



Questions in Context:

The 2016 Republican Presidential Primary
Debates - through CNN (Sept 16, 2015)

David Winston
Nida Ansari
Emily O'Connor

Overview

At the start of the 2016 Presidential debate season, the Winston Group went back to analyze the 2012 Republican primary debates, looking at topics, moderators, and question frequency for different candidates to build a picture of how the debates interacted with voter concerns during that election. Perhaps the most striking insight from an overview of 2012's debates was that though Republican primary voters consistently said (in primary exit polls and surveys) that economic issues were their top priority in determining who to vote for, questions about the economy were largely underrepresented throughout.

While it is early in the debate cycle, we continue to see that while the economy is the top issue for Republican primary voters, it continues to struggle as a question topic for debates. In the CNN debate, for every question asked about the economy, there were three questions about electability or another candidate's statements. The number of economic questions (fourth on the list of topics and about one out of nine questions asked) in the CNN debate did not come close to matching the level of priority that Republican voters have placed upon it as a concern. Similarly, in the earlier FOX debate, the economy tied with immigration in 4th place behind electability, foreign affairs, and social issues, and made up only about 8% of all questions.

Note: Due to the large number of candidates, each of the debates so far this year have been broken into two segments, with an upper and lower tier of candidates based on standing in polls.

Question Topics

Already in the debates so far, questions have ranged widely, from social issues, to foreign policy (particularly regarding negotiations with Iran and strategies regarding ISIS), to candidates' electability coming from the business world versus political experience, and more. The chart below shows the distribution of questions by topic area. These categories use the same definitions as the 2012 report; while most are fairly straightforward, a few need further definition. The "electability" topic area includes questions addressed directly to a candidate about his/her ability to attract a large portion of the electorate (for example, asking a candidate about his/her standing in the polls or statements he/she made that have raised questions), while the "other candidates" topic area refers to questions that directly ask one candidate about another candidate's past, policies, or prospects. The "for fun" topic area includes lighthearted questions aimed at letting viewers see more of a candidate's personality (such as the CNN "Secret Service codename" question).

CNN Debate

General Topic Area	6pm Debate		8pm Debate		Total	
	Number of Questions	Percentage of Questions	Number of Questions	Percentage of Questions	Number of Questions	Percentage of Questions
Economy	3	14.3	4	9.8	7	11.3
Education	-	-	-	-	-	-
Electability	2	9.5	6	14.6	8	12.9
Environment	-	-	2	4.9	2	3.2
For fun	-	-	2	4.9	2	3.2
Foreign Policy/ National security	5	23.8	9	22.0	14	22.6
Healthcare	-	-	1	2.4	1	1.6
Immigration	3	14.3	3	7.3	6	9.7
Judicial System	1	4.8	2	4.9	3	4.8
Other candidates	5	23.8	6	14.6	11	17.7
Presidential priorities	-	-	1	2.4	1	1.6
Social issues	2	9.5	4	9.8	6	9.7
Social Security/ Retirement	-	-	1	2.4	1	1.6
Spending/ National debt	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	21		41		62	

Total - FOX and CNN Debates

General Topic Area	Total - FOX Debate		Total - CNN Debate		Total - FOX and CNN Debates	
	Number of Questions	Percentage of Questions	Number of Questions	Percentage of Questions	Number of Questions	Percentage of Questions
Economy	6	8.1	7	11.3	13	9.6
Education	1	1.4	-	-	1	0.7
Electability	18	24.3	8	12.9	27	19.9
Environment	-	-	2	3.2	2	1.5
For fun	-	-	2	3.2	2	1.5
Foreign Policy/ National security	17	23.0	14	22.6	31	22.8
Healthcare	1	1.4	1	1.6	2	1.5
Immigration	6	8.1	6	9.7	12	8.8
Judicial System	-	-	3	4.8	3	2.2
Other candidates	5	6.8	11	17.7	15	11.0
Presidential priorities	2	2.7	1	1.6	3	2.2
Social issues	13	17.6	6	9.7	19	14.0
Social Security/ Retirement	-	-	1	1.6	1	0.7
Spending/ National debt	5	6.8	-	-	5	3.7
Total	74		62		136	

The Economy

In recent surveys, voters have indicated that the economy and jobs are still their top concerns in thinking about how they would choose to vote for a candidate. The August 2015 New Models survey, done at the end of August, found that 38% of Republicans say jobs and the economy is their top concern.

So far, in the debates, 13 questions have been asked about the economy out of 136 total - or 9.6%. **Once again, the economy and jobs seemed to be underrepresented in the debate questions, relative to the importance that voters placed on this category.**

Foreign Policy

While the August New Models survey found that more Republicans consider foreign policy/national security/terrorism their top issue for choosing a candidate to vote than in 2012 (14% in 2015 as compared to 5% in New Models November 2011), it is still disproportionately represented in the debate questions, making up almost a quarter of questions asked so far. This is not unexpected due to the high profile discussion about the Iran negotiations. So, as in 2012, as issues become important world and national news, it may be expected to see additional questions asked in that area and at 22.8% of all questions, foreign policy currently far outweighs any other policy topics - only electability comes close, a topic which does not focus on any one issue or a candidate's policy in that issue area.

To Whom Were Questions Directed?

Most Frequently Questioned

In the charts below, only the candidates in the top tier debates are listed. Carly Fiorina's numbers only reflect the CNN debate, in which she was included in the top tier.

"Number of Questions" refers to questions directed by a moderator at a particular candidate, and excludes questions that were asked of all candidates. "Number of Rebuttals" includes any times the moderator addressed a follow up or rebuttal opportunity to a candidate, or a candidate broke in and gave a rebuttal to another candidate's answer on their own initiative.

While the question topic totals in the chart above include questions from the lower tier debates (to provide a broader picture of how often the moderators/networks are covering various topics), the charts below reflect only the top tier debates. Therefore, the question totals are different. "Percentage of Direct Questions" a candidate received comes from only questions directly addressed to a candidate (and excludes those addressed to all candidates), while "Percentage of Answers" includes all opportunities a candidate had to speak, as described above. The "Percentage of Answers" comes out of the total of all answers given - not the total questions asked - so once again, the totals differ.

Candidate	FOX Debate		CNN Debate		Total - FOX and CNN Debates				
	# of Qs	# of Rebuttals	# of Qs	# of Rebuttals	Total Direct Qs	% of Direct Qs	Total Rebuttals	Total Answers	% of Total Answers
Trump	7	-	10	6	17	20.0	6	23	17.0
Bush	6	-	8	4	14	16.5	4	18	13.3
Paul	3	2	4	5	7	8.2	7	14	10.4
Carson	4	2	2	5	6	7.1	7	13	9.6
Rubio	4	2	1	6	5	5.9	8	13	9.6
Walker	7	-	2	1	9	10.6	1	10	7.4
Cruz	4	-	2	4	6	7.1	4	10	7.4
Christie	3	1	3	3	6	7.1	4	10	7.4
Huckabee	3	2	2	3	5	5.9	5	10	7.4
Kasich	3	-	4	1	7	8.2	1	8	5.9
Fiorina	-	-	3	3	3	3.5	3	6	4.4
Total	44	9	41	41	85		50	135	

Of note in looking at both debates together are the length and structure of each. The CNN debate had one additional candidate, and was a much longer debate. In addition, it was much more designed to have candidates respond to one another's ideas, rather than asking standalone questions, which led to many more questions in the rebuttal category.

