

WHAT THE MAINSTREAM MEDIA DOESN'T WANT YOU TO KNOW: RON PAUL WINS POST-DEBATE POLLS; MEDIA CENSORSHIP RAMPANT

by J.L. Terhune

Dr. Ron Paul is a ten-term Congressman running for the Republican party nomination for President in 2008. Despite the excitement, enthusiasm, and momentum that is gathering behind Dr. Ron Paul's campaign, the mainstream media's treatment of Dr. Paul has been largely dismissive and preclusive.

The first Republican debate took place in California on May 3, 2007. After that debate, Congressman Ron Paul won two post debate polls posted by the debate sponsor, MSNBC, with the highest positive rating and the lowest negative rating of all ten candidates (MSNBC.com, 5/3/07). Also, Dr. Paul won an online ABC post-debate poll with 84% (ABCNews.com, 5/07), and a C-SPAN poll with 69% (RP Press Release, 5/8/07). Capital News, a subsidiary of C-SPAN, had Ron Paul leading his nearest rival by 60% (Watson, 5/07). Host of "The McLaughlin Group" conservative commentator John McLaughlin said Ron Paul had given "the best performance of the debate" (RP Press Release, 5/07). A YouTube video featuring Dr. Paul became the most-viewed political video, and Ron Paul became a "most searched" term on Google and Yahoo! (RP Press Release, 5/8/07). Ron Paul became the third most mentioned person in the blogosphere, even beating out Paris Hilton (Technorati.com, 5/07). In response to this incredible outpouring of interest and support for Dr. Paul, Kent Snyder (Dr. Paul's campaign chairman), said: "Ron Paul has quickly become a strong contender for the GOP nomination because of his powerful message of freedom and limited government" (RP Press Release, 5/8/07).

The mainstream media seemed both bewildered and alarmed by the American people's overwhelmingly positive response to Dr. Ron Paul's debate performance. ABC News attempted to eliminate Ron Paul from their online vote, but were forced to reinstate him after a deluge of furious e-mails and phone calls (Watson, 5/07). After his reinstatement, Dr. Paul won the poll handily (84%). MSNBC has attempted to explain Ron Paul's support online by claiming that his support is the result of "viral marketing", and that Ron Paul supporters skewed the online poll by voting multiple times. However, such an explanation is *not possible*; the MSNBC website where the polling took place allows only one vote to every IP address (Watson, 5/07). The mainstream media made it very clear that they did not take Ron Paul seriously, and didn't want the American people to do so, either.

The next Republican debate took place in South Carolina and was hosted by Fox News. Fox News did not have an online poll, but Ron Paul came in second in a text-messaging poll, with 25% support (FoxNews.com, 5/07). However, Dr. Paul overwhelmingly won an ABC News poll conducted after this second debate. ABC News asked: "Who won Tuesday night's debate?" Ron Paul received 25,443 votes; the second place candidate had only 454 (abcnews.go.com, 5/07). Interestingly, the Las Vegas bookmakers of Sportsbook.com seem to be taking Ron Paul very seriously. The odds for Ron Paul to win the Presidency were slashed from 200 to 1, when he was first included, to 15 to 1 after the second debate.

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Payton O'Brien, editor of Gambling911.com, one of the world's leading political betting news sources, remarked "Ron Paul is a serious contender whose grassroots campaign is growing dramatically . . . No other single candidate for U.S. President has received the type of interest generated here at Gambling911.com" (Stroup, 5/07).

The third and most recent debate took place in New Hampshire on June 5th, and was mediated by CNN's Wolf Blitzer. The now familiar outpouring of support for Ron Paul after this debate happened yet again. Dr. Paul won CNN's online poll overwhelmingly, with 60% of respondents voting that Ron Paul won the debate (cnn.com, 6/07). Ron Paul also led the field in a MSNBC post-debate poll; 66% of respondents said Ron Paul "showed the most leadership qualities", and 68% said he "was the most convincing candidate" (msnbc. msn.com, 6/07).

Unfortunately, almost none of the "buzz" around the Ron Paul campaign has been reported by the major news networks. Ron Paul has been excluded from some polls reported by the mainstream media, and been nearly invisible in others. It should be noted that the accuracy of these polls is by no means absolute. In many cases, the people polled are members of the Republican "base". It has been pointed out by many in the Ron Paul campaign, including by Dr. Paul himself, that the Republican base has been shrinking significantly over the past few years, which indicates the people included in these polls are probably a small minority of the voters in the country. Also, much of Ron Paul's support has come from outside the Republican base, and from younger voters, who are less likely to be included in such polls. As with most polls, fairness and accuracy can certainly be called into question as well.

Dr. Ron Paul's campaign continues to grow in numbers, enthusiasm, and momentum. Ron Paul's website leads all other Republican candidates in number of visitors. David Terr of USAElectionPolls.com reports that "Ron Paul's online support just continues to grow, and there's no sign of letting up. . . If anything, it will grow beyond our expectations." Mr. Terr's research indicates that support for Ron Paul is up 50% in the last two months, and he expects Ron Paul's support to grow 350% in the next six months (PRWeb.com, 6/07). Ron Paul currently has twice as many YouTube subscribers as all the other Republican candidates combined (RP Press release, 5/07). Donations to Ron Paul have astonished observers, and many believe his campaign donations have grown into the millions (freemarket news.com, 6/07), putting him on a playing field with the "front-runners". Dr. Paul's campaign raised about \$100,000 after each debate (Vargas, 6/07). Dr. Paul has more MeetUp groups around the country than any other Republican candidate (Vargas, 6/07), with 394 groups and 13,800 members (meetup.com, 7/07).

The American people are speaking like never before, and it's high time the mainstream media started listening. Many Americans across the political spectrum who feel disillusioned with the political system are starting to believe that maybe there is a way we can save the country; maybe the status quo can be changed; maybe there is hope for America.

That hope is Dr. Ron Paul.