in a video posted to his YouTube page.

He entered the race in September, much later than other candidates, on a mission to change the country’s campaign finance system.

Mr. Lessig wasn’t included in the first Democratic debate, and he acknowledged in the beginning of the video that “unless we can time travel,” he wouldn’t qualify for the next stage, either.

“From the start it was clear that getting into the Democratic debates was the essential step in this campaign,” Mr. Lessig said in the video. “I may be known in tiny corners of the tubes of the Internets, but I am not well-known to the American public generally.”

Last month, he said in an interview that if he didn’t make it into either of the first two debates, he would most likely end his campaign.

Despite being able to raise over \$1 million before Labor Day, and spending nearly half of it, Mr. Lessig had been struggling to get noticed anywhere on the campaign trail — he wasn’t offered an invitation to speak at annual Jefferson-Jackson Dinner in Iowa last month, either.

DEMOCRATIC PARTY

WEBB (WITHDRAWN)

“Webb Drops Out of Democratic Race, Will Explore Independent Bid,” by David Jackson, *USA TODAY*, October 20, 2015.

WASHINGTON — Long-shot candidate Jim Webb said Tuesday he is dropping his campaign for the Democratic presidential nomination and will explore the possibility of an independent bid.

“Our country is more important than a label,” the former Virginia senator said during a news conference held a week after the first Democratic debate of the 2016 election cycle.

Webb, a former Republican who won election to the Senate as a Democrat in 2006, said both parties are too influenced by big money that tends to favor “extremes” and promote gridlock. He said he has agreements and disputes with policies in each party and would be a strong independent voice.

“Our political process is jammed up,” Webb said. “It needs an an honest broker.”

While saying “this country needs a new dynamic,” Webb did not formally declare an independent candidacy, saying that “I’m thinking about all my options.” Webb did not give a time frame for a decision, saying he wants to talk to a variety of people first and see how much support he could garner.

The decorated Vietnam veteran also said he is tired of hearing the parties accuse each other of being an enemy. Combat experience taught him what an enemy really is, Webb said, and the other party “is not the enemy — they are the opposition.”

The Webb withdrawal leaves four candidates in the Democratic race: Hillary Clinton, Bernie Sanders, Martin O'Malley and Lincoln Chafee. Vice President Biden is continuing to mull whether to enter the race.

Webb made his statement at a podium featuring the sign "Jim Webb '16 — Leadership You Can Trust." The sign did not specify a party.

During last week's debate, Webb spent much of his time complaining about the lack of equal time, earning himself attention on social media and a parody on Saturday Night Live.

Throughout his brief campaign, Webb has argued that big money in political has corrupted both political parties — "poisoning our political process," he said during the debate.

After declaring his candidacy in July via an online announcement, Webb made few public appearances and struggled to get traction in the race.

Over the years, Webb said, people have told him he often sounds like a Republican in a meeting of Democrats — or a Democrat in a meeting of Republicans.

"Actually, I take that as a compliment," he said.

REPUBLICAN PARTY

BUSH (DECLARED)

"Jeb Bush Officially Launches His Presidential Campaign," by Ed O'Keefe and Philip Rucker, *The Washington Post*, June 15, 2015.

MIAMI — Jeb Bush, son and brother of former presidents, formally launched his campaign for the White House on Monday with a sweeping call to reform Washington and expand economic opportunity.

Against a diverse tableau at a boisterous rally here in the state he governed for eight years, Bush offered himself as a compassionate and tested chief executive who would fix a broken federal government and disrupt the country's political brinkmanship.

"We will take Washington — the static capital of this dynamic country — out of the business of causing problems," he said. "We will get back on the side of free enterprise and free people. I know we can fix this. Because I've done it."

With his mother, former first lady Barbara Bush, sitting in the front row, Jeb Bush directly confronted the family history that is both an asset and a liability. His father and brother, George H.W. Bush and George W. Bush, were not present, but he invoked them by saying that he met his first president the day he was born and his second when he was taken home from the hospital.

Still, he said that he did not believe his lineage should grant him the Republican nomination.

Jeb Bush: 'Country is on a very bad course'

During his official presidential campaign launch, former Florida Governor Jeb Bush warned that country is on "a very bad course," but he has decided to fix it by running for president. (AP)

“Not a one of us deserves the job by right of résumé, party, seniority, family or family narrative,” he said. “It’s nobody’s turn. It’s everybody’s test, and it’s wide open — exactly as a contest for president should be.”

Addressing hundreds of supporters inside a Miami college gymnasium, Bush spoke in aspirational terms about what he called a “nation filled with charitable hearts.” He seemed determined to present a new, welcoming face for the Republican Party, looking as much to the general election as to the primaries.

He did not mention any GOP opponent by name, but he directly attacked Hillary Rodham Clinton, saying that the Democratic presidential front-runner sits atop “a no-suspense primary, for a no-change election” to succeed President Obama and would “slog on with the same agenda under another name.”

“The presidency should not be passed on from one liberal to the next,” he said.

Bush focused heavily on his record as Florida’s governor, the office he held between 1999 and 2007. Under his leadership, he said, the state led the nation in job creation, income growth, balanced budgets and tax cuts.

“We don’t need another president who merely holds the top spot among the pampered elites of Washington,” he said. Later, he said, “I was a reforming governor, not just another member of the club.”

As president, he said, he would “think big” about overhauling the tax code, undo Obama-era federal regulations and “get serious about limited government.”

Jeb Bush, in his own words

Former Florida governor Jeb Bush is a Republican contender for the White House in 2016. Here’s his take on the Bush family legacy, the Iraq invasion and more, in his own words. (Julie Percha/The Washington Post)

Bush laid out an ambitious goal of 4 percent economic growth, which he said would bring 19 million new jobs. “It’s possible,” he said. “It can be done.”

But he had nothing in his prepared remarks about immigration reform, an issue that he has championed for years but which is particularly divisive for die-hard Republican base voters. Only when two dozen protesters stood in the rafters to interrupt him — they stripped off a layer of clothing to reveal neon T-shirts spelling out “Legal status is not enough” — did Bush weigh in on the subject.

“The next president of the United States will pass meaningful immigration reform,” he said, departing from the text in his teleprompters.

Monday’s event was strikingly different from most Republican campaign rallies this year, which have drawn overwhelmingly white crowds. Bush spoke at a campus of Miami Dade College, a system that boasts the largest Hispanic student body in the nation, and packed the gymnasium with cheering Asian American, black and Latino supporters, young and old, who held up campaign signs in Spanish and English.

Before Bush took the stage, a family of Cuban singers performed regional classics. A black Baptist minister called Bush “a man of deep conviction.” The Colombian mother of a disabled daughter defended his record, in Spanish. Bush’s former lieutenant governor looked across the big crowd and said: “It looks like family. The Bush family — the big Bush family.”

State Sen. Don Gaetz told the crowd that Bush is “the new Florida. He is the new America. He is the new Republican Party.”

The message Bush hoped to convey was clear: In a crowded field of candidates, he is the seasoned Republican who can broaden the GOP’s appeal among minority voters who long have voted for Democrats.

Bush, who returned over the weekend from a five-day visit to Europe, earned some of his loudest applause by assailing the Obama administration’s foreign policy record.

“With their phone-it-in foreign policy, the Obama-Clinton-Kerry team is leaving a legacy of crises uncontained, violence unopposed, enemies unnamed, friends undefended and alliances unraveling,” he said.

The announcement capped six months of aggressive travel and fundraising for Bush, 62, a regimen that suggested a presidential bid was never in doubt. Testing the boundaries of modern campaign finance law and tapping a donor network first cultivated by his extended family more than 30 years ago, Bush has stockpiled tens of millions of dollars for an allied super PAC that will operate independently of his campaign operation and attack his opponents as he seeks to build support in early primary states.

Bush enters a fluid race for the Republican nomination, where an array of younger rivals, including a onetime protege of his, Sen. Marco Rubio (Fla.), are posing strong challenges. Bush signaled that he would use his executive experience to draw a contrast between him and Rubio and other first-term senators.

“There’s no passing off responsibility when you’re a governor, no blending into the legislative crowd or filing an amendment and calling that success,” Bush said. “As our whole nation has learned since 2008, executive experience is another term for preparation, and there is no substitute for that.”

Gaetz used sharper language in introducing Bush. “The presidency of the United States does not come with training wheels,” he said, adding, “Jeb Bush is the Florida Republican who can win.”

From Miami, Bush planned to fly Monday night to launch a whirlwind four-day tour in New Hampshire, a state that will be critical to his early chances. On Wednesday, he is scheduled to visit Iowa, where conservatives remain deeply skeptical of his bid. In South Carolina on Thursday, he is expected to detail more of his military and foreign policy agenda. He plans to be in Washington on Friday for his first official campaign fundraiser, then return to Florida to headline a GOP fundraiser in Tampa.

Monday’s Miami rally took on the feel of a Bush family reunion. In addition to his mother, John Ellis Bush — nicknamed “Jeb” by his mother, for his initials — was joined by his wife, Columba, their three children and their own young families, plus his younger siblings, Neil Bush and Doro Bush Koch. The candidate’s extended political family was also present: Nearly 400 former staffers and supporters from campaigns past cheered in the arena.

“I’ve been waiting 30 years for Monday,” said Jorge Arrizurieta, a Miami businessman and longtime friend who has known Jeb Bush since the 1980s.

Since leaving office in 2007, Bush has launched a lucrative business career, including work with his youngest son, Jeb Jr., on investment and real estate ventures. Until last year, he also served as a special adviser to the British bank Barclays.

Politically, Bush remained an active proponent of an immigration overhaul and education standards commonly known as Common Core. His support for both issues is considered a disqualifying factor by conservatives opposed to easing of immigration laws or possible federal intervention in local education policy.

But on Monday, Bush's intended audience was far broader than the conservative base. He pledged to take his campaign "everywhere, speaking to everyone."

Near the end of his remarks, he broke into fluent Spanish and directly appealed for the support of Latino voters. In English, he explained, "In any language, my message will be an optimistic one."