In terms of direct questions, as well as rebuttals asked for by the moderator, the frontrunner in the polls at the time of the CNN debate, Donald Trump, clearly had the most addressed to him across both debates, and ended the second debate a full five questions ahead of the second most-asked candidate, Jeb Bush. Additionally, as described in the next section, these two candidates also commanded the most speaking time.

In the CNN debate, the disparity in addressing questions was particularly noticeable for Walker, whose answers were solicited only three times, in comparison with Trump, who was asked for his answer 16 times.

Speaking Time

The speaking times for the top tier debates listed in the chart below are taken from NPR: CNN - <http://www.npr.org/sections/itsallpolitics/2015/09/16/440827414/on-the-clock-who-spoke-the-longest> and FOX - <http://www.npr.org/sections/itsallpolitics/2015/08/06/430153100/the-trump-show-begins>.

For the most part, the amount of time candidates spoke reflected closely the number of questions they were asked. However, some tended to give longer answers on average per question than others. Senator Paul, for example, was asked 14 questions and spoke for just over 15 minutes, while Carly Fiorina was asked only 6 questions, yet spoke for over 13 minutes.

Candidate	FOX Debate	CNN Debate	Total - FOX and CNN Debates
Trump	10:30	18:47	29:17
Bush	8:33	15:48	24:21
Carson	6:28	12:56	19:24
Christie	6:03	12:36	18:39
Rubio	6:22	11:21	17:43
Cruz	6:28	10:45	17:13
Kasich	6:25	9:44	16:09
Huckabee	6:32	9:20	15:52
Paul	4:51	10:28	15:19
Walker	5:43	8:29	14:12
Fiorina	-	13:30	13:30

Conclusion

As noted in the analysis of 2012's debates, the distribution of debate questions will never perfectly match voters' priorities, and presidential debates are also designed to help ensure that candidates are competent on a wide range of topics.

Still, we can already see that the debates seem to be falling into a pattern similar to 2012, when the distribution of topics didn't quite match what voters were concerned about. For the majority of voters, the economy is by far the most important issue, yet so far questions on this topic have only made up a small portion of the debates.

Debate Number — Location — Date — Sponsor(s)	Question	Asker	To Whom (or to whom it was directed by moderator)
1A (Outside Top Ten)— Cleveland, OH — 8/6/15 — Fox News/ Facebook/Ohio Republican Party	You were in charge of the 12th largest economy in the world, and you recently said that four years ago, you weren't ready for this job. Why should someone vote for you now?	Bill Hemmer	Perry
1A (Outside Top Ten)— Cleveland, OH — 8/6/15 — Fox News/ Facebook/Ohio Republican Party	Carly, you were CEO of Hewlett-Packard. You ran for Senate and lost in California in 2010. This week, you said "Margaret Thatcher was not content to manage a great nation in decline, and neither am I." Given your current standings in the polls, is the Iron Lady comparison a stretch?	Martha MacCallum	Fiorina
1A (Outside Top Ten)— Cleveland, OH — 8/6/15 — Fox News/ Facebook/Ohio Republican Party	Senator Santorum, you won the Iowa caucus four years ago and 10 other states. But you failed to beat Mitt Romney for the nomination. And no one here tonight is going to question your conviction or your love for country. But has your moment passed, Senator?	Bill Hemmer	Santorum
1A (Outside Top Ten)— Cleveland, OH — 8/6/15 — Fox News/ Facebook/Ohio Republican Party	Governor Jindal, you're one of two sitting governors on the stage tonight. But your approval numbers at home are in the mid 30s at this point. In a recent poll that showed you in a head-to-head against Hillary Clinton in Louisiana, she beat you by several points. So if the people of Louisiana are not satisfied, what makes you think that the people of this nation would be?	Martha MacCallum	Jindal
1A (Outside Top Ten)— Cleveland, OH — 8/6/15 — Fox News/ Facebook/Ohio Republican Party	Senator Lindsey Graham, you worked with Democrats and President Obama when it came to climate change, something you know is extremely unpopular with conservative Republicans. How can they trust you based on that record?	Bill Hemmer	Graham
1A (Outside Top Ten)— Cleveland, OH — 8/6/15 — Fox News/ Facebook/Ohio Republican Party	Governor Pataki, four years ago this month, you called it quits in a race for the presidency in 2012, but now you're back. Mitt Romney declined to run this time, because he believed that the party needed new blood. Does he have a point?	Martha MacCallum	Pataki

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1A (Outside Top Ten)— Cleveland, OH — 8/6/15 — Fox News/ Facebook/Ohio Republican Party	You were the last person on stage to declare your candidacy. You ran for the White House once and lost. You ran for the Senate one time and lost. You haven't held public office in 13 years. Similar question, is it time for new blood?	Martha MacCallum	Gilmore
1A (Outside Top Ten)— Cleveland, OH — 8/6/15 — Fox News/ Facebook/Ohio Republican Party	But he [Trump] is dominating this conversation. Governor Perry, you two have been going at it. But given the large disparity in your poll numbers, he seems to be getting the better of you.	Martha MacCallum	Perry
1A (Outside Top Ten)— Cleveland, OH — 8/6/15 — Fox News/ Facebook/Ohio Republican Party	Donald Trump is — there's a huge disparity between the poll numbers that you have and the poll numbers that he has, given also the fact that Rudy Giuliani said he thought that there may be some Reagan qualities to Donald Trump. Carly Fiorina, is he getting the better of you?	Martha MacCallum	Fiorina
1A (Outside Top Ten)— Cleveland, OH — 8/6/15 — Fox News/ Facebook/Ohio Republican Party	This Saturday, August 8th, two days from now marks one year since the strikes began against ISIS in Iraq and followed in Syria one month later. This week, a leading general in the U.S. Marine Corps says, "One year later, that fight is at a stalemate." Governor Jindal, give me one example how your fight against ISIS would be different over there?	Bill Hemmer	Jindal
1A (Outside Top Ten)— Cleveland, OH — 8/6/15 — Fox News/ Facebook/Ohio Republican Party	And the senator to your right has called for 20,000 American troops in Syria and Iraq so far today, Senator Graham, and I'll give this question to you. Why should the American people after two wars in Iraq sacrifice yet again on a third war?	Bill Hemmer	Graham
1A (Outside Top Ten)— Cleveland, OH — 8/6/15 — Fox News/ Facebook/Ohio Republican Party	Sixty-nine ISIS-inspired terrorists have been arrested in this country, in homeland plots, and the FBI assures us that there are likely many more to come...How far are you willing to go to root out this problem here at home? Would you put mosques, for example, potentially, under surveillance? And keep in mind that conservatives are increasingly concerned in this country with religious liberty.	Martha MacCallum	Pataki

