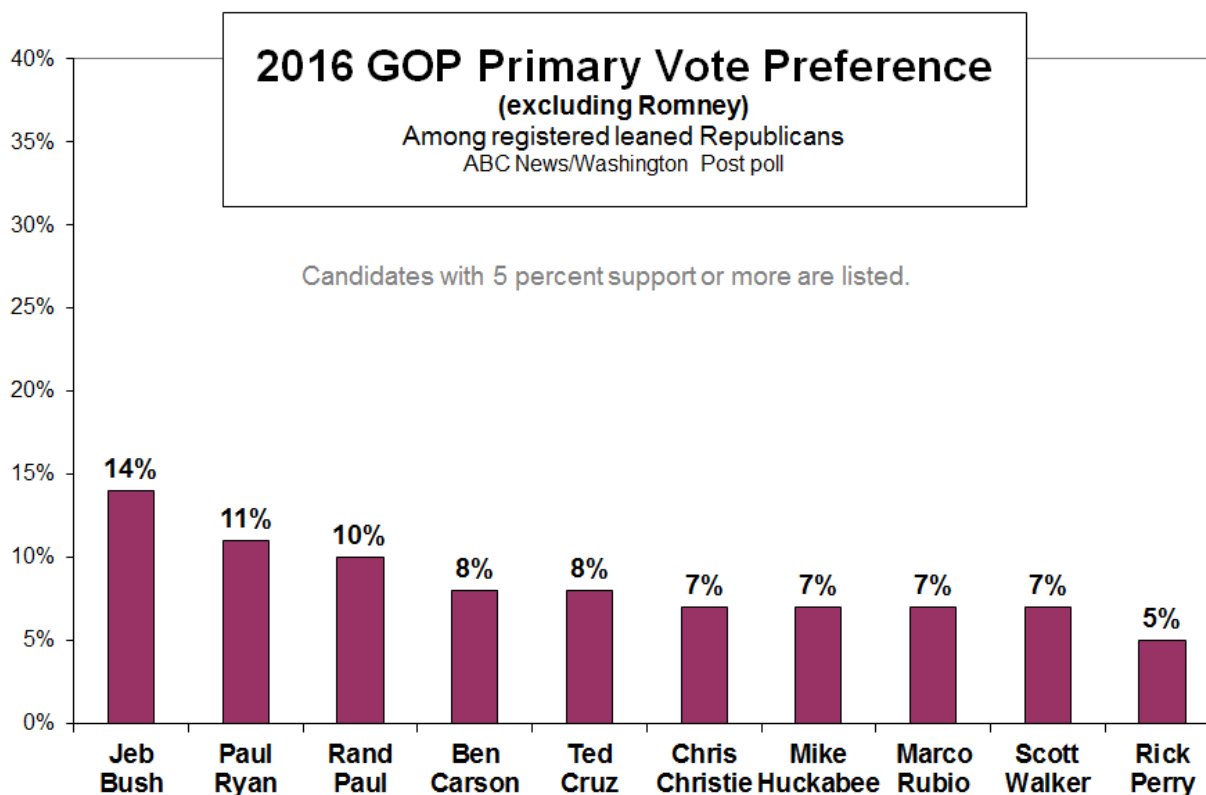


There's Work Ahead if Bush Does Run; He's at 14% in a Fragmented GOP Field

Jeb Bush has his work cut out for him, a new ABC News/Washington Post poll finds – but no more than any of the other potential Republican presidential hopefuls for 2016.

Fourteen percent of Republicans and Republican-leaning independents who are registered to vote support Bush for the GOP presidential nomination. In a matchup assuming that Mitt Romney doesn't run, that puts Bush numerically first, but not by a meaningful margin. Paul Ryan has 11 percent support, Rand Paul 10 percent, and six others have 7 or 8 percent apiece.

Having 14 percent support means that 86 percent of leaned Republicans aren't Bush backers. Still, he has major name recognition, and some advantages in his support profile.