REPUBLICAN PARTY

CARSON (DECLARED)

"Ben Carson Says He'll Seek 2016 G.O.P. Nomination," by Trip Gabriel, *The New York Times*, May 3, 2015.

Ben Carson, a retired neurosurgeon who has never held elective office, said on Sunday that he would seek the 2016 Republican nomination for president, joining the party's fast-growing field.

Mr. Carson, who appeared on the political scene just two years ago and gained attention among conservatives for a speech highly critical of President Obama, planned a formal announcement of his candidacy on Monday in his native Detroit. He began his rise from poverty there to the heights of medicine — a path that shaped his rejection of liberal social policies in favor of self-reliance.

On Sunday evening, Mr. Carson said in an interview with a Washington television station that he was entering the race. "I'm announcing my candidacy for president of the United States," he told WJLA.

Despite a crowded Republican field likely to be among the strongest and broadest in decades, Mr. Carson, 63, believes there is a clamor for an insurgent candidate without ties to party politics.

But that belief is likely to be tested quickly as he is forced to compete for donors and support with more established and organized candidates like Senators Ted Cruz of Texas, Rand Paul of Kentucky and Marco Rubio of Florida — all of whom have announced their candidacies — and leading party figures like Jeb Bush, the former Florida governor, and Gov. Scott Walker of Wisconsin.

Mr. Carson may also struggle to claim the outsider mantle. Carly Fiorina, the former Hewlett-Packard chief executive, also planned to formally enter the Republican race on Monday, making an online announcement in contrast to the staged kickoffs of Mr. Carson and the other declared candidates.

Nor will he have the spotlight for long: On Tuesday, former Gov. Mike Huckabee of Arkansas plans to announce his second presidential campaign in his native Hope, Ark.

One challenge for Mr. Carson is whether he can appeal beyond the grass-roots conservatives who initially flocked to him, delighted by his eye-gouging of the president. It is a rhetorical style he has pledged to eliminate as he seeks broader support.

But Mr. Carson may attract early attention because of the national focus on the death of a black man who was injured in police custody in Baltimore, where Mr. Carson lived and worked for 35 years.

He draws an aggressive contrast with Democrats over antipoverty issues, and in speeches has told of how his mother, a cleaning woman, struggled to stay off welfare because everyone she knew who took government aid never escaped it.

In an interview before his announcement, he said that “personal responsibility, hard work and compassion for our fellow human beings” were the keys of climbing out of poverty. Mr. Obama, by contrast, he said, “seems to believe more in a utopian view of cradle-to-grave care.”

Mr. Carson’s biography will feature prominently in his campaign. His mother, Sonya Carson, had only a third-grade education, but he went on to graduate from Yale and the University of Michigan Medical School, and at age 33 was named chief of pediatric neurosurgery at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, becoming the youngest person, and the first black doctor, to hold the title.

He burst onto the political scene in 2013 with a speech at the National Prayer Breakfast that denounced the country’s “moral decay” and Mr. Obama’s health care law. The Wall Street Journal followed with an editorial, “Ben Carson for President.”

An independent political action committee seeking to draft him to run demonstrated his small-donor appeal by raising \$13 million. It announced it had recruited leaders in all 99 counties in Iowa, which holds the first nominating contest.

Mr. Carson’s campaign announced Monday morning that he would leave from his announcement for Dallas, where his mother, who was in failing health, has become critically ill. Originally scheduled to travel to Iowa for three days of speeches and campaign stops, he plans to campaign there Tuesday and Wednesday, said Armstrong Williams, a senior adviser.

Mr. Carson must devise a coherent policy message and convince voters that he is fit for political leadership with no governing experience. He spent five hours at the conservative Heritage Foundation recently taking tutorials on domestic and foreign policy.

He has also undergone media training to round the edges off his incendiary language. In 2013, Mr. Carson was forced to withdraw as a commencement speaker at Johns Hopkins after linking same-sex marriage to pedophilia. He has pronounced the president’s health care law the worst thing to happen in American “since slavery.” And in March, he issued an apology after declaring that the experience of men in prison proved that homosexuality was a choice.

“I’ve come to recognize that when you use certain terms, people can no longer hear anything else you say,” Mr. Carson said in the interview before his announcement. “As you’ll notice in the last several weeks, I’ve been able to get my points across without inflammatory language.”

Correction: May 3, 2015

An earlier version of this article misidentified the television station that Ben Carson told in an interview that he would seek the 2016 Republican presidential nomination. It was WJLA in Washington, not WKRC in Cincinnati.

Correction: May 4, 2015

An earlier version of this article misspelled part of the name of the company of which Carly Fiorina was the former chief executive. It is Hewlett-Packard, not Hewlett-Packar.

REPUBLICAN PARTY CHRISTIE (DECLARED)

“Chris Christie Declares His Candidacy For President,” by Brian Naylor, *National Public Radio*, June 30, 2015.

New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, whose political career has taken almost as many turns as a roulette wheel at an Atlantic City casino, is running for president.

He made the announcement Tuesday at Livingston High School, which he attended and where he was class president. Declaring “America is tired of hand-wringing and indecisiveness and weakness” in the White House, Christie said he is ready “to fight for the people of the United States of America.”

Christie, 52, first came to prominence as a corruption-fighting U.S. attorney for New Jersey, appointed by President George W. Bush in 2001. Christie went after public officials from both parties, eventually winning convictions or guilty pleas from 130 of them, by his count. The biggest name, former Newark Mayor Sharpe James, was convicted in 2008 on fraud charges.

In 2009, Christie ran for governor of the Garden State and defeated Democratic incumbent Jon Corzine.

He scored political points with Republicans when he battled teachers unions and demanded cuts in public pensions. In town hall-style meetings across the state, he became known for the outspoken way he challenged people who disagreed with him. Christie flirted with a run for president in 2011 but ultimately decided that “now is not my time.”

In August 2012, Christie gave the keynote address at the Republican National Convention, a speech many said was heavy on references to Christie and light on support for the GOP nominee, Mitt Romney.

Christie then gained national attention as he praised President Obama’s response to Superstorm Sandy in the weeks before the 2012 presidential election, which many Republicans said detracted from the message of the Romney campaign.

After Obama’s re-election, Christie coasted to a second term in 2013. And as the now twice-elected Republican governor of a heavily Democratic state, Christie was thought to be near the front of the pack of potential 2016 GOP presidential candidates.

Then came “Bridgegate.” And everything changed.

Bridgegate was what journalists dubbed the closing of two lanes of a busy highway leading to the George Washington Bridge and heading into New York City. It caused massive backups on local streets in Fort Lee, N.J. The closings were ostensibly for construction purposes, but there was no construction, and it soon seemed that something else might be at play: political payback.

The Democratic mayor of Fort Lee did not support the governor in his re-election bid.

Christie has vehemently denied any involvement in the closings, saying he learned of them only through press reports and after the fact. But a number of top aides were implicated and forced to resign. In New Jersey, Christie’s popularity plunged and his national ambitions have never recovered.

He is now seen to be at the back of the pack of the GOP presidential candidates. His moderate views on issues like same sex unions (he supported civil unions but not marriage), gun control and immigration might have been a tough sell in places like Iowa anyways.

So, as the Philadelphia Inquirer points out, Christie has got his work cut out:

“Monmouth University’s June 15 national poll, for instance, found Christie viewed favorably by 26 percent of likely Republican primary voters, and unfavorably by 43 percent — for a net of minus 17 percentage points. Fifty-five percent of Republicans in this month’s Wall Street Journal/NBC News poll said they would never consider voting for Christie.

‘There’s a path for Christie, but it’s a narrow one,’ said Patrick Murray, director of the Monmouth poll. ‘His high negatives and wide name recognition put a ceiling on his growth. He doesn’t have much room for error.’”

Christie is expected to spend a lot of time in New Hampshire in the coming weeks, which he hopes may be more hospitable to a fiscally conservative Northeasterner with moderate tendencies, and where Democrats and independents can vote in the state’s open primary

It may be a long shot, but Christie hopes with another spin of the wheel to come up lucky..

REPUBLICAN PARTY

CRUZ (DECLARED)

“Ted Cruz Becomes First Major Candidate to Announce Presidential Bid for 2016,” by Nick Corasaniti and Patrick Healy, *The New York Times*, March 23, 2015.

LYNCHBURG, Va. — Senator Ted Cruz of Texas announced on Monday morning that he would run for president in 2016, becoming the first Republican candidate to declare himself

Linking the determination of his immigrant father with the resolve of the founding fathers and his own faith in “the promise of America,” Mr. Cruz spoke at length about his family and his faith as he laid out a case for his candidacy.

“God’s blessing has been on America from the very beginning of this nation, and I believe God isn’t done with America yet,” Mr. Cruz said before thousands of cheering students here at Liberty University. “I believe in you. I believe in the power of millions of courageous conservatives rising up to re-ignite the promise of America.”

“Today, I am announcing that I am running for president of the United States,” Mr. Cruz added. “It is a time for truth, it is a time for liberty, it is a time to reclaim the Constitution of the United States.”

His speech was packed with calls to “imagine a president” who would repeal the Affordable Care Act, abolish the Internal Revenue Service, “defend the sanctity of human life and uphold the sacrament of marriage.”

At times a history lesson — he invoked both Franklin D. Roosevelt and Patrick Henry — and at times a call to action, Mr. Cruz sought to position himself as the candidate who would give the Republican Party’s right wing the country they desire. He spoke directly to conservatives, with no real broad appeal to the more moderate wing of his party.

“The power of the American people when we rise up and stand for liberty knows no bounds,” Mr. Cruz said, before asking those in attendance to “break a rule” and text the word “Constitution” to his campaign.

With his two daughters and wife, Heidi, in attendance, Mr. Cruz opened his speech by providing a biography not of himself, but of his parents, and describing his connection to his faith.

