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As a member of the Bush family, the name in and of itself carrying significant weight in the political world, Jeb Bush was considered to have a clear shot at claiming the presidency. In early polls and debates, it appeared as though this prediction would come true. However, as the Primaries and National Party Convention approach, Bush’s poll results have seen a steady decline as well as a rise in attacks from other Republican candidates such as Trump, causing many to jump ship and back Bush’s incumbents Donald Trump, Ben Carson, and Marco Rubio.

Being the son of former President George H. W. Bush, Jeb Bush was surrounded by politics at a very young age. After graduating from the University of Texas with a degree in Latin American Studies, he went on to work in real-estate for a period of time until his father began his campaign from presidency, at which time Jeb decided to volunteer to assist him in his campaigning efforts. In 1998 Jeb was elected as governor of Florida, a position he would hold for the next 8 years. During his time as governor, Bush implemented environmental protection policies, reforms to the schooling system to aid in promoting school choice and the issuance of vouchers, as well as evaluating and helping Medicaid recipients move to private systems. He decided to run in the 2016 presidential election officially in early-mid 2015[[1]](#footnote-1).

During his time as a Republican candidate, Bush has been extremely active throughout the swing states, advancing through Iowa, New Hampshire, and his home state of Florida, making several appearances and speeches on his stances as well as running several political ad campaigns promoting his candidacy. His early fund-raising campaigns were incredibly successful, raising roughly 13 million dollars. These funds have seen a steady decline, however, as Bush’s political campaign advisors push out more and more political ads. He is supported by the super Pac *Right to Rise*, who have donated a substantial amount of his campaign funds[[2]](#footnote-2). It is clear that he is attempting to boost his position in the invisible primary above his competitors who have seen steady increase in their own polling numbers, especially his main rival Trump. As seen by his most recent announcement on his stance on social security and Medicaid on October 27, he is still clearly in the running, and is not letting his decreasing poll numbers influence his enthusiasm to gain the Republican Party’s favor.

Additionally throughout his campaigning, Bush has stated clearly his stance on several major political and social issues, including his thoughts on the tax policy, his views on America’s involvement in ISIS, what he plans to do regarding border security, and his ideas on the current health care situation in the U.S. Regarding his thoughts on the tax policy, Bush has outlined a 3 step plan to completely revamp the current tax codes and policies, something which he states is a “tax code only an army of tax accountants and lobbyists could love”. This three step plan would lower the number of tax brackets, cut back on lobbyist favoritism, and limit the amount of outsourcing overseas. His views on foreign involvement with ISIS are similarly gung-ho, with a strong belief that the U.S. has an obligation to get involved overseas to put a stop to the terrorist activities that ISIS have been committing. His plans for border security, while not as radical as Trump’s plans, are nonetheless along the same lines. He believes in tighter patrols and technological use to increase security all along the border. Finally, Bush’s ideas on Obama-care and the current health care status of the U.S. are to phase out Obama-care, lowering costs of health care, and returning power to the states[[3]](#footnote-3).

Taking into account Bush’s early on success and his strong stance on several key issues, one would think that he would be in good running in the polls. This is not the case however, as the most recent polls put Bush in 4th, behind Trump, Carson, and Rubio. Bush has claimed an average of 7 percent of the polls. Comparing this to the front runner of the Republican Party so far, Donald Trump, who has an average of 26.8 percent of the polls, Bush clearly has a lot of ground to cover before the primaries if he still wants a shot at gaining the nomination[[4]](#footnote-4).

I personally believe that Jeb Bush still does of a shot at gaining said nomination, although his chances are dwindling every day. Considering his long background in the political world and his familial ties to two former presidents, as well as his stance as being a “toned down” version of Donald Trump, I believe that if Bush made some key moves in the swing states in the next couple of weeks that he could come out on top. Again, these chances are slim considering Trumps popularity in the media and his poll numbers, but it is not impossible.

1. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jeb_Bush#Early_life_and_education> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. <http://www.realclearpolitics.com/articles/2015/10/16/bush_fundraising_report_mixed_after_strong_start_128441.html> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. <https://jeb2016.com/> [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. <http://www.realclearpolitics.com/epolls/2016/president/us/2016_republican_presidential_nomination-3823.html> [↑](#footnote-ref-4)