Debate Number — Location — Date — Sponsor(s)	Question	Asker	To Whom (or to whom it was directed by moderator)
1A (Outside Top Ten)— Cleveland, OH — 8/6/15 — Fox News/ Facebook/Ohio Republican Party	The FBI director Comey says that terrorists can thrive here at home because they go dark and they recruit behind the cyber walls that are built by American companies like Google and Apple. Comey says this is a big problem. Rand Paul says that the government forcing these companies to bring down those walls would be a big privacy issue and a dangerous way to go on this. You've been a tech leader in this country. Which side are you on?	Martha MacCallum	Fiorina, Gilmore
1A (Outside Top Ten)— Cleveland, OH — 8/6/15 — Fox News/ Facebook/Ohio Republican Party	We often talk about this issue on the abstract level in Washington, D.C., but you know how it's being talked about in states like Iowa and New Hampshire among illegals in our country today — 11 million plus. And some are asking, what would you say to a child, born and raised in America, who could see their family broken apart by your policies?	Bill Hemmer	Santorum, Perry
1A (Outside Top Ten)— Cleveland, OH — 8/6/15 — Fox News/ Facebook/Ohio Republican Party	There is an increasing willingness in this country to accept assistance. How do you get Americans who are able to take the job instead of a handout? ...Do you believe that we need to change the culture in this country in terms of whether or not we should be encouraging people to get off of it and take the job when it's available? Some are able and not doing that.	Martha MacCallum	Graham, Santorum
1A (Outside Top Ten)— Cleveland, OH — 8/6/15 — Fox News/ Facebook/Ohio Republican Party	You know, based on your record and what we're discussing here, which is potentially cutting back some entitlement, cutting back benefits, it's tricky business as we all know because people will argue that that's their means to escape poverty. So they're going to look at you when you want to do that and they will call you heartless. What will you tell them?	Martha MacCallum	Gilmore
1A (Outside Top Ten)— Cleveland, OH — 8/6/15 — Fox News/ Facebook/Ohio Republican Party	No Republican wins the White House unless you win here in the Buckeye state. Well, here in the Buckeye state, the Governor John Kasich took the federal money for Medicaid expansion under Obamacare. And Governor Jindal of Louisiana, you passed on those tax dollars. Why do you think Governor Kasich got it wrong here?...Governor Pataki, three term governor of New York, is he right?	Bill Hemmer	Jindal, Pataki
1A (Outside Top Ten)— Cleveland, OH — 8/6/15 — Fox News/ Facebook/Ohio Republican Party	Critics of the Iran deal say that it puts America on the same side as the largest state sponsor of terrorism in the world, of Hamas, of Hezbollah, of the backers of those groups of people who chant 'Death to America,' in the street, that this deal puts on that side of the equation. But our traditional Middle East allies, led by Saudi Arabia, have also funneled support to Islamic radical groups who want to kill Americans. So which side do you believe we should be on?...This is a complicated situation. Are you OK with us being on their side?	Martha MacCallum	Perry, Fiorina

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1A (Outside Top Ten)— Cleveland, OH — 8/6/15 — Fox News/ Facebook/Ohio Republican Party	It's been 42 years, Senator Santorum, since Roe v. Wade, and many consider, in this country, to be a case of settled law. Recently the U.S. Supreme Court ruled on same-sex marriage. Is that now settled law in America today?	Bill Hemmer	Santorum
1A (Outside Top Ten)— Cleveland, OH — 8/6/15 — Fox News/ Facebook/Ohio Republican Party	To Governor Gilmore. For years, presidential candidates have not said they would have a litmus test for justices nominated to the Supreme Court. Recently, Hillary Clinton broke that precedent. She said she would apply that on the case of Citizens United, which deals with campaign finance laws in America today. Is it time for conservatives to impose a litmus test on abortion?	Bill Hemmer	Gilmore
1A (Outside Top Ten)— Cleveland, OH — 8/6/15 — Fox News/ Facebook/Ohio Republican Party	Governor Pataki, you're the only pro-choice candidate running. A Republican holding that position has not won a single primary in 35 years. With the recent Planned Parenthood videos that we have all seen, shedding new light on abortion practices, I know that you have said that you would defund Planned Parenthood. But has this story changed your heart when it comes to abortion?	Martha MacCallum	Pataki
1A (Outside Top Ten)— Cleveland, OH — 8/6/15 — Fox News/ Facebook/Ohio Republican Party	Carly Fiorina, also on the stage, said that she would go so far as to shut down the government over the issue of defunding Planned Parenthood. Would you do that? Would you be willing to shut down the government when it comes to defunding this group?	Martha MacCallum	Jindal
1A (Outside Top Ten)— Cleveland, OH — 8/6/15 — Fox News/ Facebook/Ohio Republican Party	Lindsey Graham, this conversation will no doubt go to the war on women, and that cutting funding to this group could be a very broad brush against all of you or anybody who will hold this nomination as being against women's health, against these organizations that people will say provide positive things for many women.	Martha MacCallum	Graham
1A (Outside Top Ten)— Cleveland, OH — 8/6/15 — Fox News/ Facebook/Ohio Republican Party	On the second day of his presidency, January 22nd 2009, President Obama signed one of his first executive orders. That was close Guantanamo Bay in Cuba. Still open today. What would be your first executive order?	Bill Hemmer	Gilmore, Graham, Jindal, Perry, Santorum, Fiorina, Pataki