Mr. Cruz told the story of his mom, a “little girl” growing up in Delaware who became a “pioneering computer programmer,” and his dad, the teenage rebel fighter in Cuba who fled at age 18 to America. Mr. Cruz was candid about his parents’ alcohol abuse and marital troubles, and he told the story of how his parents found their faith. He also presented himself as dedicated to hard work, noting he took two jobs to pay for school as a teenager and took out \$100,000 in student loans, paying them off just a few years ago.

“There are people who wonder if faith is real,” Mr. Cruz said. “I can tell you, in my family there is not a second of doubt.”

Several Republicans said on Monday that given Mr. Cruz’s rhetorical skills and passion, and his ability to inspire restless or disenchanting conservatives and evangelical Americans, his candidacy should not be underestimated.

“He has had the single best sound bite over the last three years, saying that the big problem in Washington is we don’t listen,” said Frank Luntz, a longtime Republican pollster. “That message transcends ideology and partisanship, because so many in the public think Washington is out of touch.”

The man is intrinsically linked to such a bitter, theocratic and self-destructive form of conservatism that he would inevitably lead his party to its greatest defeat since Barry Goldwater.

Mr. Cruz’s chief downside, Mr. Luntz said, is reflected in his relationships with other Republicans in the Senate.

Senator Ted Cruz, Republican of Texas, announced Monday he would run for president, making him the first major candidate to do so.

“His colleagues really don’t like him, and it’s very difficult when your own colleagues won’t stand up for you,” Mr. Luntz said. “There’s a subtle message that there is something wrong.”

Or, as Steve Elmendorf, a veteran Democratic strategist and Washington lobbyist, put it on Monday: “The question for Republicans is: Can an unlikable candidate who holds positions unappealing for the general election be viable?”

Republican Party leaders in several states welcomed Mr. Cruz to the nominating contest, but they declined to analyze his chances since their primaries and caucuses are at least 10 months away.

“There was a lot of energy in his speech, and he laid out a full vision for the future of our country,” said Jennifer Horn, the Republican Party chairman in New Hampshire, which is expected to hold its first-in-the-nation presidential primary in February 2016. “The folks in New Hampshire are going to be eager to start asking detailed questions about his vision. He’s coming back to visit here later this week, and there a lot of people looking forward to that.”

Jeff Kaufmann, chairman of the Republican Party in Iowa, which holds the first caucuses, said the location for Mr. Cruz’s speech was telling.

“It’s clear he wants to run as the Christian evangelical candidate and the liberty candidate — in both senses of liberty — which will definitely hold appeal for some Iowa voters,” Mr. Kaufmann said. “How he tries to position and separate himself from other Republicans trying to appeal to the same groups of Iowans, that will be interesting to watch.”

Mr. Cruz's early entry into the race, according to people briefed on his strategy, is a deliberate effort to recapture the attention of his party's right wing as he seeks to build a coalition of Tea Party conservatives and evangelical Christians to try to cut through a crowded field of Republican contenders.

The decision to announce the campaign on Monday was made about a month ago, according to a senior adviser to the Cruz campaign. Though there was some consideration given to making a simple announcement on social media, the decision was ultimately made to deliver a speech at Liberty.

In part, financial urgency prompted the accelerated timetable: advisers to Mr. Cruz have seen donors of the party flock to other potential candidates, including Gov. Scott Walker of Wisconsin, who since January has won the most notice among Republicans clamoring for a nominee other than former Gov. Jeb Bush of Florida. Mr. Cruz's advisers say his goal is to raise at least \$40 million, with roughly \$1 million in the first week.

Mr. Cruz's recent pronouncements have been rich with the sort of proposals popular with the Tea Party conservatives who helped start his career in elected office. He has called for abolishing the Internal Revenue Service, and he has joked about sending tax agents to help secure the nation's border instead. He has denied the prevailing science on climate change, most recently in an interview last week with the talk show host Seth Meyers.

Notably, however, Mr. Cruz has also begun championing a message of economic populism, denouncing income inequality and borrowing the "two Americas" metaphor used most famously by former Senator John Edwards in two unsuccessful campaigns for the Democratic presidential nomination.

Since starting his campaign for the Senate in 2011, Mr. Cruz has often defied and battled his party's establishment. He defeated David Dewhurst, the sitting lieutenant governor of Texas at the time, in a Republican primary in which Gov. Rick Perry and others campaigned hard for Mr. Dewhurst. In a runoff, Mr. Cruz beat Mr. Dewhurst by 14 percentage points.

Mr. Cruz's tenure in Washington has been marked by accusations of demagoguery. He sometimes deploys the soaring diction of a preacher while staking out uncompromising and rigid conservative positions, often playing the role of political flamethrower.

He championed the government shutdown of 2013, infuriating many in his party, and some, like Representative Peter T. King of New York, accused him of bringing the country "to the edge of ruin." Mr. Cruz, however, stood firm, saying that he was elected to shake up the status quo in Washington, and that he was doing just that.

Mr. Cruz has an evident flair for the theatrical: His 21-hour speech on the Senate floor in 2013, delivered under the veil of a filibuster against the Affordable Care Act — except that the Senate had already scheduled a vote for later in the day — featured Mr. Cruz criticizing politicians in "cheap suits" and "bad haircuts," and later reading "Green Eggs and Ham" in its entirety. He compared his fight against the president's signature health care legislation to the efforts of those who resisted the Nazis, ended the Cold War or started the American Revolution.

Despite his frequently antagonistic approach toward the Republican establishment, Mr. Cruz is indebted to it in one important way: He met his wife, Heidi, while working on the 2000 campaign of George W. Bush.

After his speech, Mr. Cruz spent more than 30 minutes taking photos, signing autographs and meeting students before bumping into Jerry Falwell Jr., the Liberty University president and chancellor, in the scrum.

“These students are so grateful,” Mr. Falwell said. “I can’t say how much we appreciate it.”

“I’ll tell you, your students lift up my spirits and they inspire me,” Mr. Cruz responded. “There’s an energy. I think the young men and women in the auditorium today have the power literally to turn the country around.”

Mr. Falwell agreed: “They keep me young.”

“Amen,” Mr. Cruz replied.

Correction: March 23, 2015

An earlier version of this article misspelled the surname of a historical figure Ted Cruz invoked in his speech on Monday. He was Franklin D. Roosevelt, not Rosevelt.

REPUBLICAN PARTY FIORINA (DECLARED)

“Former HP CEO Fiorina Enters 2016 Race, Takes Shot at Clinton,” by Alistair Bell and Bill Trott, *Reuters*, May 4, 2015.

WASHINGTON — Former Hewlett-Packard Co (HPQ.N) Chief Executive Carly Fiorina on Monday announced she is running for president, and took a shot at Democratic front-runner Hillary Clinton, who she said represents a political class that Americans are “disgusted” with.

Once one of the most powerful women in American business, Fiorina registers near the bottom of polls of the dozen or so Republican hopefuls and has never held public office.

She is positioning herself as an outsider with real-life experience earned through years in the corporate world.

Fiorina, 60, said the former first lady and her husband, former President Bill Clinton, belong to an out-of-touch political elite.

“She reminds people that there is a huge disconnect between that political class and the hopes and concerns of hard-working Americans everywhere,” she told reporters on a conference call.

“I see that disconnect everywhere I go. I see people just disgusted, honestly, with the way the playing field is tilted against them, the disconnect between what they’re thinking about and what they perceive people in Washington are thinking about,” Fiorina said.

A breast cancer survivor who lost a stepdaughter to drug addiction, Fiorina is a multimillionaire who has known adversity.

She was forced to resign from HP in 2005 as the tech company struggled to digest a \$19 billion merger with then-rival computer maker Compaq.

Around the time of her ouster from HP she was derisively dubbed the “anti-Steve Jobs” by one respected tech news website, though the Compaq merger was eventually seen as a success.

Fiorina is at the bottom of a Reuters/Ipsos online poll of actual and possible Republican White House candidates, with less than 1 percent support.

She has gotten a warm reception at events in the early voting states of Iowa and New Hampshire but she suffered an embarrassment on the first day of her campaign when a critic took over a website with her name in it to highlight job losses at HP.

Visitors to the carlyfiorina.org site saw the message, “Carly Fiorina failed to register this domain. So I’m using it to tell you how many people she laid off at Hewlett-Packard.”

The site showed “sad-face” emoticons to symbolize what it said were 30,000 job losses at the company. Fiorina’s real campaign web site, www.carlyforpresident.com, featured a video from her about the presidential bid and other messages.

In 2010, Fiorina lost the election for a U.S. Senate seat in California to Democratic Senator Barbara Boxer, failing to benefit from a wave of pro-Republican sentiment nationally.

She said on Monday that her first phone call as president would be to the prime minister of Israel to assure the Jewish state of America’s support.

The second call, she said, would be to the supreme leader of Iran to warn him of U.S. sanctions unless he allowed unfettered access for inspectors to Tehran’s nuclear program.

REPUBLICAN PARTY GILMORE (DECLARED)

“Jim Gilmore Formally Joins GOP Presidential Race,” by Cooper Allen, *USA TODAY*, July 30, 2015.

Former Virginia governor Jim Gilmore became the 17th Republican presidential candidate Thursday, making the announcement in a Web video.

“Some may ask, ‘Why am I running?’” Gilmore says in the video, noting the large GOP field.

“I’m a candidate for president because our current Washington leadership is guiding America on a path to decline, and I can reverse that decline,” he says.

He added that he’d been “looking for someone to enter the race committed to my belief that America’s economic and national security is increasingly at risk.”

However, he said, none of the existing GOP White House hopefuls had left him “certain about their knowledge or solutions to the threats facing our nation.”

Gilmore filed paperwork with the Federal Election Commission on Wednesday to make his candidacy official.

In a field with top-tier candidates, middle-of-the-pack contenders and long shots, Gilmore, 65, enters the 2016 race unquestionably ensconced in the last group.

His entry into the race is no surprise. He told the Richmond Times-Dispatch in July that he would announce his candidacy the first week of August.

“I bring to the table experience that others don’t have,” Gilmore told the newspaper.

