**The Race To Be The Republican Nominee Continues**

***After the First Republican Presidential Primary Debates, Contenders Looked to Gain Momentum at the 2015 RedState Gathering.***

The weekend of August 6-8, we welcomed 10 GOP presidential candidates and dozens of other leading conservative voices to our state for the 2015 RedState Gathering. This event was started in 2009 by Erick Erickson, who is also the creator of the conservative political website RedState.com, hence the event’s name.

At this year’s RedState Gathering, Erickson invited some of the top 2016 contenders, like Carly Fiorina, Chris Christie, Marco Rubio, Ted Cruz, and several others. Amongst those not invited were Ben Carson and Donald Trump. After seeing Carson speak at a veterans event, Erickson felt that he was not a serious candidate because he appeared to only care to talk about himself. Erickson has since come forth and said that he made a mistake not inviting Carson to this year’s RedState Gathering. Donald Trump, on the other hand, was initially invited, but after his remarks towards Megyn Kelly in the Fox News-Facebook Republican presidential primary debate, Erickson rescinded the invitation.

Many topics were discussed during this year’s Gathering, including the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, ObamaCare, foreign policy, and of course, Hillary Clinton. This year’s race is tight, and all of the candidates bring so many different things to the table, from their backgrounds to their opinions. I’m looking forward to seeing how they progress in the race. How about you? What are your thoughts on the 2016 GOP candidates at this point?