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1A (Outside Top Ten)— Cleveland, OH — 8/6/15 — Fox News/ Facebook/Ohio Republican Party	President Obama promised hope and change for the country, yet 60 percent of Americans are not satisfied with the shape that the country is in right now. Many think that America has lost its “can do” spirit and that it’s not the nation that it once was. On this level, Carly Fiorina, can you inspire this nation? ...how would you do it?	Martha MacCallum	Fiorina, Santorum, Graham
1A (Outside Top Ten)— Cleveland, OH — 8/6/15 — Fox News/ Facebook/Ohio Republican Party	I need a two-word answer to the following query. In 2008, then-Senator Barack Obama described Hillary Clinton as, quote, “likable enough,” end quote. What two words would you use to describe the Democratic frontrunner?	Bill Hemmer	Gilmore, Graham, Jindal, Perry, Santorum, Fiorina, Pataki
1B (Top Ten)— Cleveland, OH — 8/6/15 — Fox News/ Facebook/Ohio Republican Party	Is there anyone on stage — and can I see hands — who is unwilling tonight to pledge your support to the eventual nominee of the Republican party and pledge to not run an independent campaign against that person?	Bret Baier	Trump, Bush, Walker, Huckabee, Carson, Cruz, Rubio, Paul, Christie, Kasich
1B (Top Ten)— Cleveland, OH — 8/6/15 — Fox News/ Facebook/Ohio Republican Party	Your critics say that your inexperience shows. You've suggested that the Baltic States are not a part of NATO, just months ago you were unfamiliar with the major political parties and government in Israel, and domestically, you thought Alan Greenspan had been treasury secretary instead of federal reserve chair. Aren't these basic mistakes, and don't they raise legitimate questions about whether you are ready to be president?	Megyn Kelly	Carson
1B (Top Ten)— Cleveland, OH — 8/6/15 — Fox News/ Facebook/Ohio Republican Party	Senator Rubio, when Jeb Bush announced his candidacy for presidency, he said this: "There's no passing off responsibility when you're a governor, no blending into the legislative crowd." Could you please address Governor Bush across the stage here, and explain to him why you, someone who has never held executive office, are better prepared to be president than he is, a man who you say did a great job running your state of Florida for eight years.	Chris Wallace	Rubio
1B (Top Ten)— Cleveland, OH — 8/6/15 — Fox News/ Facebook/Ohio Republican Party	But there are several opponents on this stage who get big- applause lines in early voting states with this line: quote, "the last thing the country needs is another Bush in the Oval Office." So do you understand the real concern in this country about dynastic politics?	Bret Baier	Bush
1B (Top Ten)— Cleveland, OH — 8/6/15 — Fox News/ Facebook/Ohio Republican Party	You've called women you don't like "fat pigs, dogs, slob, and disgusting animals."...Your Twitter account has several disparaging comments about women's looks. You once told a contestant on Celebrity Apprentice it would be a pretty picture to see her on her knees. Does that sound to you like the temperament of a man we should elect as president, and how will you answer the charge from Hillary Clinton, who was likely to be the Democratic nominee, that you are part of the war on women?	Megyn Kelly	Trump

Debate Number — Location — Date — Sponsor(s)	Question	Asker	To Whom (or to whom it was directed by moderator)
1B (Top Ten)— Cleveland, OH — 8/6/15 — Fox News/ Facebook/Ohio Republican Party	Senator Cruz, your colleague, Senator Paul, right there next to you, said a few months ago he agrees with you on a number of issues, but he says you do nothing to grow the party. He says you feed red meat to the base, but you don't reach out to minorities. You have a toxic relationship with GOP leaders in Congress. You even called the Republican Senate Leader Mitch McConnell a liar recently. How can you win in 2016 when you're such a divisive figure?	Chris Wallace	Cruz
1B (Top Ten)— Cleveland, OH — 8/6/15 — Fox News/ Facebook/Ohio Republican Party	Under your watch, New Jersey has undergone nine credit rating downgrades. The state's 44th in private sector growth. You face an employee pension crisis and the Garden State has the third highest foreclosure rate in the country. So why should voters believe that your management of the country's finances would be any different?	Bret Baier	Christie
1B (Top Ten)— Cleveland, OH — 8/6/15 — Fox News/ Facebook/Ohio Republican Party	Would you really let a mother die rather than have an abortion, and with 83 percent of the American public in favor of a life exception, are you too out of the mainstream on this issue to win the general election?	Megyn Kelly	Walker
1B (Top Ten)— Cleveland, OH — 8/6/15 — Fox News/ Facebook/Ohio Republican Party	Governor Huckabee, like Governor Walker, you have staked out strong positions on social issues. You favor a constitutional amendment banning same sex marriage. You favor a constitutional amendment banning abortions, except for the life of the mother. Millions of people in this country agree with you, but according to the polls, and again this an electability question, according to the polls, more people don't, so how do you persuade enough Independents and Democrats to get elected in 2016?	Chris Wallace	Huckabee
1B (Top Ten)— Cleveland, OH — 8/6/15 — Fox News/ Facebook/Ohio Republican Party	Senator Paul, you recently blamed the rise of ISIS on Republican hawks. You later said that that statement, you could have said it better. But, the statement went on, and you said, quote, "Everything they've talked about in foreign policy, they've been wrong for the last 20 years." Why are you so quick to blame your own party?	Bret Baier	Paul
1B (Top Ten)— Cleveland, OH — 8/6/15 — Fox News/ Facebook/Ohio Republican Party	Governor Kasich, you chose to expand Medicaid in your state, unlike several other governors on this stage tonight, and it is already over budget by some estimates costing taxpayers an additional \$1.4 billion in just the first 18 months. You defended your Medicaid expansion by invoking God, saying to skeptics that when they arrive in heaven, Saint Peter isn't going to ask them how small they've kept government, but what they have done for the poor. Why should Republican voters, who generally want to shrink government, believe that you won't use your Saint Peter rationale to expand every government program?	Megyn Kelly	Kasich
1B (Top Ten)— Cleveland, OH — 8/6/15 — Fox News/ Facebook/Ohio Republican Party	I want to ask you about a statement that you made last year about illegal immigrants. And here's what you said. "They broke the law, but it's not a felony, it's an act of love. It's an act of commitment to your family." Do you stand by that statement and do you stand by your support for earned legal status?	Chris Wallace	Bush

Debate Number — Location — Date — Sponsor(s)	Question	Asker	To Whom (or to whom it was directed by moderator)
1B (Top Ten)— Cleveland, OH — 8/6/15 — Fox News/ Facebook/Ohio Republican Party	Mr. Trump, it has not escaped anybody's notice that you say that the Mexican government, the Mexican government is sending criminals -- rapists, drug dealers, across the border...you have repeatedly said that you have evidence that the Mexican government is doing this, but you have evidence you have refused or declined to share. Why not use this first Republican presidential debate to share your proof with the American people?	Chris Wallace	Trump
1B (Top Ten)— Cleveland, OH — 8/6/15 — Fox News/ Facebook/Ohio Republican Party	I know you don't like to talk about Donald Trump. But I do want to ask you about the merit of what he just said. When you say that the American government is stupid, that the Mexican government is sending criminals, that we're being bamboozled, is that an adequate response to the question of illegal immigration?...Is it as simple as our leaders are stupid, their leaders are smart, and all of these illegals coming over are criminals?	Chris Wallace	Kasich, Rubio
1B (Top Ten)— Cleveland, OH — 8/6/15 — Fox News/ Facebook/Ohio Republican Party	Governor Walker, from 2002 until as recently as 2013, just two years ago, you supported comprehensive immigration reform, including a path to citizenship. Now you say that was a quick reaction to something you hadn't really thought about, and that you've changed your mind. Other than politics, could you explain why in the last two years you've changed your position on a path to citizenship, and are there other past positions that we shouldn't hold you to?	Chris Wallace	Walker
1B (Top Ten)— Cleveland, OH — 8/6/15 — Fox News/ Facebook/Ohio Republican Party	Senator Cruz, some 1,400 people submitted questions on this very hot topic of illegal immigration on Facebook, and a number of them were about the murder of Kate Steinle in San Francisco, allegedly shot down by an illegal. Doug Bettencourt sent this question, "will you support Kate Steinle's Law," which would impose a mandatory five-year prison term for an illegal who is deported and then returns to this country? "And will you defund sanctuary cities for violating federal law?"	Voter	Cruz
1B (Top Ten)— Cleveland, OH — 8/6/15 — Fox News/ Facebook/Ohio Republican Party	Governor Christie. You've said that Senator Paul's opposition to the NSA's collection of phone records has made the United States weaker and more vulnerable, even going so far as to say that he should be called before Congress to answer for it if we should be hit by another terrorist attack. Do you really believe you can assign blame to Senator Paul just for opposing he bulk collection of people's phone records in the event of a terrorist attack?	Megyn Kelly	Christie, Paul
1B (Top Ten)— Cleveland, OH — 8/6/15 — Fox News/ Facebook/Ohio Republican Party	My question is, how would the candidates stop the treacherous actions of ISIS -- ISIL and its growing influence in the U.S., if they were to become president?	Voter	Cruz
1B (Top Ten)— Cleveland, OH — 8/6/15 — Fox News/ Facebook/Ohio Republican Party	To the families of those who died in that war who say they liberated and deposed a ruthless dictator, how do you look at them now and say that your brothers war was a mistake?	Megyn Kelly	Bush