Gilmore was elected governor in 1997, running on a platform of ending the car tax. Prior to that he’d served as the state’s attorney general.

During his final full year as governor, in 2001, he concurrently served as chairman of the Republican National Committee. He resigned as party chairman after just one year on the job, however, amid reports of tension between him and aides to President George W. Bush.

In April 2007, Gilmore formally declared he would seek the 2008 Republican presidential nomination. His announcement was delivered via a webcast that he described as “the wave of the future.” His campaign was brief, though, as he dropped out of the race in July.

That November, he entered the race for the open U.S. Senate seat in Virginia of retiring Republican senator John Warner. In the 2008 general election, Gilmore faced the Democrat, Mark Warner, who succeeded him as governor. In what was already a tough year politically for most Republicans, Gilmore fared particularly badly, losing by more than 30 points.

Gilmore served as an Army intelligence officer following his graduation from the University of Virginia in 1971, then later graduated from the university’s law school and would go on to serve as a county prosecutor before his statewide election as attorney general in 1993.

He and his wife, Roxane, have two children.

REPUBLICAN PARTY

HUCKABEE (DECLARED)

“Mike Huckabee Launches 2016 Presidential Campaign,” by Karen Tumulty, *The Washington Post*, May 5, 2015.

Former Arkansas governor Mike Huckabee announced Tuesday that he will make a second bid for the Republican nomination.

“Folks, it is a long way from a little brick red house on 2nd street in Hope, Arkansas to the White House. But here in this small town called Hope I was raised to believe that where a person’s starting didn’t mean that’s where he had to stop,” he told a cheering crowd at a rally in his hometown of Hope, Arkansas.”...So it seems perfectly fitting that it would be here that I announce that I am a candidate for president of the United States of America.”

The challenges are formidable for the man who won the 2008 Iowa caucuses. In that earlier race, Huckabee, 59, a former Baptist preacher, struggled to expand his reach beyond evangelical voters and ran out of money in subsequent contests.

Huckabee is a gifted communicator. Polls have consistently shown that he has relatively high name recognition and popularity among Republicans. Early this year, he quit his television show on Fox News so that he could more deeply explore the possibility of another run.

This time, his challenge will be finding a way to break through in a field that is likely to include a dozen or more credible, well-financed contenders. Among them are relatively fresh faces, such as Sen. Ted Cruz (R-Tex.), who are challenging him for the financial and political support of conservative Christians.

On the stump, he has pointed to his Arkansas history as evidence that he has what it takes to run against Hillary Rodham Clinton, the expected Democratic nominee.

Indeed, Huckabee’s career has been intertwined with that of the Clinton family for more than two decades.

Huckabee comes from Hope, Ark., the same town where Bill Clinton was born. Early in his career, he was a Baptist minister and broadcaster. He made his first bid for office in 1992, making an unsuccessful run as the GOP nominee to unseat Democratic Sen. Dale Bumpers.

That same election, however, saw Arkansas politics upended.

The sitting governor, Bill Clinton, was elected president. His move to Washington elevated the state's lieutenant governor, Jim Guy Tucker, to the top spot, and opened up the number-two job, which Huckabee won in a 1993 special election. That made Huckabee an instant celebrity among Republicans, who hadn't won a statewide office in Arkansas in 13 years.

Three years later, Tucker was indicted on charges related to the Whitewater investigation, stemming from a failed Arkansas land deal in which the Clintons had invested. Upon Tucker's resignation, Huckabee became governor.

During his decade as Arkansas governor, Huckabee racked up an impressive record getting legislation through an overwhelmingly Democratic legislature. Among his achievements were expanding health coverage for children and revamping the state's education system. In 2005, Time Magazine named him one of the five most effective governors in the country, and Governing magazine dubbed him one of its "public officials of the year."

The overweight Arkansas governor also gained national attention when he lost 110 pounds, after being diagnosed with diabetes in 2002.

Huckabee collected some formidable enemies, including such conservative organizations as the Club for Growth, which deemed his gubernatorial record too liberal.

Jose A. DelReal contributed to this story.

REPUBLICAN PARTY

KASICH (DECLARED)

"John Kasich Announces Run for President," by Henry J. Gomez and Robert Higgs, *Cleveland.com*, July 21, 2015.

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Ohio Gov. John Kasich officially joined a super-sized field of presidential hopefuls Tuesday, becoming the 16th major contender for a Republican nomination that will be awarded next summer in Cleveland.

"I am here to ask you for your prayers, for your support, for your efforts because I have decided to run for president of the United States," Kasich said during a late-morning kickoff staged on the campus of his alma mater, Ohio State University.

Before a crowd of about 2,000 in a speech that lasted more 40 minutes, Kasich said he wants to take his successes in Ohio to Washington, D.C., and apply them to the nation. He ticked them off to the crowd — budget surpluses, job growth and tax cuts.

"I'm going to take what we learned here in the Heartland (with) that band of brothers and sisters that I work with every day and we are going to take the lessons of the Heartland and straighten out Washington, D.C.," Kasich said.

A big part of that effort, Kasich said, involves teamwork.

That concept of teamwork is one reason Kasich isn't intimidated by polling numbers that show him down in the pack of Republican candidates.

Naysayers, he said, have been telling him he couldn't succeed since his first race for office in his 20s, when he beat an incumbent to become the youngest member of the Ohio Senate.

After that, he knocked off a sitting member of the House of Representatives. And when he ran for governor, he said, people told him he shouldn't take on incumbent Democratic Gov. Ted Strickland.

Each time, he said, the naysayers were proved wrong.

"Together, we'll prove them wrong again."

Those races, he said, show what can be done by unifying people and working together.

The governor went on to cite his sources of inspiration: Uncles who served in the Second World War, his parents and his father-in-law. All of them, he said, taught him to face challenges.

"It's the challenges that make you better," Kasich said. "I have lived through them and I have become stronger for them and America has become stronger for them.

"And here's how we've done it: By staying together," he said.

"We are the glue that holds the country together."

Supporters piled into the Ohio Union to hear Kasich's announcement, jamming narrow corridors on three levels along with dozens of reporters. Kasich spoke from a raised platform at the center of the main floor.

Archie Griffin, OSU's two-time Heisman Trophy winner, was among those to offer introductory remarks.

Kasich's chances will hinge in part on his ability to sell his brand of fiscal conservatism and blue-collar empathy – a theme prevalent in the campaign's early slogan: "John Kasich's for Us." But his chances also hinge on his ability to overcome low national name-recognition and a jumble of rivals, all of whom have been running longer and several of whom have much clearer paths to victory.

The focus is on New Hampshire, the first primary state, where a pro-Kasich spending group already is on the air with its second television ad promoting his candidacy. The governor will fly to New Hampshire after his launch at OSU for five town hall-style events over three days. His first tour as an announced candidate also will take him to Iowa, which holds the first caucus-style nominating contest, and South Carolina, which holds the first primary in the South.

He will end his week Saturday in Michigan, a neighboring state relatively early on the primary calendar – and one where, given its blue-collar sensibilities and moderate Midwestern politics, Kasich is confident he can pile up delegates.

"We're going to compete in every state; I want to make that clear," John Weaver, Kasich's chief strategist, said Monday in an interview with the Northeast Ohio Media Group. "The calendar does work well with him early."

Kasich, though, begins in a low polling position, with about 2 percent or less nationally and in all-important New Hampshire. Recent surveys show him close, but not firmly in, the GOP's top 10. That's a benchmark Kasich must hit to qualify for the first Republican debate on Aug. 6. Like the 2016 convention, the debate will be in Cleveland. And it will be co-sponsored by an Ohio Republican Party that has been steadfast in its support of Kasich's national ambitions.

Missing the cut would be an embarrassing debut, to say the least.

Kasich will emphasize his 18 years in Congress – particularly the time he spent as chairman of the House Budget Committee. He was a key player in the nation's last balanced budget deal. He also served on the Armed Services Committee – an assignment he believes gives him foreign policy experience that others lack.

This won't be the first time Kasich touts his congressional record in hopes of a promotion. He ran for president during the 2000 cycle, though his campaign did not advance past the preliminary stages of 1999. Then seen as a brash young man in a hurry, Kasich soon left the House and spent a decade out of public life, working as a Fox News commentator and Lehman Brothers investment banker.

The difference in this campaign will be the Ohio factor. Kasich won re-election by 31 percentage points last fall, though the margin was attributable in large part to the disastrous campaign waged by Democratic nominee Ed FitzGerald.

Nevertheless, Kasich now can run as a two-term governor from a big electoral battleground. And he will tout his efforts to cut taxes and replenish the state's rainy-day fund while compromising with Democrats on infrastructure projects. Not that Ohio Democrats are rushing to join Kasich's cheering section.

"Running for president in theory is a promotion because you've created a good record in your own home state as governor," David Pepper, the state's Democratic chairman, said in a Monday conference call with reporters.

"His record on the economy, on schools, on the budget and on the issue of transparency is certainly not one worthy of a promotion."

Said Democratic National Committee Chairwoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz: "We don't need even one day of John Kasich out on the campaign trail to tell us what kind of president he would be. Kasich's time as a congressman, governor, and at a Wall Street firm have shown us that he will continue his divisive record of putting his own best interests ahead of the people of Ohio and the middle class."

One significant challenge for Kasich will be the conservative Republican base. He has run afoul of the Tea Party and others on the party's right flank by expanding Medicaid under a Democratic president's health care agenda and for lecturing those who don't agree with him on what he describes as a religious and moral obligation.

Such talk feeds into a long-running narrative that Kasich's prickly personality, still there after all these years, even though it's become more muted, could be his undoing. But the governor and his advisers see his candor as a positive – something around which a campaign can be built if handled the right way.

"You want to be interesting," Weaver said Monday. "You want to be fun. You want to be a little edgy – not a cookie-cutter Republican out of central casting."

REPUBLICAN PARTY PATAKI (DECLARED)

“Pataki Makes 2016 Bid Official,” by Cooper Allen, *USA TODAY*, May 28, 2015.

