General Information

Source: NBC Nightly News
Creator: Ann Curry/David Gregory
Event Date: 08/06/2007
Air/Publish Date: 08/06/2007

Description

Just 5 days before the Ames Straw Poll in Iowa, Rudy Giuliani and Mitt Romney clash over their positions on abortion rights.

Keywords

Rudy Giuliani, Mitt Romney, Republican Candidates, Republicans, Pro-Choice, Pro-Life, Ames Straw Poll, Iowa Straw Poll, Straw Poll

Transcript

Republican Presidential Candidates Spar Over Abortion

ANN CURRY, anchor:

Now to the men who want to succeed President Bush who are focused now on Iowa just five days before their first test in an event called the Ames Straw Poll, a long running tradition for Iowa Republican
Today there was some sharp sparring among the leading candidates, about an issue that could prove critical: abortion. NBC’s David Gregory reports now.

DAVID GREGORY, reporting:

Rudy Giuliani today in Iowa, courting social conservatives on the issue of abortion, he’s pro-abortion rights but argues that they should be rare.

RUDY GIULIANI, GOP Presidential Candidate: Maybe its society moving in a much better direction if we could reduce the number of abortions, and then increase the number of adoptions.

GREGORY: Giuliani and Mitt Romney leading the GOP field, despite nagging questions about abortion, a top issue for social conservatives in Iowa. Once pro-abortion rights during a weekend debate, Romney has been under attack for his conversion. He admitted his past views were a mistake…

MITT ROMNEY, GOP Presidential Candidate: I never said that I was pro-choice but my position was effectively pro-choice, I’ve said that time and time again. I changed my position and I get tired of people who are holier than thou because they have been pro-life longer than I have.

GREGORY: In a still unsettled GOP field Romney is looking for a knockout blow this week in Iowa, and a chance to put those abortion questions behind him. David Gregory, NBC News, Washington.