Debate Number — Location — Date — Sponsor(s)	Question	Asker	To Whom (or to whom it was directed by moderator)
1B (Top Ten)— Cleveland, OH — 8/6/15 — Fox News/ Facebook/Ohio Republican Party	Governor Walker, in February you said that we needed to gain partners in the Arab world. Which Arab country not already in the U.S. led coalition has potential to be our greatest partner?	Megyn Kelly	Walker
1B (Top Ten)— Cleveland, OH — 8/6/15 — Fox News/ Facebook/Ohio Republican Party	Dr. Carson, in one of his first acts as commander in chief, President Obama signed an executive order banning enhanced interrogation techniques in fighting terror. As president, would you bring back water boarding?	Megyn Kelly	Carson
1B (Top Ten)— Cleveland, OH — 8/6/15 — Fox News/ Facebook/Ohio Republican Party	Now, 15 years ago, you called yourself a liberal on health care. You were for a single-payer system, a Canadian-style system. Why were you for that then and why aren't you for it now?	Bret Baier	Trump
1B (Top Ten)— Cleveland, OH — 8/6/15 — Fox News/ Facebook/Ohio Republican Party	Mr. Trump, it's not just your past support for single- payer health care. You've also supported a host of other liberal policies. Use -- you've also donated to several Democratic candidates, Hillary Clinton included, Nancy Pelosi. You explained away those donations saying you did that to get business-related favors. And you said recently, quote, "When you give, they do whatever the hell you want them to do." So what specifically did they do?	Bret Baier	Trump
1B (Top Ten)— Cleveland, OH — 8/6/15 — Fox News/ Facebook/Ohio Republican Party	So the question is, at this point, is the government simply too big for any one person, even a Republican, to shrink?	Bret Baier	Huckabee, Carson
1B (Top Ten)— Cleveland, OH — 8/6/15 — Fox News/ Facebook/Ohio Republican Party	President Obama's secretary of education, Arnie Duncan, has said that most of the criticism of Common Core is due to a, quote, "fringe group of critics." Do you think that's accurate?...Senator Rubio, why is Governor Bush wrong on Common Core?	Bret Baier	Bush, Rubio
1B (Top Ten)— Cleveland, OH — 8/6/15 — Fox News/ Facebook/Ohio Republican Party	She will say that you, whoever it is, support the rich while she supports the middle class. That you want to suppress the rights of women and minorities. She wants to move the country forward while you, the Republicans, want to take the country back to the past. How will you, if you're the nominee, how will you answer that and take Hillary Clinton on?	Chris Wallace	Kasich, Carson

Debate Number — Location — Date — Sponsor(s)	Question	Asker	To Whom (or to whom it was directed by moderator)
1B (Top Ten)— Cleveland, OH — 8/6/15 — Fox News/ Facebook/Ohio Republican Party	That many jobs, 19 million, would be triple what your father and your brother accomplished together. And four percent growth, the last president to average that was Lyndon Johnson during the height of the Vietnam War. So question, how on Earth specifically would you pull that off?	Chris Wallace	Bush
1B (Top Ten)— Cleveland, OH — 8/6/15 — Fox News/ Facebook/Ohio Republican Party	Governor Walker, when you ran for governor of Wisconsin back in 2010, you promised that you would create 250,000 jobs in your first term, first four years. In fact, Wisconsin added barely half that and ranked 35th in the country in job growth. Now you're running for president, and you're promising an economic plan in which everyone will earn a piece of the American dream. Given your record in Wisconsin, why should voters believe you?	Chris Wallace	Walker
1B (Top Ten)— Cleveland, OH — 8/6/15 — Fox News/ Facebook/Ohio Republican Party	Governor Christie, I want to engage you and Governor Huckabee in a subject that is a big issue in both of your campaigns, and that is entitlement reform. You say that you -- to save the system that you want to raise the retirement age -- have to raise the retirement age, and to cut benefits for Social Security and Medicare, and you say that some of the candidates here on the stage are lying. Governor Huckabee says he can save Social Security and Medicare without doing any of that. Is he lying?...Please explain to Governor Christie how that would work, and how you could save these programs without the kind of painful reforms he says we need?	Chris Wallace	Christie, Huckabee
1B (Top Ten)— Cleveland, OH — 8/6/15 — Fox News/ Facebook/Ohio Republican Party	Mr. Trump, you talk a lot about how you are the person on this stage to grow the economy, I want to ask you about your business records. From corporations, Trump corporations casinos and hotels, have declared bankruptcy four times over the last quarter-century...Question sir, with that record, why should we trust you to run the nation's business?	Chris Wallace	Trump
1B (Top Ten)— Cleveland, OH — 8/6/15 — Fox News/ Facebook/Ohio Republican Party	Please describe one action you would do to make the economic environment more favorable for small businesses and entrepreneurs and anyone dreaming of opening their own business.	Voter	Rubio
1B (Top Ten)— Cleveland, OH — 8/6/15 — Fox News/ Facebook/Ohio Republican Party	If this deal is undone, what then?...would you tear up the deal on day one?	Bret Baier	Walker, Paul, Huckabee
1B (Top Ten)— Cleveland, OH — 8/6/15 — Fox News/ Facebook/Ohio Republican Party	Many Republicans have been outraged recently by a series of videos on Planned Parenthood. You now say that you support ending federal funding for this organization, however, until late 2014, you sat on the board of a Bloomberg that quite publicly gave tens of millions of dollars to Planned Parenthood while you were a director. How could you not know about these well-publicized donations, and if you did know, how could you help a charity so openly committed to abortion rights?	Megyn Kelly	Bush

