

A statement by Frank VanderSloot

Over the past eight years, I have been increasingly concerned about the direction of our nation in both domestic and international affairs.

I believe that this presidential election may be the most important election in our nation's history. Because of that, I have paid a great deal of attention to the Republican field of potential nominees. The next president cannot be an "average" leader. He or she must be exceptional in every category possible.

I have had a small but very capable team of analysts working with me this past year to analyze the political landscape and determine who would likely be the strongest candidate to lead this nation. In these troubled times we feel we need a great leader who can unite this nation and undo much of the divisive culture created by our current president. We need a president who is very bright and very articulate and able to explain the reasons behind his/her policies so that the masses can get behind those policies and support those policies. We also need a president who can relate to the middle class and to Hispanics who now have a tremendous impact on the election process.

We felt we needed to answer two questions:

1. Who would make the best president?
2. Who could win a national election?

We knew that the answer to the first question might be immaterial if that candidate did meet not meet the qualifications of the second question. But we knew that it was entirely possible that the answer to those two questions might be different individuals. If that had been the case, our decision would've been more difficult, but fortunately, the answer to both of these questions is the same person:

Marco Rubio

In our opinion, Marco Rubio far exceeds the other candidates as meeting our requirements to be the best president, and he, importantly, is by far the most electable.

At this time many of my friends are waiting on the sidelines to see who emerges as the front-runner after the first several primaries. We see that as a very dangerous tactic because we may end up with a nominee who is totally unelectable. I believe that is a dangerous strategy.

Jeb Bush

The majority of my friends originally supported Jeb Bush. In the beginning, it seemed to them that he was the most likely to become our nominee. But it has become increasingly clear that Jeb simply does not have the leadership skills necessary to unite the people behind him. He has become one of the weaker candidates among a very capable field.

Ben Carson

We see Ben Carson as possibly being electable, but he does not have the international knowledge or skill set to address the serious issues that face America and the world from abroad. He appears to be a very nice and honorable man, but clearly not capable of running the nation. We simply don't believe we should put the future of our nation in his hands. We are confident the public will come to the same conclusion as they look closer at his history and qualifications.

Ted Cruz

We perceive that Donald Trump and Ted Cruz are simply not electable in a general election. To have either Trump or Cruz as the Republican nominee would assure that Hillary Clinton will be our next president. We see that as a national calamity!

Donald Trump

Besides being unable to win a national election, we believe Donald Trump would make a particularly poor president. Clearly, he is a good negotiator, but our nation needs much more from our president. He has almost no understanding of international affairs, especially in the Middle East. But most alarmingly, Donald Trump has a track record of never doing much of anything that does not benefit Donald Trump. He has never looked out for the little guy. He has a very strong track record of never doing anything for anyone other than himself. He has been a liberal in most respects his entire life. We admit that his tough talk is a refreshing change to the political correctness of the liberals. But, by his own admission, the Donald is willing to say anything or promise anything to get elected. In our mind, most of who he is disqualifies him from ever being president. If he won the Republican nomination, he would be rightfully rejected by the American people.

Carly Fiorina

Carly Fiorina ended up being our second choice. She is extremely bright, has a good grasp of international affairs, and is a capable administrator. She clearly understands the economy and what needs to be done to create a robust economic environment. We believe that she would have been a great president. She would run circles around Hillary Clinton in any debate

on any topic. But she does not appear to have much appeal from the masses. She would be a great president. But she simply isn't resonating with the voters. She doesn't seem to have the skill of being able to garner support and change people's minds. That is where Marco Rubio shines!

Marco Rubio

In our opinion, Marco Rubio is the brightest and most capable candidate. He has the uncanny ability to state his positions clearly in a way that resonates with the average voter.

- **International affairs**

Marco stands out head and shoulders above the other candidates when it comes to international affairs, which is becoming increasingly more important to our national security. He has a keen knowledge and understanding of what is going on in the Middle East. He knows and understands the interests of our allies and how we can work together to defeat ISIS, al-Qaida and other enemies who want to destroy our way of life.

After four years as a member of the Intelligence Committee, Marco has seen that the weaker America's president is, the more dangerous the world becomes. Marco plans to fully fund and rebuild defense spending and rebuild our military. Our allies will trust us, our adversaries will respect us and the world will know that we are committed to doing whatever it takes for Israel to endure and prosper as a Jewish state.

- **The economy**

Marco understands where jobs come from. And he understands how the economy has changed in this new century better than any other candidate. He understands that the American people and America itself has prospered from a robust free enterprise system. And he understands what it will require to make America the best place in the world for companies to prosper and create jobs.

America now has an abundance of unskilled workers and a shortage of skilled workers. The cost of college has never been higher. Millions of young graduates are left with mountains of student loans, no job and a virtually useless degree. And higher education is inaccessible to the busy single moms and working parents who need it to transform their lives.

Once we create modern jobs, we also have to equip our people with the modern skills they need to fill them. This is why we need higher education reform so badly. In our opinion, Marco has the best plan to make that happen.

- **Family**

As a husband and father, Marco understands that *being a parent is the most important job any of us will ever have*. But today, Washington punishes marriage by taxing married couples more than singles and making it harder for parents to keep what they earn. Marco wants the government to empower and protect family, not try to compete with it. Marco believes in protecting the constitutional right of our families to not just teach their children traditional values, but to exercise those values without discrimination.

- **Electability**

Marco has proven to be very electable and has run every race as an underdog, and he has never lost. In 2009, Marco entered the U.S. Senate race with barely any money or support, but won the Republican nomination by a huge margin by uniting Republicans. When Charlie Crist ran as an independent in the general election, Marco was trailing in the polls with only 11 weeks to go. But in the final weeks, he inspired Floridians and won big. Marco has won more than 10 consecutive primaries and elections.

Marco's family's story of immigration to America resonates with conservatives, independents and even liberal voters. And it appeals especially with millions of Hispanic voters.

Marco Rubio is not rich, not wealthy. His economic struggles will relate to the average American and are an indication to us that he has not used his popularity and influence as a Florida Senator for his own personal financial advantage. Now that's a rare thing to find in today's political world!

After many months of careful scrutiny and analysis, I believe that Marco Rubio will make the best president and is best positioned to win both the primary and the national election. It's time to roll up our sleeves and get to work. We don't have time to waste. Our lack of involvement could easily create a situation of four years of Hillary Clinton in the White House. We invite you to join us in our unwavering support of Marco Rubio as President of the United States.

Sincerely,

Frank L. VanderSloot