Former New York Governor George Pataki says he will seek the Republican nomination for George Pataki made it official Thursday, stressing his three terms as New York governor in announcing he would seek the presidency.

“I am a candidate for the Republican nomination for president of the United States,” Pataki said at an event in Exeter, N.H.

Pataki made clear he was joining the GOP field earlier in the morning with a video posted on his campaign website.

During his announcement speech, Pataki spoke of the need to rein in what he called an “oppressive government” and cited his record leading New York.

“After 12 years of my conservative policies, we replaced dependency with opportunity,” he said.

Describing himself as a “solutions guy,” the former New York governor proposed ending Obamacare and Common Core and ending taxes that “crush small business.”

Pataki has his work cut out for him in a Republican field that will likely have more than a dozen candidates.

On paper, Pataki’s credentials are impressive. He defeated liberal icon Mario Cuomo in 1994 to win the first of his three terms as governor of New York, one of the nation’s largest, and bluest, states.

But his bid is unquestionably a long shot. He didn’t register in a Quinnipiac poll released Thursday, and he’s largely been off the national stage since exiting the governor’s office at the end of 2006.

He’s even taken to making self-deprecating cracks about his status within the Republican presidential field. At a town hall in New Hampshire earlier this year, an attendee suggested he was a “second-tier kind of candidate.” According to *The Daily Beast*, Pataki deadpanned: “You are moving me up, then!”

During his announcement speech and in his campaign video, Pataki invoked his leadership of New York during 9/11, saying he would not forget its lessons. He emphasized the need for strengthening the U.S. military and combatting the Islamic State, saying the U.S. needed to destroy “radical Islam’s ability to attack us over there, before they have the chance to attack us here.”

“A strong America is a safe America,” he said.

This is not the first time Pataki, 69, has considered a presidential run. He mulled but ultimately passed on White House bids in 2000, 2008 and 2012.

Pataki has touted his ability to win states where Republicans have not traditionally fared well, but his more moderate stances on issues such as abortion will be tough to overcome among more conservative GOP primary voters.

REPUBLICAN PARTY

PAUL (DECLARED)

“Rand Paul Announces Presidential Run,” by Jeremy W. Peters and Alan Rappoport, *The New York Times*, April 7, 2015.

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Senator Rand Paul of Kentucky officially declared himself a candidate for the Republican presidential nomination on Tuesday, promising a crowd of cheering supporters that he is ready to shake up Washington and disprove those in his own party who doubt that a fiercely libertarian conservative can be a serious contender.

“The Washington machine that gobbles up our freedoms and invades every nook and cranny of our lives must be stopped,” Mr. Paul told a jubilant audience at the Galt House hotel. “I want to be part of a return to prosperity.”

In a speech outlining his small-government vision for the country, Mr. Paul leaned heavily on his biography, describing his experience as an eye surgeon, a career that inspired him after his grandmother’s vision failed. Recalling his own story of living the American dream, Mr. Paul scolded both Republicans and Democrats for failing Americans.

“What kind of America will our grandchildren see?” he asked. “It seems to me that both parties and the entire political system are to blame.”

Mr. Paul sought to fend off criticism that he is overly isolationist and potentially weak against defense.

“Conservatives should not succumb to the notion that a government inept at home will somehow succeed at building nations abroad,” he said. “I envision an America with a national defense unparalleled, undefeatable, and unencumbered by overseas nation building.”

Regarding negotiations with Iran over its nuclear program, Mr. Paul said any deal must be approved by Congress.

“I will oppose any deal that does not end Iran’s nuclear ambitions and have strong verification measures,” he said. “I will insist that any final version be brought before Congress.”

Mr. Paul drew loud cheers by criticizing President Obama’s domestic surveillance program, arguing that the United States has been compromising liberty for a false sense of security.

“The president created this vast dragnet by executive order,” he said. “As president, on Day 1 I will immediately end unconstitutional surveillance.”

Mr. Paul also outlined his positions on economic policy, saying that poor cities should benefit from “economic freedom zones” and manufacturing jobs could be created by cutting taxes for American companies that return overseas profits to the United States.

Mr. Paul, 52, becomes the second Republican to enter the 2016 campaign, following his colleague in the Senate, Ted Cruz of Texas.

It will not remain a small field for long. Senator Marco Rubio, Republican of Florida, is expected to announce his candidacy next week. Also waiting in the wings are Gov. Scott Walker of Wisconsin and Jeb Bush, the former Florida governor, who are expected to declare soon, rounding out what Republicans

say is perhaps their most competitive and robust slate of candidates since 1980, when Ronald Reagan faced competition from party heavyweights like George Bush and Howard Baker.

Who Is Running for President?

As Mr. Paul made his announcement, Mr. Cruz welcomed his Senate colleague into the race and praised his talent and passion.

“His entry into the race will no doubt raise the bar of competition, help make us all stronger, and ultimately ensure that the G.O.P. nominee is equipped to beat Hillary Clinton and to take back the White House for Republicans in 2016,” Mr. Cruz said.

In an indirect criticism of his potential Republican rivals, Mr. Paul said that there was no point in his party nominating a “Democrat-lite” to take on the eventual Democratic nominee.

Mr. Paul’s brand of politics could make him both an outlier and a target among his rivals. In a primary contest of candidates debating which of them is the most committed conservative, Mr. Paul is likely to be the only one arguing for reducing federal drug penalties, clamping down on the nation’s intelligence agencies and taking a more deliberative approach to military intervention.

On social issues like abortion and same-sex marriage, however, he does not stray from the Republican Party line.

While Mr. Paul’s political résumé may be short — he entered politics with the emergence of the Tea Party movement, winning election to the Senate in 2010, in his first run for office — he has built over the past year and a half what Republican strategists say are some of the most extensive political operations in the states that will vote first in the party’s nominating process: Iowa, New Hampshire, Nevada and South Carolina.

Much of the backbone for that political operation will come from the voters and volunteers who gave his father, former Representative Ron Paul of Texas, a base of energetic support in his own unsuccessful bids for the presidency in 2008 and 2012.

But Mr. Paul has made it clear in his appeals over the past two years to constituencies as varied as students at black colleges, tech executives, movement libertarians and establishment Republicans that his intention is to seek out a far wider path to the nomination than his father did.

The crowd inside the hotel ballroom, which grew to at least 1,500 as Mr. Paul prepared to take the stage, was a mixture of young and old, and those familiar and unfamiliar with the Paul family’s political legacy. There were people who said they had supported his father in his two presidential campaigns, and those who were not even old enough to vote when the younger Mr. Paul ran for Senate in 2010.

Kyle Kelly, who is 22 and lives northeast of Louisville in Owen County, said he remembered taking notice of Mr. Paul when he was still in high school and admired the candidate’s frankness and willingness to reach outside his political comfort zone. “Whether you agree with him or not, you knew where he stood on the issues. I like that,” Mr. Kelly said. “He’s an honest man. He’s reaching out to learn — not just to gain votes. He truly wants to see every side of the issues.”

Mr. Paul, who has used an aggressive social media strategy in the run-up to his announcement, showed no sign changing that approach on Tuesday. He scheduled a digital town hall on Facebook after his speech and asked supporters share photographs of themselves holding “Stand With Rand” signs that his team designed and distributed online.

His planned rollout tour this week illustrates the unusual ideological tilt of his campaign. From Kentucky, his adopted home state — where he has practiced ophthalmology in Bowling Green since 1993 — Mr. Paul will go Wednesday to New Hampshire for a town hall meeting in the small town of Milford, a setting that his aides chose to highlight his belief in the virtues of local government.

The next day he will speak near Charleston, S.C., with the aircraft carrier Yorktown as his backdrop. That event will focus on the issue that most sets Mr. Paul apart from his Republican rivals: his belief that the United States should be more cautious and restrained in its military engagements overseas.

It is a position Mr. Paul will have largely to himself when he squares off against other Republicans, but one that makes him a target of conservatives who say he would weaken the military and undermine national security.

Mr. Paul plans to spend Friday at the University of Iowa in Iowa City, a liberal pocket of the state.

Among the Republican contenders, Mr. Paul will need to put together the most disparate coalition to win the nomination. Some voters he hopes to win over are not even Republicans, like college students who could be drawn to his views on reining in domestic surveillance, and blacks who he hopes will welcome his position on easing drug-sentencing laws.

He also counts on energizing the libertarian faithful who supported his father in 2008 and 2012, and the Tea Party adherents who share Mr. Paul's fiscally conservative belief in shrinking the size of government.

Mr. Paul would need to carry one of the first four states in the nominating process next year to silence critics who say he is little more than a repackaged version of his father, with more moderate-sounding talking points.

The ultimate test for Mr. Paul, though, will be whether the very different groups he is courting take his overtures as sincere, or instead come to view him as just another politician telling them what he thinks they want to hear.

REPUBLICAN PARTY

RUBIO (DECLARED)

“Marco Rubio Announces 2016 Presidential Bid,” by Ashley Parker and Alan Rappeport, *The New York Times*, April 13, 2015.

MIAMI — Senator Marco Rubio of Florida announced on Monday that he is running for president, declaring that he is the best person to lead the United States into “another American century.”

Mr. Rubio made his announcement Monday evening during a speech here in which he presented himself as the embodiment of generational change who can unite the Republican Party's factions and offer economic solutions for the 21st century.

At 43, the youngest candidate in the rapidly growing 2016 presidential field, Mr. Rubio cast himself as a forward-looking, next-generation leader — and an implicit contrast to Jeb Bush, 62, whose family has dominated Republican politics for nearly three decades, and Hillary Rodham Clinton, 67, the wife of a former president and the most likely Democratic nominee.

“Too many of our leaders and our ideas are stuck in the 20th century,” Mr. Rubio said, pointing to education and spending programs put in place by Democrats in the 1990s.

In a direct attack on Mrs. Clinton's candidacy, which she announced Sunday, Mr. Rubio said: "Just yesterday, a leader from yesterday began a campaign for president by promising to take us back to yesterday. Yesterday is over and we're never going back."

