

## **Bobby Jindal fails to make the cut for first debate**

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**Washington:** Bobby Jindal failed to make the cut for Fox News' prime-time first Republican presidential debate with celebrity real estate mogul leading the ten top polling candidates.

Besides Trump, former Florida governor Jeb Bush, Wisconsin governor Scott Walker, former Arkansas governor Mike Huckabee, author and neurosurgeon Ben Carson and conservative firebrand Cuban American Texas senator Ted Cruz made the top six.

They will be joined on the main stage by Cuban American Florida senator Marco Rubio, libertarian conservative Kentucky senator and physician Rand Paul, New Jersey governor Chris Christie and Ohio governor John Kasich.

Finishing thirteenth, Louisiana governor Bobby Jindal, 44, a former vice chairman of the Republican Governors' Association, was relegated to an earlier forum the same day with the six other candidates lowest in Fox's selection of polls.

They included former Texas governor Rick Perry, former Pennsylvania senator Rick Santorum, former HP chief executive Carly Fiorina, South Carolina senator Lindsey Graham, former New York governor George Pataki, and former Virginia governor Jim Gilmore.

The debate in Cleveland, Ohio, marks the beginning of a new stage in the Republican nominating contest, where candidates will match their wits against each other as they try to project how they are best positioned to take on Democratic front runner Hillary Clinton.

In an unusual move backed by the Republican National Committee, Fox decided to rely on national polling data to split the contenders in two groups.

The decision means Perry, governor of Texas for 14 years, Santorum, who won the Iowa caucuses in 2012, and a sitting governor like Jindal will be relegated to the lower-tier debate.

There was no direct comment from Jindal, but Brad Todd, an adviser to the "super PAC" backing the Indian-American, who has drawn large crowds in Iowa, said: "The debate's gotten disproportionate attention - the real race is happening in Iowa and New Hampshire."

Todd according to the New York Times said his group planned to air a 60-second ad in Iowa during the debate, one that criticises the forum taking place in Cleveland.

"The donor class will not pick the nominee, nor will the establishment in Washington, nor a cable network," he was quoted as saying. "I think it could have been done better for all concerned.

Fox News spokeswoman Irena Briganti said the five polls included in Fox's average were conducted by Bloomberg, CBS News, Fox News, Monmouth University and Quinnipiac University.

Those five were the most recent national polls from non-partisan, nationally recognized organizations, she said, using standard methodology.

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