

## Nate Silver on Who Benefits from Huckabee's Decision

Michael Sean Winters | May. 16, 2011 | Distinctly Catholic

Former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee, who was the last man standing in opposition to Sen. John McCain in the quest for the 2008 GOP presidential nod, has decided not to run this time around.

[Nate Silver, at the New York Times, analyzes](#) [1] who benefits from Huckabee's decision.

For all of my many reservations about the Cartesian cogito and its progeny, Silver makes metrics fun. I do not see Cain as the principal beneficiary of Huckabee's decision, as Silver does. I suspect Sarah Palin and Michelle Bachmann are the big winners. Huckabee built his 2008 campaign, which was woefully underfunded, on a network of home schooling Christians. They saw the Gov., who is also a Rev., as a champion. But, given that most of the individuals who actually do the home schooling are evangelical women, I suspect in Palin and Bachmann they discern more than a champion. They see someone like themselves, and that always pays big electoral dividends.

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### Links:

[1] <http://fivethirtyeight.blogs.nytimes.com/2011/05/14/who-benefits-if-huckabee-doesnt-run/#more-10149>