And hinting at Mr. Bush's background as the son and brother of presidents, Mr. Rubio said: "I live in an exceptional country where the son of a bartender and a maid can have the same dreams and the same future as those who come from power and privilege."

Mr. Rubio's speech also leaned heavily on the importance of keeping America safe in a dangerous world. Laying out what he considered foreign policy errors by President Obama, he lamented "dangerous concessions" to Iran and the administration's "hostility" to Israel.

But ultimately Mr. Rubio made the argument that he was best suited to make the American dream that his family experienced accessible to others.

"This election is a generational choice about what kind of country we will be," he said.

At a breakfast for bundlers of donations to his campaign on Monday at the Miami Marriott Biscayne Bay, Mr. Rubio pointed to the venue for his announcement Monday night — Miami's Freedom Tower, which served as a processing center for thousands of Cuban refugees fleeing the government of Fidel Castro — as a sign of America's greatness because the child of refugees children could run for president, an attendee said.

Mr. Rubio joins his Senate colleagues Ted Cruz of Texas and Rand Paul of Kentucky, who have announced their candidacies. Other Republican hopefuls, including Mr. Bush and Gov. Scott Walker of Wisconsin, are also preparing to officially enter the race.

Mrs. Clinton was on a road trip to Iowa after announcing her second bid for the Democratic nomination.

Mr. Rubio is expected to campaign on themes that emphasize American greatness and the American dream, an optimistic, aspirational message that he outlined in his newly released book, "American Dreams."

He is also angling to become the youthful face of a party that skews older and has struggled to attract young voters, blacks and Latinos. Many mainstream Republicans hope that a Cuban-American who speaks fluent Spanish can help draw Hispanic voters, a growing demographic that will be critical during the general election, into the party.

Mr. Rubio served in the Florida House of Representatives from 2000 to 2008, eventually becoming speaker. He was elected to the United States Senate in 2010 and has said he would not run for re-election if he ran for president.

Among the Republican Party's announced and expected candidates, Mr. Rubio occupies a middle ground, which is both an asset and an obstacle. He hopes to appeal to more moderate Republicans as well as to social, fiscal and foreign policy voters, but he could also find himself without a clear constituency, especially in the first four nominating states.

Social Security has nothing to do with the deficit or our national debt. Cutting benefits by pushing back the age of eligibility won't reduce...

Mr. Rubio has credibility with the conservative grass roots after defeating both a Democrat and Charlie Crist, a former moderate Republican governor, in his Senate race, but he offers a message that is not as hard-line as those of Republicans like Mr. Cruz and Mr. Walker.

As a member of the Foreign Relations and Intelligence Committees, Mr. Rubio has used his time in the Senate to position himself as a hawk, a stark contrast with Mr. Paul, who prefers a more restrained approach to military intervention. After his announcement here, Mr. Rubio plans to travel back to Washington to attend a Foreign Relations committee meeting on legislation that would require Congress to weigh in on any nuclear deal reached with Iran.

But his work on immigration — one of his biggest achievements in the Senate — illustrates the delicate balance Mr. Rubio will have to strike to make it through his party's nominating process. In 2013, Mr. Rubio was part of a bipartisan group of senators that drafted a broad immigration bill that included a pathway to citizenship for the 11 million unauthorized immigrants already in the country.

He has since distanced himself from the proposal, saying he believes any immigration overhaul must start with securing the nation's southern border and proceed step by step. But his original legislation enraged the right, which saw it as amnesty, while many liberals and immigration groups thought he had not gone far enough and were frustrated with his position.

By making his announcement in Florida, the state that Mr. Bush governed for eight years, Mr. Rubio signaled that he planned to cede nothing to Mr. Bush, his former mentor.

In the weeks leading up to his announcement, Mr. Rubio concentrated on fund-raising and putting together a campaign team that aims to be seasoned but lean.

On Monday, he gathered some 60 bundlers of campaign donations, from all over the country, for the breakfast; the group was scheduled to have a lunch with Mr. Rubio's campaign team and then get to work en masse for an afternoon round of fund-raising calls.

Raising money could be a challenge for Mr. Rubio, especially in light of Mr. Bush's aggressive efforts and the large network of Bush family allies. And, because he is less known than some of his rivals, he will need to introduce himself to as many voters as possible, particularly in the early nominating states — Iowa, New Hampshire, South Carolina and Nevada.

On Friday, Mr. Rubio plans to do just that, heading to New Hampshire for a day of meetings with activists, business leaders and students, as well as the local news media. Friday evening, he will kick off the state party's two-day leadership summit of 2016 hopefuls, speaking at a dinner in Nashua, N.H.

Ashley Parker reported from Miami, and Alan Rappeport from Washington. Jonathan Martin and Maggie Haberman contributed reporting from Washington.

REPUBLICAN PARTY

SANTORUM (DECLARED)

“Rick Santorum Announces Second Presidential Bid,” by Robert Costa, *The Washington Post*, May 27, 2015.

CABOT, Pa. — Rick Santorum, the brusque and deeply conservative former senator who won nearly a dozen contests in the 2012 race for the Republican presidential nomination, announced here Wednesday

that he would seek to recapture that magic by entering a crowded primary competition likely to be far more difficult than the last.

The step forward by Santorum, 57, is the latest in a wave of entries by hard-right contenders who believe that after losing two straight presidential elections behind more moderate nominees, GOP voters will turn to a candidate unflinching in ideology who can excite the party's base.

Sen. Ted Cruz (Tex.), a tea party star, announced his bid in March. This month, neurosurgeon Ben Carson and former Arkansas governor Mike Huckabee — evangelical favorites and regular guests on Fox News — launched campaigns.

But even Santorum, known for his staunch opposition to gay marriage and abortion, has acknowledged that Republicans will need to adapt to the country's rapidly changing demographics and social views to win back the White House.

Speaking at sunset in Butler County, where he spent parts of his childhood, Santorum did not focus on the socially conservative positions that he passionately championed as a House member and senator in the 1990s. Instead, he fixated on his family's humble roots and his desire to connect the GOP with working-class people.

"Working families don't need another president tied to big government or big money," Santorum said. "Today is the day we are going to begin to fight back."

The announcement marked the latest comeback attempt by Santorum, who vaulted from relative obscurity in 2012 to win the Iowa caucuses and 10 other states — only to fade into obscurity again after Mitt Romney clinched the nomination.

His entry enlarges an already swelling group of official candidates: By next week, the number of declared Republicans is expected to expand to nine, with former New York governor George Pataki jumping in Thursday and Sen. Lindsey O. Graham (S.C.) due to announce soon. And a half-dozen are poised to do the same, including former Florida governor Jeb Bush.

Santorum struck a defiant tone Wednesday on his return to the political stage, shrugging off naysayers in his party who dismiss his candidacy as an underfunded and last-gasp effort for a politician who until his string of victories in 2012 was a little-known former legislator and who had lost his 2006 Senate race by nearly 18 points.

"I know what it's like to be an underdog," Santorum said. "Four years ago, well, no one gave us much of a chance. But we won 11 states." The audience cheered and raucously waved miniature flags.

This time, Santorum's strategy centers on reviving his support with conservatives in Iowa, where his victory propelled him up from the bottom of national polls after months of handshakes and grass-roots events.

Now, Santorum faces higher expectations in a state where he previously used surprise to his advantage and joins a primary race with starkly different political dynamics: The party establishment does not have a clear front-runner to whom he can play foil, and a younger generation of ambitious Republicans — such as Sen. Marco Rubio (Fla.) — has emerged.

In particular, Huckabee and Cruz occupy the political space that Santorum hopes to again call his own, blending fervent backing from Christian activists, foreign-policy hawks and populist conservatives.

As he begins to navigate the new terrain, Santorum will lack most of the consultants who engineered his 2012 insurgency.

His former campaign manager, Michael Biundo, is working on the campaign of Sen. Rand Paul (Ky.). His former Iowa aide, Chuck Laudner, who drove Santorum around the state in his “Chuck truck,” has signed on with possible candidate Donald Trump. Two former spokesmen are working for Huckabee.

Among those still in Santorum’s camp are longtime confidant John Brabender and wealthy donor Foster Friess, whose money helped lift Santorum’s 2012 bid and who has been working to raise funds for him again.

Brabender said in an interview Wednesday that Santorum has been counted out many times in his career and remains undaunted by his low standing in the polls. But Brabender is irritated by network television rules based on polling averages, which could preclude Santorum from reaching the threshold for participation in the first GOP debate in August.

“They shouldn’t arbitrarily decide if it’s eight, 10, 12, or whatever,” he said. “Rick’s not a senator, he’s not a governor, he doesn’t have his own TV show, and he’s not named Bush.”

Friess refused to say how much he would put behind Santorum. “That’s a private question,” he said as he strolled around the polished shop floor with a black cowboy hat pulled low. “I’m going to keep a very low profile. . . . Right now, I’m giving to Santorum, period.”

There is also likely to be heightened attention on the candidate’s biography, including the struggles that Santorum and his wife, Karen, have had in raising a severely disabled daughter. The couple co-wrote a raw and revealing book, “Bella’s Gift,” this year about the chromosomal condition Trisomy 18, which is rare and lethal.

Santorum has for decades put his large family at the heart of his political life. Here at Penn United Technologies, about 30 miles northeast of Pittsburgh, he appeared on stage alongside his wife and most of their seven children.

Beaming and surrounded by barrels of metalworking lubricants, he spoke of his family’s background in the region, where his Italian immigrant grandfather was a coal miner. At the start, he held aloft a lump of coal.

The setting was both nostalgic and political. While Santorum seeks to craft his persona around his time in Congress as a pugnacious western Pennsylvanian, he lives these days in suburban Northern Virginia and recently managed a small film company.

Gaitha and Steve Athans from Columbia, Mo., two older conservatives donning “Rick” stickers, said they drove hundreds of miles to attend.

“We just had to come,” said Steve Athans, who works at Macy’s as a salesman and has seen friends hurt by the stagnant economy. “Nobody is doing anything for working people, so I want to be part of his army.”

