



MEDIA ADVISORY: TAMPA PRE-DEBATE LUNCHEON

- WHEN:** Monday, September 12, 2011
Doors open and lunch served at 12:00 p.m., panel begins at 12:30 p.m.
- WHAT:** Pre-Debate Luncheon: Issues that Matter to Conservative Voters
- WHO:** Moderator [John King](#), CNN Chief National Correspondent
[Mike Franc](#), Vice President of Government Studies at The Heritage Foundation
[Al Cardenas](#), Chairman, American Conservative Union
[J. Robert McClure III](#), President and CEO, The James Madison Institute
[Billie Tucker](#), Leader, First Coast Tea Party
- WHERE:** Florida State Fair Authority
The Florida Center and Botanical Gardens (across the way from Media Credentialing)
4800 Highway 301 North
Tampa, FL 33610

TO REGISTER:

<https://spreadsheets.google.com/spreadsheet/viewform?formkey=dFdCUHhtUmJYREvtYnYwRDJMM1JORXc6MQ>

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BACKGROUND:

The luncheon panel will explore issues important to conservative voters in advance of the debate sponsored by CNN and Tea Party Express at 8:00 p.m. Monday evening.

CNN and the Tea Party Express, along with more than 100 local Tea Party groups from every state across the country, will team up Monday, September 12 to present a first-of-its-kind debate from the site of the 2012 Republican National Convention: Tampa, Florida. Eight Republican presidential contenders will face questions from moderator and lead political anchor Wolf Blitzer during the two-hour event, which will air live on CNN from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. from the Florida State Fairgrounds. The debate will focus on a wide-range of topics, including the role, size and scope of government, with a specific emphasis on issue number one to tea party members and all Americans: the economy.

Participating organizations:

[The Heritage Foundation](#), one of the nation's leading conservative public policy research and educational organizations; [The American Conservative Union](#), the oldest membership-based conservative organization in the United States; [The James Madison Institute](#) (JMI) a Florida-based, non-partisan public policy research and educational organization engaged in the battle of ideas; and [First Coast Tea Party](#), founded in Jacksonville, Florida.

Our moderator:

[John King](#) is CNN's chief national correspondent and anchor of *John King, USA*, a one-hour political program which launched in March 2010. In this role, King aims to connect what happens

in Washington with the lives of Americans across the country. King joined CNN in May 1997 and became chief national correspondent in April 2005. He served as CNN's senior White House correspondent from 1999 to 2005.

Our panelists:

[Mike Franc](#), a leading expert on government affairs and studies who oversees The Heritage Foundation's outreach to Capitol Hill and the White House.

[Al R. Cardenas](#), recently elected Chairman of the American Conservative Union after more than 30 years as a leader in the conservative movement. He is a former Chairman of the Republican Party of Florida

[Dr. Robert McClure](#), 5th generation Floridian and President/CEO of JMI, has served in numerous advisory capacities on the state and national level including the Florida Elections Commission, Florida Advisory Council of the National Center for Policy Analysis, Florida Committee for the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, transition team for Attorney General Pam Bondi, and the Economic Advisory Council for Florida Governor Rick Scott.

[Billie Tucker](#), a wife, a mom, a businesswoman, and now a Tea Party organizer. Tucker was looking for a way to channel her frustration and concerns over where the country was headed, so in 2009 she joined together with five others to organize The First Coast Tea Party.

This is a chance for media to also hear from local activists and voters in the community.

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