

Giuliani, McCain drop out of straw poll

by UPI

AMES, Iowa - Republican presidential hopefuls Rudolph Giuliani and Sen. John McCain of Arizona say they will not participate in the traditional Ames, Iowa, straw poll.

The candidates announced Wednesday they will not be a part of the Ames straw poll this summer but both campaigns said the candidates will still compete in the January Iowa caucuses, The New York Times reported Thursday.

Giuliani was the first to drop out of the traditional early test of candidates' strength, with his campaign citing the high cost of participating in the event, estimated at about \$3 million. McCain's campaign followed suit a few hours later.

"This type of campaign has never been waged before," said Michael DuHaime, campaign manager for Giuliani. He said the former New York mayor is forced to make difficult decisions about where to allocate resources because of the need to campaign rigorously in states like Florida and California.

The Ames straw poll began in 1979 as a method for campaigns to raise funds for the caucuses. However, it has been repeatedly labeled a poor test of a candidate's strength as the participants in the poll are invited by the candidates.

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