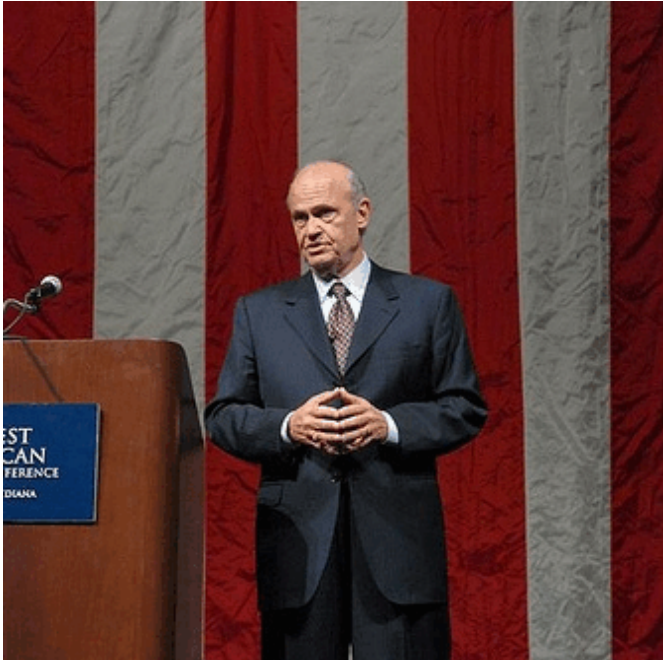


Wicomico Republican

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Thompson victor in WCRC Straw Poll

Congressional race a split decision

On September 24 we packed nearly 50 members and guests into the Chamber of Commerce Building for our first-ever Wicomico County GOP Straw Poll. After the counting was done, Fred Thompson stood atop the Presidential field, easily outdistancing a trio of other candidates.

In the Congressional race, the raw

Straw Poll Results

President:

Fred Thompson	22 (47.8%)
Rudy Giuliani	6 (13.0%)
Mike Huckabee	6 (13.0%)
Mitt Romney	6 (13.0%)
Ron Paul	4 (8.7%)
Duncan Hunter	1 (2.2%)
Alan Keyes	1 (2.2%)
Sam Brownback	0 (0.0%)
John McCain	0 (0.0%)
Tom Tancredo	0 (0.0%)

Congress:

Andy Harris	22 (47.8%)
John Leo Walter	11 (23.9%)
Wayne Gilchrest	8 (17.4%)
Joe Arminio	5 (10.9%)

vote favored State Senator Andy Harris. But another hopeful, John Leo Walter, claimed victory in the purchased balloting portion of the Straw Poll, gathering 46.1% of the 271 purchased votes. Thompson, meanwhile, won that portion with an ever larger margin of 57.6% of the 268 votes purchased for that balloting. (Continued on Page 2)

Straw poll (from Page 1)

Participants were able to purchase additional ballots for a separate vote, with the proceeds (\$1 per vote) going to the club. In all, we raised over \$400 between the balloting, a large 50/50 raffle, and a new membership that evening.

It also gave a couple of the candidates a chance to make their pitch in front of a group who could be the backbone of their volunteer force in Wicomico County. Both Arminio and Walter represented themselves, while Andy Harris was represented by Political Director Chris Meekins and Cathy Bassett, District and Communications Director, took the podium in Wayne Gilchrest's stead.

Crab Feast a success on glorious afternoon

Well over 200 Republicans and friends enjoyed the good food and political banter of the 2007 edition of the WCRC's annual Crab Feast. Between the tickets purchased, 50/50 raffle, and silent auction the club received a great financial shot in the arm from our major fundraiser.

Guests also had the opportunity to meet and interact with three of the four Republican candidates for the First District Congressional seat, including incumbent Rep. Wayne Gilchrest. Challengers Andy Harris and John Leo Walter also made the rounds at the event, pitching their merits.

Make sure to keep your ear to the ground for information regarding next year's event, tentatively scheduled for September 20, 2008.

New website calls for reaction to O'Malley tax hikes

Representing the upper part of the Eastern Shore, State Senator E.J. Pipkin is no stranger to our side of the bay or conservative thought.

To that end, he's the driving force behind a new website designed to inform and get reaction from Maryland residents on Governor O'Malley's proposed tax hikes. The website, which can be found at www.StopTheMarylandTaxHikes.com, offers an online petition to express voters' opinion on the additional levies and a number of links to news stories concerning the ballot issue.

Bylaw changes set for vote

As noted in the Summer edition, much work and discussion occurred with the by-laws at our August

meeting. These changes will be discussed one final time and voted on during our next meeting on October 22nd. Several proposed changes will be on the table, so be sure to come and make your voice heard on these important club issues!

Upcoming events and speakers

Three of the aspirants for Wayne Gilchrest's Congressional seat will have their opportunity to sell their campaigns in the WCRC meetings leading up to the Primary Election on February 12, 2008.

The November 26 meeting will mark a visit from Congressional candidate Andy Harris. Harris also attended the Crab Feast, and was the first to throw his hat into the ring and challenge incumbent Congressman Wayne Gilchrest (who spoke at our August 27 meeting.) Other club business scheduled for November will be the final preparations for the annual Christmas Party on Sunday, December 9th.

While Delegate Jeannie Haddaway was originally scheduled to speak at our October meeting, we decided to move her engagement back and allow Congressional candidate John Leo Walter another chance to speak to us, as he addressed the club as part of the Straw Poll and also made an appearance with some brief comments at the Crab Feast in September. John will be the guest of our meeting October 22, where he'll address the club and we'll tackle the changes to our by-laws (see article above.)

After a break for the Christmas and New Years' holidays, the club resumes its regular meeting docket on January 28, 2008. With just two weeks to go before the primary it will be Congressional aspirant and author Joe Arminio who gets the last word before the club. It will also be a return visit for him as he addressed the voters at our Straw Poll on September 24. The January meeting will also serve to nominate officers for 2008, a year that promises to be an exciting one for the Wicomico County Republican Club!

Reminder - events and speakers

October 22, 2007	Congressional candidate John Leo Walter
November 26, 2007	Congressional candidate Andy Harris
December 9, 2007 (Sunday)	WCRC Christmas Party
January 28, 2008	Congressional candidate Joe Arminio
February 25, 2008	Club Officer Elections

We are going to reschedule our original October speaker, Delegate Jeannie Haddaway, for a meeting next spring after the General Assembly session concludes.

The Wicomico County Republican Club meets on the fourth Monday each month at the Chamber of Commerce Building, 144 E. Main Street in Salisbury. Meeting social hour starts at 7 p.m. and business at 7:30.

Wicomico County Republican Club
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