Colby Itkowitz contributed to this report.

REPUBLICAN PARTY TRUMP (DECLARED)

“Donald Trump is a Candidate for President: The New York Real Estate Mogul Ad-libs a Meandering Speech, Smacking Jeb Bush,” by David Catanese, *U.S. News and World Report*, June 16, 2015.

The Donald wasn't pulling our leg this time. He says he's really running for president.

Donald Trump, the real estate mogul turned reality television star, enters the 2016 race for the White House with unmatched star power, unfiltered rhetorical bravado, gobs of money and little chance of victory.

His announcement at his famed Trump Tower in New York City to seek the Republican nomination was met with rounds of jokes and snide remarks from the chattering political class.

But Trump, who turned 69 on Sunday, will be the one laughing if he qualifies for the first two Republican debates in August and September, leaving several Republican elected officials off the stage.

In a stem-winding lecture that bore little resemblance to his prepared remarks, Trump lacerated the nation's leadership, lamented a list of problems plaguing the country and posited his shining success as a billionaire developer as the solution.

“I've watched the politicians. I've dealt with them all my life. They will never make America great again. They don't have a chance, he said. “I am officially running for president of the United States and we are going to make our country great again.”

Though he donated to Sen. Ted Cruz's political action committee last year, he dismissed his Republican rivals as feckless and unprepared to address the country's challenges, devoting special venom for Jeb Bush, who formally declared his candidacy Monday.

“You look at Bush, it took him five days to answer the question on Iraq. He didn't know,” Trump charged.

Trump claimed to be an early skeptic of intervention in Iraq, forecasting that it would “destabilize the Middle East.”

He later attacked Bush for his support of Common Core education standards and immigration reform. Trump concluded he can't see how Bush attains the GOP nomination.

“How the hell can you vote for this guy? You just can't do it,” he said.

Without detailing specifics, Trump addressed a spate of issues he pledged he would solve.

“I will be the greatest jobs president that God ever created,” he proclaimed.

He said he would repeal and replace President Obama's health care law, but did not offer an alternative. He proposed to build a “great wall on our southern border” and make Mexico pay for it. “Mark my words,” he said, denouncing many of those who came to the country illegally as “criminals and rapists.”

He said he would defeat the Islamic State by finding “the right guy that's going to make the military work,” without floating a name or specific action.

He said he would stop Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons and ridiculed Secretary of State John Kerry for acquiring a bicycle injury while in France.

“I promise I will never be in a bicycle race, that I can tell you,” Trump said.

He said he would save Medicare and Social Security without implementing cuts, taking a dig at those, like New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, who have proposed trimming benefits to preserve the programs.

“Sadly the American dream is dead,” Trump professed. “But if I get elected president, I will bring it back.”

Trump broke almost every rule for a presidential announcement, which is partly why he commands almost universal attention when he gets in front of a microphone.

Instead of touting humble beginnings, he proudly proclaimed, “I’m really rich.” He estimated his net worth is north of \$8 billion.

He went completely off his prepared script, roaming from topic to topic in a stream of consciousness that was authentic, if not cohesive or organized.

“One of the big banks said, ‘Could we loan you \$4 billion?’ I don’t need it, I don’t want it,” he explained in one tangent.

He attacked his opponents with no regard for the usually politically fine-tuned language.

“We have losers, we have people that don’t have it,” he said.

Trump’s interest in real estate was stoked by his father. He joined the Trump organization shortly after graduating from the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania. His development of the Grand Hyatt in downtown New York made him the city’s best known and most controversial developer. He built the Trump Tower two years later, going on to expand his reach with properties in Atlantic City, New Jersey, West Palm Beach, Florida and Los Angeles.

A decade later, the real estate market took a dive and Trump’s value took a demonstrable hit, but he recovered and further burnished his brand by developing a hit television show on NBC, called “The Apprentice.”

He has toyed with running for the presidency before, first in 1999 as a member of the Reform Party, and then in 2012, when he dominated headlines for his obsession over President Barack Obama’s birth certificate. (Trump’s trolling of the issue eventually forced Obama to provide it.)

Trump has little self-restraint, which usually proves disastrous for candidates. He’s Chris Christie on steroids and with a billion dollars at his disposal and a large social media following.

“He tweets more than any real estate billionaire on the Forbes list,” according to his Forbes profile.

Polls show Trump has some of the worst favorability ratings among GOP primary voters, but he still manages to creep into the top 10 of national surveys, which Fox and CNN will use to determine who gets into their debates.

With almost unlimited money at his disposal for television advertising, a debate platform and no reservations about launching white hot attacks, Trump could become a harrowing factor in the now dozen-deep GOP field. He won’t win, but he could cause a substantial amount of havoc.

The Democrats can barely contain their glee.

“He adds some much-needed seriousness that has previously been lacking from the GOP field, and we look forward to hearing more about his ideas for the nation,” said Democratic National Committee spokeswoman Holly Shulman.

REPUBLICAN PARTY

GRAHAM (WITHDRAWN)

“Lindsey Graham Suspends His Presidential Campaign,” by David Weigel, *The Washington Post*, December 21, 2015.

Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.) ended his long-shot presidential bid Monday, telling supporters in a web video that he succeeded in changing the conversation about how to fight the Islamic State.

“Four months ago, at the very first debate, I said that any candidate who did not understand that we need more American troops on the ground in Iraq and Syria to defeat ISIL was not ready to be commander in chief,” said Graham. “At that time, no one stepped forward to join me. Today, most of my fellow candidates have come to recognize this is what’s needed.” The Islamic State, a

Graham’s bid, which never cracked 1 percent in primary polls, locked up an unusual amount of elite support. Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.), his closest friend in the Senate, immediately endorsed Graham and campaigned with him throughout New Hampshire. Scores of South Carolina donors, who might have otherwise jumped to higher-polling candidates, stayed on Graham’s team out of loyalty – and on the chance that his moderate campaign broke through.

By leaving the race Monday, Graham was able to remove his name from his home state’s primary ballot, creating the sort of free-for-all that candidates such as Jeb Bush and Sen. Marco Rubio (R-Fla.) have desired for months. Matt Moore, the chairman of the South Carolina Republican Party, confirmed that Graham was off the ballot within 40 minutes of the announcement going public.

Just six days ago, Graham – whose sizable Senate campaign war chest gave him more financial stability than other underdogs – was resisting any rumor that he might quit or pull his name off the ballot. In the Las Vegas debate spin room, after what will have been his last “undercard” performance, Graham said that he would push at least through the New Hampshire primary. Yet privately, according to Graham strategist Brett O’Donnell, the senator was thinking about a way out of the race.

“It’s something he’s been contemplating for a while and he waited for a bit, just wanted to make sure,” O’Donnell said in an interview. “It came together over the weekend but it’s been on his mind for a few weeks. If you know him, you know he’s fiscally responsible. He was raised that way and he didn’t want to go into debt on the campaign. I know that was weighing on him. He wanted to go out on his own terms. So, after a great debate last week – he dominated the undercard in our view – it was time. He ends it on a high.”

Still, he would have preferred to end it a little higher. In January, when Graham announced his presidential exploratory committee, he was excited about the chance to challenge Sen. Rand Paul (R-S.C.) to a foreign policy debate. In June, when Donald Trump entered the Republican race, Paul flagged and Graham became the mogul’s bluntest critic.

Yet network and party decisions to cleave the swollen Republican field into main stage and “undercard” debates meant that Graham never got to confront either man. An effort to change the format, which

O'Donnell participated in, did not elevate the candidate to prime time. He was left making his arguments on the more accessible, and familiar, format of cable news interviews.

"I believe we've run a campaign you can be proud of," said Graham. "I got into this race to put forward a plan to win a war we cannot afford to lose."

David Weigel is a national political correspondent covering the 2016 election and ideological movements.

REPUBLICAN PARTY

JINDAL (WITHDRAWN)

"Bobby Jindal Quits Republican Presidential Race," by Jonathan Martin, *The New York Times*, November 17, 2015.

WASHINGTON — Gov. Bobby Jindal of Louisiana, a onetime rising Republican star whose popularity has plummeted in his own state, dropped out of the presidential race on Tuesday, conceding that he was unable to find any traction.

"I've come to the realization this is not my time," he said on Fox News.

Mr. Jindal had unveiled a series of policy proposals, ferociously attacked Donald J. Trump and spent considerable time courting conservatives in Iowa, which begins the presidential nominating process. None of it worked. He raised little money, did not rise high enough in the polls to appear on the prime-time debate stage and was overshadowed by unconventional candidates such as Mr. Trump and Ben Carson.

"We spent a lot of time developing detailed policy papers, and given this crazy, unpredictable election season, clearly there just wasn't a lot of interest in those policy papers," Mr. Jindal said in an interview on Fox News Tuesday night.

His more immediate challenge was most likely money: He had just \$261,000 on hand as of the start of October.

Mr. Jindal withdrew days before a runoff election in the Louisiana governor's race, a contest in which the candidates in both parties have intermittently criticized the once-popular incumbent.

Mr. Jindal, 44, a son of Indian immigrants, was first elected governor in 2007, two years after Hurricane Katrina devastated New Orleans, and he initially enjoyed great popularity. But he fell out of favor in a second term characterized by fiscal crises and frequent out-of-state travels. Seventy percent of Louisianans disapprove of his job performance, according to a University of New Orleans poll taken this month.

His soaring unpopularity at home and difficulty drawing even cursory notice in the presidential race was a striking turnabout for Mr. Jindal, a Rhodes Scholar who became his state's secretary of health at 24 and who oversaw its system of public universities by 28.

Mr. Jindal, who effectively began his presidential bid by declaring Republicans "the stupid party" in the wake of the 2012 election, tried to win attention to his long-shot White House campaign with a number of gambits. He placed a hidden camera in a tree outside the governor's mansion to record a family meeting in which he first informed his children he was running for president and released the video to the news media.