Chief is the fact that he does better among mainline Republicans, who are most apt to participate in primaries. Bush has 19 percent support in this group (compared to Ryan's 14 percent). Among

GOP-leaning independents, by contrast, Bush's support declines to 9 percent. Paul has 15 percent among those independents; Christie, 10 percent.

Bush, a former Florida governor, announced today that he will "actively explore the possibility" of running for president, and will form a political action committee for that purpose next month.

Bush may have challenges in the strongly conservative wing of the party; his support ranges from 18 to 15 to 12 percent among moderate, somewhat conservative and very conservative leaned Republicans, respectively. On either side of him among very conservatives are Ted Cruz, with 14 percent support, and Scott Walker, with 10 percent.

If Romney were to run again, the poll, produced for ABC by [Langer Research Associates](#), finds that Bush would slip to the next tier: When included in the mix, Romney has 21 percent support, vs. 10 percent for Bush, 9 percent for Paul and 8 percent for Ryan.

One open question is the potential impact of Bush's family history; his father lasted a single term and his brother had the most unpopular second term of any president in modern polling. In an ABC/Post poll in late October, 52 percent of registered voters said they did not think Jeb Bush would make a good president, compared with 43 percent who said the same about Hillary Clinton.

Clinton has led Bush in a range of head-to-head matchups this year. But these are early days, the Democrats took a drubbing in the November midterms, and it's an uncertain world entirely.

METHODOLOGY – This ABC News/Washington Post poll was conducted by telephone Dec. 11-14, 2014, in English and Spanish, among a random national sample of 410 Republicans and Republican-leaning independents who are registered to vote, including landline and cell-phone-only respondents. Results have a margin of [sampling error](#) of 5.5 points, including design effect.

The survey was produced for ABC News by [Langer Research Associates](#) of New York, N.Y., with sampling, data collection and tabulation by Abt-SRBI of New York, N.Y.

Analysis by Gary Langer.

ABC News polls can be found at ABCNEWS.com at <http://abcnews.com/pollingunit>.

Media contact: [Julie Townsend](#), (212) 456-4934.

Full results follow.

* in data columns = less than 0.5 percent

8-15 previously released; 1-7, 16-28 and 31 held for release.

29. (ASKED OF LEANED REPUBLICANS) I'm going to read a list of possible candidates for the Republican nomination for president in 2016. If the 2016 Republican presidential primary or caucus in your state were being held today, for whom would you vote? Which candidate would you lean toward?

12/14/14 - NET LEANED VOTE PREFERENCE

	----- Among RVs -----			
	12/14	10/12	4/27	1/23*
Jeb Bush	10	10	12	18
Ben Carson	7	6	NA	NA
Chris Christie	6	8	9	14
Ted Cruz	6	3	7	12
Mike Huckabee	6	10	14	NA
Bobby Jindal	2	1	2	NA
John Kasich	2	1	1	NA
Rand Paul	9	9	15	11
Rick Perry	4	5	5	NA
Mitt Romney	21	21	NA	NA
Paul Ryan	8	5	12	18
Marco Rubio	4	6	6	10
Rick Santorum	3	4	NA	NA
Scott Walker	5	1	5	NA
Other (vol.)	*	1	2	2
None of these (vol.)	2	2	4	4
Would not vote (vol.)	*	0	*	1
No opinion	6	6	5	9

*"If the 2016 Republican presidential primary or caucus in your state was being held today, and the candidates were..."

30. (IF WOULD VOTE FOR ROMNEY) If Romney does not run for president, for whom would you vote? Which candidate would you lean toward?

12/14/14 - NET LEANED VOTE PREFERENCE - ALL LEANED REPS

	- Among RVs -	
	12/14	10/12
Jeb Bush	14	13
Ben Carson	8	7
Chris Christie	7	8
Ted Cruz	8	4
Mike Huckabee	7	12
Bobby Jindal	3	2
John Kasich	2	2
Rand Paul	10	12
Rick Perry	5	6
Paul Ryan	11	9
Marco Rubio	7	8
Rick Santorum	3	4
Scott Walker	7	2
Other (vol.)	*	1
None of these (vol.)	2	3
Would not vote (vol.)	*	0
No opinion	6	9

*** END ***