



**C-SPAN Partners with New Hampshire Union Leader  
To Bring August 3<sup>rd</sup> New Hampshire Republican Forum  
To A National TV Audience  
#Voters First**

*(For Immediate Release: July 31, 2015)* C-SPAN is partnering with the New Hampshire *Union Leader* and regional newspapers in early presidential caucus and primary states for the New Hampshire newspaper's August 3<sup>rd</sup> *Voters First Forum* and will provide live nationwide coverage, beginning at 6:30 pm ET to 9:30 pm ET.

Fourteen Republican presidential candidates\* are participating in the two-hour Forum, which will start at 7pmET at St. Anselm's College in Manchester on Monday, Aug. 3. Veteran New Hampshire political reporter Jack Heath, host of *New Hampshire Today* on WGIR-AM Radio, will moderate the event. Each candidate will individually answer two rounds of questions and give a closing statement. Questions are being developed by the editorial staff of *The New Hampshire Union Leader*, with input from the public.

#VotersFirst participants include:

- fmr. Gov. Jeb Bush
- Gov. Chris Christie
- Ben Carson
- Sen. Ted Cruz
- Carly Fiorina
- Sen. Lindsey Graham
- Gov. Bobby Jindal
- Gov. John Kasich
- fmr. Gov. George Pataki
- Sen. Rand Paul
- fmr. Gov. Rick Perry
- Sen. Marco Rubio
- fmr. Sen. Rick Santorum
- Gov. Scott Walker

C-SPAN coverage begins at 6:30 PM ET with pre-event interviews. C-SPAN will televise the forum, in its entirety, on C-SPAN TV, C-SPAN radio, and livestream on C-SPAN.org. Following the forum at 9:00 PM ET, Jack Heath will join C-SPAN for a 30 minute live call-in program to discuss the event. Hearst TV stations across the US will also be carrying the live two-hour C-SPAN forum feed and it will stream live on I-Heart Radio.

In addition to the *Union Leader*, forum co-sponsors include:

- New Hampshire Institute of Politics at St. Anselm College
- WGIR-AM Radio (Manchester) & I-Heart Networks
- Cedar Rapids (Iowa) *Gazette*
- KCRG –TV (Cedar Rapids, IA)
- Charleston *SC Post & Courier*
- WLTX-TV-TV (Columbia, SC)

“This event is significant because it will afford the public its first opportunity to hear the Republican presidential candidates answer questions in one setting,” said C-SPAN politics executive producer Steve Scully.

In a joint statement, publishers of the *Union Leader*, the *Post and Courier*, and the *Gazette* said it is important that voters in the three states that lead off the nomination process have an opportunity to see the candidates together on a level playing field at this early stage. They said they were prompted to provide the forum in part because of the narrow criteria that Fox News will use to limit Republican candidates in its Aug. 6 debate in Cleveland, Ohio.

“Fox says only the ‘top’ 10 candidates, as judged solely by national polling, will be allowed on its stage,” the publishers said. “That may be understandable later, but the first votes are half a year away and there are a lot more than 10 viable candidates. The early primary process gives all candidates a chance to be heard. If networks and national polls are to decide this now, the early state process is in jeopardy and only big money and big names will compete.”

#### About C-SPAN:

Created by the cable TV industry and now in nearly 100 million TV households, C-SPAN programs three HD public affairs television networks; C-SPAN Radio (90.1 in the Washington Baltimore area; nationwide at c-span.org, through the C-SPAN Radio app and on XM satellite radio) and a video-rich website which hosts the C-SPAN Video Library. Visit <http://www.c-span.org/> to learn more.

\*Donald Trump and fmr. Gov. Mike Huckabee declined to participate. Former VA Gov. Jim Gilmore’s announcement came after the qualifying period.