Debate Number — Location — Date — Sponsor(s)	Question	Asker	To Whom (or to whom it was directed by moderator)
1B (Top Ten)— Cleveland, OH — 8/6/15 — Fox News/ Facebook/Ohio Republican Party	Senator Rubio, you favor a rape and incest exception to abortion bans. Cardinal Timothy Dolan of New York just said yesterday those exceptions are preposterous. He said they discriminate against an entire class of human beings. If you believe that life begins at conception, as you say you do, how do you justify ending a life just because it begins violently, through no fault of the baby?	Megyn Kelly	Rubio
1B (Top Ten)— Cleveland, OH — 8/6/15 — Fox News/ Facebook/Ohio Republican Party	Mr. Trump, in 1999, you said you were, quote, "very pro- choice." Even supporting partial-birth abortion. You favored an assault weapons ban as well. In 2004, you said in most cases you identified as a Democrat. Even in this campaign, your critics say you often sound more like a Democrat than a Republican, calling several of your opponents on the stage things like clowns and puppets. When did you actually become a Republican?	Megyn Kelly	Trump
1B (Top Ten)— Cleveland, OH — 8/6/15 — Fox News/ Facebook/Ohio Republican Party	Governor Bush, I want to ask you, on the subject of name calling of your fellow candidates, a story appeared today quoting an anonymous GOP donor who said you called Mr. Trump a clown, a buffoon, something else that cannot be repeated on television. Is it true?	Megyn Kelly	Bush
1B (Top Ten)— Cleveland, OH — 8/6/15 — Fox News/ Facebook/Ohio Republican Party	The subject of gay marriage and religious liberty. Governor Kasich, if you had a son or daughter who was gay or lesbian, how would you explain to them your opposition to same-sex marriage?	Megyn Kelly	Kasich
1B (Top Ten)— Cleveland, OH — 8/6/15 — Fox News/ Facebook/Ohio Republican Party	What will you do to ensure Christians are not prosecuted for speaking out against gay marriage and will Christians be forced to conduct business that conflicts with their religious beliefs?	Voter	Paul
1B (Top Ten)— Cleveland, OH — 8/6/15 — Fox News/ Facebook/Ohio Republican Party	Governor Walker, many in the Black Lives Matter movement, and beyond, believe that overly-aggressive police officers targeting young African Americans is the civil rights issue of our time. Do you agree? And if so, how do you plan to address it? And if not, why not?	Megyn Kelly	Walker
1B (Top Ten)— Cleveland, OH — 8/6/15 — Fox News/ Facebook/Ohio Republican Party	Candidates, you may not have seen the late developing news today our Fox Pentagon team broke earlier this evening about a top Iranian general traveling to Moscow to meet with Russian President Vladimir Putin. His name is General Qassem Soleimani, he's blamed for hundreds of U.S. troops death in Iraq, and Afghanistan. His trip to Russia appears to directly violate U.N. Security Council resolutions to confine him to Iran. So, Mr. Trump, if you were president, how would you respond to this?	Bret Baier	Trump

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1B (Top Ten)— Cleveland, OH — 8/6/15 — Fox News/ Facebook/Ohio Republican Party	Another new development today, Senior Defense officials tell Fox they strongly suspect Russia was behind the cyber attack on the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs office email. This comes in the wake of the Director of National Intelligence blaming the Chinese for the largest ever cyber attack, stealing personal data of tens of millions of Americans. Senator Cruz, in your view, have Russia and China committed of cyber war, and if you were president, what would you do about it?	Bret Baier	Cruz
1B (Top Ten)— Cleveland, OH — 8/6/15 — Fox News/ Facebook/Ohio Republican Party	Dr. Carson, in August of 2012 President Obama famously declared Syrian President Bashar al-Assad used chemical weapons, quote, "that's a redline for us," and that there would be enormous consequences. One year later, and with overwhelming evidence the Assad had, in fact, used chemical weapons and crossed that red line, President Obama declined to use military force against the Assad regime. As president, would you have used military force there?	Bret Baier	Carson
1B (Top Ten)— Cleveland, OH — 8/6/15 — Fox News/ Facebook/Ohio Republican Party	Governor Walker, as president, what would you do if Russian President Vladimir Putin started a campaign to destabilize NATO allies Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, mirroring the actions Putin took at the early days of Ukraine?	Bret Baier	Walker
1B (Top Ten)— Cleveland, OH — 8/6/15 — Fox News/ Facebook/Ohio Republican Party	Governor Huckabee, the culture of the American military is definitely changing. Women are moving into combat roles. Don't Ask, Don't Tell has obviously been dropped. And now Defense Secretary Ashton Carter recently directed the military to prepare for a moment when it is welcoming transgender persons to serve openly. As commander in chief, how would you handle that?	Bret Baier	Huckabee
1B (Top Ten)— Cleveland, OH — 8/6/15 — Fox News/ Facebook/Ohio Republican Party	Senator Paul, the first budget your proposed as senator cut all financial aid to Israel. You have since changed your view on that issue. What made you change your mind?...Governor Christie, what do you think of that answer?	Bret Baier	Paul, Christie
1B (Top Ten)— Cleveland, OH — 8/6/15 — Fox News/ Facebook/Ohio Republican Party	I want to know if any of them have received a word from God on what they should do and take care of first.	Voter	Cruz, Kasich, Walker, Rubio
1B (Top Ten)— Cleveland, OH — 8/6/15 — Fox News/ Facebook/Ohio Republican Party	What about the veterans? I want to hear more about what these candidates are going to do for our nation's veterans.	Megyn Kelly	Rubio

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1B (Top Ten)— Cleveland, OH — 8/6/15 — Fox News/ Facebook/Ohio Republican Party	One of the issues that the public was very interested in, and we touched on it earlier, is race relations in this country, and how divided we seem right now. And what, if anything, you would do as the next president to help heal that divide.	Megyn Kelly	Carson
2A (Bottom Four) — Simi Valley, CA — 9/16/15 — CNN/Salem Radio Network	You have said that the front runner, Donald Trump, is a, quote, “unstable, narcissistic, ego maniac.” Now, we are in the house of Reagan, who made famous the so-called 11th Commandment, “Thou shalt not speak ill of thy fellow Republican.” What drove you to violate that unofficial commandment?	Jake Tapper	Jindal
2A (Bottom Four) — Simi Valley, CA — 9/16/15 — CNN/Salem Radio Network	Senator Santorum, do you think Governor Jindal is wrong for attacking your party’s front runner?	Jake Tapper	Santorum
2A (Bottom Four) — Simi Valley, CA — 9/16/15 — CNN/Salem Radio Network	Senator Graham, you have called Donald Trump a, quote, “wrecking ball for the Republican party.” Voters in your home state of South Carolina, in a recent poll, prefer Donald Trump 30 percent to your 4 percent. How do you explain why so many of your constituents would rather have Donald Trump as the Republican nominee than you?	Jake Tapper	Graham
2A (Bottom Four) — Simi Valley, CA — 9/16/15 — CNN/Salem Radio Network	Governor, you signed the pledge to support the Republican nominee and you promptly broke it. By doing so, by Tweeting out that you would not support Donald Trump, have you released Donald Trump to be a free agent again or anyone else in the field?	Hugh Hewitt	Pataki
2A (Bottom Four) — Simi Valley, CA — 9/16/15 — CNN/Salem Radio Network	Senator Graham, in this election season, do Republican voters see your service in government as a liability and not an asset?	Jake Tapper	Graham
2A (Bottom Four) — Simi Valley, CA — 9/16/15 — CNN/Salem Radio Network	Senator Santorum, Governor Jindal has supported a pathway to citizenship for undocumented immigrants once the border is secure. Why do you disagree with that?	Dana Bash	Santorum, Jindal
2A (Bottom Four) — Simi Valley, CA — 9/16/15 — CNN/Salem Radio Network	Senator Graham wants to end the policy of birthright citizenship. Governor Pataki, you support keeping it. Tell him why he’s wrong...Why do you think Governor Pataki is wrong?	Jake Tapper	Pataki, Graham

