

# STATE & LOCAL

## Bachmann Enters The National Scene

Sarah Potratz, Staff Writer

Representative Michele Bachmann (R) has represented Minnesota's 6th congressional district since 2007. Aside from being a staunch advocate of the Tea Party effort and the founder of the U.S. House Tea Party Caucus, she is also a Republican candidate for the 2012 United States presidential election. She has won the hearts of social conservatives and the majority of votes at the Ames Straw Poll, an achievement which no female candidate had previously accomplished. Bachmann's personality shines, her qualifications put competitors' to shame, and her fundraising efforts are overwhelming.

Although Bachmann's future does not rest solely on her academic background, her education certainly helps to separate her from the rest of the pack. In 1974, Bachmann graduated from Anoka High School in Anoka, Minnesota. Four years later, she graduated with a B.A. from Winona State University. In 1986, the Congresswoman earned her J.D. (Juris Doctor) at the O.W. Coburn School of Law at Oral Roberts University in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Upon graduation, she furthered her education at the College of William and Mary where she

received an L.L.M. (Master of Law) in Tax Law in 1988. Immediately afterwards, she began her career as an attorney for the Internal Revenue Service where she worked until 1993, when she left with the arrival of her fourth child. Over the course of her thirty-year marriage to husband Marcus Bachmann, they have raised five biological children and have fostered a whopping twenty-three children – a point that receives praise from both Republicans and Democrats alike. Aside from her career with the I.R.S. and her job as a mother, Bachmann also held office in the Minnesota State Senate from 2001 to 2007.

The extent of her potential is quite possibly best seen through her presidential campaign. With the next United States presidential election to be held on November 6, 2012, there is certainly an im-

***“However, as the race for the 2012 U.S. presidential elections progresses, her potential will become more apparent.”***



image via infowars.com

mense amount of work to be done by any candidate to prepare for such a monumental election. The undetermined Republican candidate will face incumbent Democratic President Barack Obama and an Independent candidate for the title of 45th President of the United States. Since early 2011, there has been much political hearsay as to whether or not Congresswoman Bachmann would run for president in the 2012 election. Bachmann officially declared her candidacy for the 2012 Republican presidential nomination on June 13, 2011 during a Republican debate in New Hampshire. She later announced, “We cannot risk giving President Obama four more years to dismantle our nation. We must act now” (OpenSecrets.org).

Hosted by the Iowa GOP at Iowa State University on August 13, 2011, the Ames Straw Poll was a major turning point for Republican presidential candidates. The results motivated some candidates to continue their fight for the Republican nomination while compelling others like Tim Pawlenty, who finished third, to withdraw from the race. Michelle Bachmann won the majority of votes with 28.6% followed closely by Ron Paul with 27.7% of the votes. Although he continues to be the GOP's leading candidate, Mitt Romney opted to not be included in this year's Straw Poll. Upon being the first female candidate in history to win the Ames Straw Poll, Bachmann announced,

“This is the very first step toward taking back the White House!” (Beaumont 1).

In order to understand Bachmann's potential and all that she has to offer our country, it is necessary to understand the positions she holds on highly controversial issues. As a staunch social conservative, she stands firmly against abortion and same-sex marriages. If she were elected, Bachmann claims she would work to reduce taxes for all Americans while reducing the corporate tax to help generate growth in the business sector. Bachmann claims she would also repeal Obama's healthcare reforms and instill a healthcare program like that proposed by Wisconsin Representative Paul Ryan (R).

The full extent of Michelle Bachmann's potential may not yet be known, as she has only officially been a Republican candidate for a mere three months. However, as the race for the 2012 U.S. presidential elections progresses, her potential will become more apparent.

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