He also frequently seized on the news of the day, churning out opinion essays. But even when he was at his most provocative — faulting the father of the man accused of the September massacre at a Oregon community college, for example — he was unable to translate his penchant for pushing the envelope into support.

In the statement announcing his departure, Mr. Jindal indicated he would return to focusing on policy issues.

“One of the things I will do is go back to work at the think tank I started a few years ago — where I will be outlining a blueprint for making this the American century,” he said.

Mr. Jindal is the third candidate in the now 14-member Republican field to drop out of race. Rick Perry, the former Texas governor, and Gov. Scott Walker of Wisconsin also ended their campaigns.

REPUBLICAN PARTY

PERRY (WITHDRAWN)

“Republican Rick Perry Drops Out of Presidential Race,” by Erin McPike and John Whitesides, *Reuters*, September 11, 2015.

Republican Rick Perry, struggling to raise money and languishing near the bottom in presidential opinion polls, on Friday became the first member of the crowded Republican field to drop out of the 2016 White House race.

Perry, the former Texas governor, had been excluded from the initial prime-time Republican debates and was forced to stop paying some members of his staff recently after his campaign funds ran low.

“Today I am suspending my campaign for the presidency of the United States,” he said during a speech in St. Louis, Missouri, adding that the Republicans have a “tremendous” field of candidates.

“I step aside knowing our party is in good hands, and as long as we listen to the grassroots, the cause of conservatism will be too,” he said.

Perry was making his second bid for the White House after a failed campaign in 2012 that was most remembered for his “oops” moment in a debate when he forgot the third government department he was pledging to eliminate.

Perry, the longest-serving governor in Texas history, had languished near the bottom of the 17-strong Republican presidential pack since he entered the race in June.

“I give you this news with no regrets,” Perry said of his decision to end his White House hopes, saying it had been “a privilege and an honor” to run.

Perry was excluded from last month’s first prime-time televised debate because he was not among the top 10 Republicans in opinion polls. On Thursday, CNN, the host of next week’s second prime-time debate, announced that Perry did not make the cut for that one either.

Perry had to stop paying some staff in key early-voting states such as South Carolina and New Hampshire in August as his campaign funds began to dry up, although some staff stayed on as volunteers.

His Republican rivals rushed to offer praise after Perry withdrew. Donald Trump, the real estate mogul and Republican front-runner who earlier this year mocked Perry's thick-framed glasses, tweeted that Perry was "a terrific guy and I wish him well - I know he will have a great future."

Perry had presented himself as a more thoughtful, policy-oriented candidate during his campaign, calling on Republicans to court black voters and touting his record in Texas as a national model for economic success.

He stressed his experience dealing with immigration issues as Texas governor and pledged to secure the southern U.S. border with Mexico and tear up the nuclear agreement with Iran.

But he also had to grapple with charges against him in an abuse-of-power case stemming from his time as governor.

REPUBLICAN PARTY

WALKER (WITHDRAWN)

"Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker Ends Republican Presidential Bid," by Donovan Slack and Fredreka Schouten, *USA TODAY*, September 21, 2015.

Scott Walker is set to drop out of the presidential race Monday night, a source close to the campaign confirms to NBC News. He is scheduled to hold a press conference in Madison, Wisconsin, at 6pm ET to announce his exit from the race. *USA TODAY*

WASHINGTON — Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker announced Monday that he is dropping out of the presidential race so that voters can focus on a smaller number of candidates and a "positive, conservative" alternative to current Republican front-runner Donald Trump can rise to the top.

"This is fundamentally important to the future of the party, and more importantly to the future of our country," he said at a press conference in Madison, Wis.

Walker said debate among Republicans had shifted to personal attacks and away from the basic conservative principles of limited government and a strong military, which he urged the party to put front and center in the GOP presidential race.

"These ideas will help us win the election next fall, and more importantly, these ideas will make our country great again," he said. "To refocus the debate on these types of issues will require leadership."

Walker encouraged others in the Republican field, which now stands at 15 candidates with his departure, to consider dropping out of the race as well so that more voters could coalesce around a viable candidate.

Trump had praised Walker after news broke earlier Monday that the Wisconsin governor was ending his bid, saying he got to know Walker well.

"He's a very nice person and has a great future," Trump tweeted.

Walker has had trouble raising money as his support in polls has tanked in the past two months, and his announcement comes one day after he registered his lowest support yet in a national poll. A CNN/ORC survey released Sunday found Walker was backed by less than 0.5% of those surveyed — statistically zero. That's down from 5% a few weeks earlier.

Walker's performance in the second Republican presidential debate last week was also widely criticized as lackluster, further hobbling his already faltering campaign.

Before the debate, a cadre of Walker supporters in his home state of Wisconsin urged the governor to be more genuine. They said he had modified his positions on issues to score political points, which undercut the very basis of his campaign – that he was unintimidated by political fallout.

Walker had made taking on labor unions a cornerstone of his presidential bid, and union reaction to his decision to drop out was swift.

Richard Trumka, president of the AFL-CIO, tweeted that Walker “is still a disgrace, just no longer national.”

The Wisconsin governor was one of five presidential candidates to draw early attention from the expansive political network controlled by the billionaire industrialists Charles Koch and David Koch. James Davis, a spokesman for the Koch-affiliated Freedom Partners Chamber of Commerce, praised Walker on Monday, but made it clear that the network has yet to settle on a Republican contender and may not do so.

“Gov. Walker has done some great things within his state,” Davis told USA TODAY. “He’s got a bright future in front of him.”

“We as a network are looking for individual candidates that have an optimistic message and support free-market reforms,” he added. “There are a number of candidates in the race that are talking about key issues that concern Americans.”

Stanley Hubbard, a Minnesota broadcasting magnate who was a top Walker contributor and is among the donors to the Koch network, said he’s disappointed that Walker failed to break through on the national stage.

Hubbard said the two have not spoken in recent days. He called Walker on Friday but had not heard back. “I imagine he was doing some soul-searching,” he said.

Despite his long-time support of Walker, Hubbard said he had donated to four other candidates whom he felt had strong debate performances last week: Florida Sen. Marco Rubio, businesswoman Carly Fiorina, New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie and retired neurosurgeon Ben Carson. He said he no plans to settle on a single candidate anytime soon.

“I’m looking for a robust debate,” he said. “We’ll see who rises to the top.”

In Wisconsin, longtime Walker supporters said they were surprised that Republicans elsewhere didn’t take to the governor’s message.

“I’m just saddened because I was really rooting for him,” said Rohn Bishop, treasurer of the Fond du Lac County Republican Party who helped Walker in his gubernatorial election in 2010, the recall election in 2012 and his re-election last year. “I’m a bit shocked that he went from front-runner to out of the race in three months.”

Walker only announced his candidacy in July. At the time, he had led polls in Iowa for months and had double-digit support in national polls.

SOURCES

- Allen, Cooper. "Jim Gilmore Formally Joins GOP Presidential Race." *USA TODAY*, July 30, 2015.
- Allen, Cooper. "Pataki Makes 2016 Bid Official." *USA TODAY*, May 28, 2015.
- Bell, Alistair, and Bill Trott. "Former HP CEO Fiorina Enters 2016 Race, Takes Shot at Clinton." *Reuters*, May 4, 2015.
- Catanese, David. "Donald Trump is a Candidate for President: The New York Real Estate Mogul Ad-libs a Meandering Speech, Smacking Jeb Bush." *U.S. News and World Report*, June 16, 2015.
- Corasaniti, Nick. "Lawrence Lessig Ends His Long-Shot Presidential Bid." *The New York Times*, November 2, 2015.
- Corasaniti, Nick, and Patrick Healy. "Ted Cruz Becomes First Major Candidate to Announce Presidential Bid for 2016." *The New York Times*, March 23, 2015.
- Costa, Robert. "Rick Santorum Announces Second Presidential Bid." *The Washington Post*, May 27, 2015.
- Cozik, Amy. "Hillary Clinton Announces 2016 Presidential Bid." *The New York Times*, April 12, 2015.
- Gabriel, Trip. "Ben Carson Says He'll Seek 2016 G.O.P. Nomination." *The New York Times*, May 3, 2015.
- Gomez, Henry J., and Robert Higgs. "John Kasich Announces Run for President." *Cleveland.com*, July 21, 2015.
- Jackson, David. "Webb Drops Out of Democratic Race, Will Explore Independent Bid." *USA TODAY*, October 20, 2015.
- Martin, Jonathan. "Bobby Jindal Quits Republican Presidential Race." *The New York Times*, November 17, 2015.
- McPike, Erin, and John Whitesides. "Republican Rick Perry Drops Out of Presidential Race." *Reuters*, September 11, 2015.
- Memoli, Michael A. "Sen. Bernie Sanders Launches Presidential Campaign Focusing on Inequality." *Los Angeles Times*, April 30, 2015.
- Naylor, Brian. "Chris Christie Declares His Candidacy For President." *National Public Radio*, June 30, 2015.
- O'Keefe, Ed, and Philip Rucker. "Jeb Bush Officially Launches His Presidential Campaign." *The Washington Post*, June 15, 2015.
- Parker, Ashley, and Alan Rappeport. "Marco Rubio Announces 2016 Presidential Bid." *The New York Times*, April 13, 2015.
- Peters, Jeremy W., and Alan Rappeport. "Rand Paul Announces Presidential Run." *The New York Times*, April 7, 2015.
- Slack, Donovan, and Fredreka Schouten. "Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker Ends Republican Presidential Bid." *USA TODAY*, September 21, 2015.
- Streitfeld, Rachel, and MJ Lee. "O'Malley Jumps into Presidential Race, Offers Progressive Alternative to Clinton." *CNN*, May 30, 2015.
- Tumulty, Karen. "Mike Huckabee Launches 2016 Presidential Campaign." *The Washington Post*, May 5, 2015.

Wagner, John, and David Weigel. "Lincoln Chafee Ends Democratic Bid for President." *The Washington Post*, October 23, 2015.

Weigel, David. "Lindsey Graham Suspends His Presidential Campaign." *The Washington Post*, December 21, 2015.