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2A (Bottom Four) — Simi Valley, CA — 9/16/15 — CNN/Salem Radio Network	Senator Graham says that the United States has a moral obligation to these Syrian refugees. Governor Jindal, does the United States have any obligation to them?...Senator Graham, your response when it comes to Syrian refugees?	Jake Tapper	Jindal, Graham
2A (Bottom Four) — Simi Valley, CA — 9/16/15 — CNN/Salem Radio Network	Senator Graham, you mentioned this earlier; you are calling for an additional 20,000 U.S. ground forces to fight ISIS in Iraq and Syria and you have said — again, just this evening — that anyone who's not willing to do that should not be commander in chief...So are you saying, for Iraq and Syria, are you saying that everybody to your right is not fit for the Oval Office?	Dana Bash	Graham
2A (Bottom Four) — Simi Valley, CA — 9/16/15 — CNN/Salem Radio Network	You're committing to this number of troops, both in Iraq and on the ground in Syria?	Dana Bash	Santorum, Jindal
2A (Bottom Four) — Simi Valley, CA — 9/16/15 — CNN/Salem Radio Network	Governor Jindal, throughout your campaign, you've spoken many times about Muslim extremists in this country. How would you, as president, strike a balance between vigilance and discrimination?...Senator Graham? Governor Pataki?	Jake Tapper	Jindal, Graham, Pataki
2A (Bottom Four) — Simi Valley, CA — 9/16/15 — CNN/Salem Radio Network	Governor Pataki said he would have fired Kim Davis, the Kentucky clerk jailed for refusing to issue same-sex marriage licenses. Senator Santorum, do you agree with Governor Pataki?...Governor Pataki, your response?...Senator Graham, do you want to weigh in?	Jake Tapper	Santorum, Pataki, Graham
2A (Bottom Four) — Simi Valley, CA — 9/16/15 — CNN/Salem Radio Network	Governor Jindal, both Senators Graham and Santorum voted to confirm chief justice of the United States, John Roberts, who has led with the majority twice to uphold ObamaCare. Do you think that Graham's and Santorum's votes to confirm John Roberts were a mistake?...Senator Graham [and Santorum], do you stand by your vote for John Roberts?	Jake Tapper	Jindal, Graham, Santorum
2A (Bottom Four) — Simi Valley, CA — 9/16/15 — CNN/Salem Radio Network	Senator Graham has praised Secretary of State Clinton as a great choice to be the secretary of state, as a national treasure. Can anyone from inside of Washington win this election cycle, having praised Secretary of State Clinton that way?	Hugh Hewitt	Jindal, Graham
2A (Bottom Four) — Simi Valley, CA — 9/16/15 — CNN/Salem Radio Network	Jeb Bush and Donald Trump are both proposing raising taxes on hedge fund managers who pay at a lower rate. Governor Pataki, you were the governor of New York, home of Wall Street. Do you agree that hedge fund managers need to be paying a higher rate?...Governor Jindal, that's three Republicans running for president who support hedge fund managers paying a higher rate. Are you the fourth?	Hugh Hewitt	Pataki, Jindal
2A (Bottom Four) — Simi Valley, CA — 9/16/15 — CNN/Salem Radio Network	Jeb Bush has proposed a tax reform plan, and in it, he limits deductions, including the popular home mortgage deduction. Would you do the same as president?	Dana Bash	Santorum, Pataki

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2A (Bottom Four) — Simi Valley, CA — 9/16/15 — CNN/Salem Radio Network	Senator Santorum is the only person on the stage who has proposed increasing the federal minimum wage. How would that affect South Carolinians? Do you agree with Senator Santorum that the federal minimum wage should be increased?	Jake Tapper	Graham, Santorum
2A (Bottom Four) — Simi Valley, CA — 9/16/15 — CNN/Salem Radio Network	Senator Graham, would you authorize, as president, a strike against Iran's nuclear facilities?	Jake Tapper	Graham
2A (Bottom Four) — Simi Valley, CA — 9/16/15 — CNN/Salem Radio Network	I want to quote Rick Santorum, "We should send a very clear message that if you are a scientist and you're going to work on a nuclear program to develop a bomb for Iran, you are not safe." Does that message work? Is anything that works on the table?...Senator Santorum, stay on that: any means necessary?	Hugh Hewitt	Pataki, Santorum
2A (Bottom Four) — Simi Valley, CA — 9/16/15 — CNN/Salem Radio Network	Your front-runner, Donald Trump, says he can do details with President Putin, that the two of them will get along, quote, "very well." Why would your confrontational approach work better than Mr. Trump's negotiation?...Governor Jindal, how would President Jindal get the Russians out of Syria?	Jake Tapper	Graham, Jindal
2A (Bottom Four) — Simi Valley, CA — 9/16/15 — CNN/Salem Radio Network	What is the one thing as a candidate that you offer that no one at the next debate can offer?	Jake Tapper	Pataki, Santorum, Jindal, Graham
2B (Top Eleven) — Simi Valley, CA — 9/16/15 — CNN/Salem Radio Network	You've dismissed him as an entertainer. Would you feel comfortable with Donald Trump's finger on the nuclear codes?...Mr. Trump?	Jake Tapper	Fiorina, Trump
2B (Top Eleven) — Simi Valley, CA — 9/16/15 — CNN/Salem Radio Network	Senator Paul, your name has been invoked [regarding whether Paul belongs on stage.]	Jake Tapper	Paul
2B (Top Eleven) — Simi Valley, CA — 9/16/15 — CNN/Salem Radio Network	Tell Governor Bush why you are a serious candidate and what your qualifications are to be commander-in-chief.	Jake Tapper	Trump
2B (Top Eleven) — Simi Valley, CA — 9/16/15 — CNN/Salem Radio Network	Governor Bush, would you feel comfortable with Donald Trump's finger on the nuclear codes?	Jake Tapper	Bush

Debate Number — Location — Date — Sponsor(s)	Question	Asker	To Whom (or to whom it was directed by moderator)
2B (Top Eleven) — Simi Valley, CA — 9/16/15 — CNN/Salem Radio Network	Dr. Carson said campaigning is easier for him, because he's not a politician. He can just tell the truth, therefore, while politicians, quote, "Have their finger in the air to see and do what is politically expedient." Governor Christie, tell Dr. Carson, is that a fair description of you?...Dr. Carson, who were you thinking about on this stage when you said that?	Jake Tapper	Christie, Carson
2B (Top Eleven) — Simi Valley, CA — 9/16/15 — CNN/Salem Radio Network	Mr. Trump has repeatedly said that the \$100 million you've raised for your campaign makes you a puppet for your donors. Are you?...[To Trump] Is there anything else you want to say about this?	Jake Tapper	Bush, Trump
2B (Top Eleven) — Simi Valley, CA — 9/16/15 — CNN/Salem Radio Network	Mr. Trump, you say you can do business with President Vladimir Putin, you say you will get along, quote, "very well." What would you do right now if you were president, to get the Russians out of Syria?...Why would President Rubio's approach be more effective than President Trump's?...I want to bring in Carly Fiorina.	Jake Tapper	Trump, Rubio, Fiorina
2B (Top Eleven) — Simi Valley, CA — 9/16/15 — CNN/Salem Radio Network	Senator Cruz, Governor Kasich says that anyone who is promising to rip up the Iran deal on day one, as you have promised to do, is, quote, "inexperienced," and, quote, "playing to a crowd." Respond to Governor Kasich, please...Did Senator Cruz just play to the crowd?	Jake Tapper	Cruz, Kasich
2B (Top Eleven) — Simi Valley, CA — 9/16/15 — CNN/Salem Radio Network	Senator Paul, the White House is rolling out the red carpet next week for the President of China, President Xi. Governor Walker says that President Obama should cancel the state dinner because of China's currency manipulation, and because of China's alleged cyber attacks against the United States. Is Governor Walker right?...Governor Bush, your father was the chief diplomatic envoy to China back when Nixon opened relations to China. Is Scott Walker's approach the right one, canceling the state dinner?	Jake Tapper	Paul, Walker, Bush
2B (Top Eleven) — Simi Valley, CA — 9/16/15 — CNN/Salem Radio Network	Mr. Trump, two years ago, President Obama drew a red line that the Syrian dictator Bashar Assad crossed, President Obama threatened to strike. He did not, his knees buckled. We now have 4 million refugees, Syria is a living hell, and he turned to the Congress for the authority to back him up. You have three senators to your right that said, no. Do they bear responsibility for this refugee crisis, and what would you have done when Bashar Assad crossed the line?... Senator Rubio?...Senator Paul?	Hugh Hewitt	Trump, Rubio, Paul
2B (Top Eleven) — Simi Valley, CA — 9/16/15 — CNN/Salem Radio Network	Governor Bush, for example, says that that clerk is sworn to uphold the law. Is Governor Bush on the wrong side of the criminalization of Christianity?	Jake Tapper	Huckabee, Bush
2B (Top Eleven) — Simi Valley, CA — 9/16/15 — CNN/Salem Radio Network	Governor Kasich, Senator Cruz is so committed to stripping federal funds from Planned Parenthood that it could result in shutting down the federal government in just about two weeks. Do you agree with Senator Cruz's tactic? ...Senator Cruz, I would just add that, on this stage not that long ago, Senator Graham said that this tactic that you're pushing would tank the Republicans' ability to win in 2016...Yes or no, do you support this shutdown?	Dana Bash	Kasich, Cruz

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2B (Top Eleven) — Simi Valley, CA — 9/16/15 — CNN/Salem Radio Network	Governor Bush, you recently said while discussing Planned Parenthood, quote, you're "not sure we need a half billion for women's health issues." Now you've since said that you misspoke, you didn't mean to say "women's health issues." But Donald Trump said that quote, that comment, which Hillary Clinton did seize upon immediately, will haunt you the same way Mitt Romney's 47 percent video haunted him. Tell Donald Trump why he's wrong...You said that that's going to haunt him. Why do you think that?	Jake Tapper	Bush, Trump
2B (Top Eleven) — Simi Valley, CA — 9/16/15 — CNN/Salem Radio Network	In an interview last week in Rolling Stone magazine, Donald Trump said the following about you. Quote, "Look at that face. Would anyone vote for that? Can you imagine that, the face of our next president?" Mr. Trump later said he was talking about your persona, not your appearance. Please feel free to respond what you think about his persona.	Jake Tapper	Fiorina
2B (Top Eleven) — Simi Valley, CA — 9/16/15 — CNN/Salem Radio Network	Mr. Trump, you have called for deporting every undocumented immigrant, Governor Christie has said, quote, "There are not enough law enforcement officers -- local, county, state and federal combined -- to forcibly deport 11 to 12 million people." Tell Governor Christie how much your plan will cost, and how you will get it done...Tell him why you're skeptical of his plans?...He said, quote, "People who say that have no idea what this entails." Why do you say that, Dr. Carson?	Jake Tapper	Trump, Christie, Carson
2B (Top Eleven) — Simi Valley, CA — 9/16/15 — CNN/Salem Radio Network	Governor Bush, Mr. Trump has suggested that your views on immigration are influenced by your Mexican born wife. He said that, quote, "If my wife were from Mexico, I think I would have a soft spot for people from Mexico." Did Mr. Trump go to far in invoking your wife?...Mr. Trump?	Dana Bash	Bush, Trump
2B (Top Eleven) — Simi Valley, CA — 9/16/15 — CNN/Salem Radio Network	On that note, you have criticized Governor Bush for speaking Spanish on the campaign trail. You said, quote, "He should really set an example by speaking English in the United States." What's wrong with speaking Spanish?	Dana Bash	Trump, Bush, Rubio
2B (Top Eleven) — Simi Valley, CA — 9/16/15 — CNN/Salem Radio Network	Dr. Carson proposed giving these undocumented immigrants a six- month grace period to pay back taxes then to let them become guest workers and only to deport people who failed to do that...Senator Cruz, does that fit your definition of amnesty?...I know he has said it about your plan in the past, so I want to give you [Rubio] a chance to respond, then, Dr. Carson, we'll come to you.	Jake Tapper	Cruz, Carson, Rubio
2B (Top Eleven) — Simi Valley, CA — 9/16/15 — CNN/Salem Radio Network	Mr. Trump, you say that babies born in the United States to undocumented immigrants should not any longer get automatic American citizenship. Ms. Fiorina says that you are pandering on this issue and acting like the politicians that you rail against. What's your message to Ms. Fiorina on birthright citizenship?...Senator Paul, where do you stand on the issue of birthright citizenship?	Jake Tapper	Trump, Fiorina, Paul
2B (Top Eleven) — Simi Valley, CA — 9/16/15 — CNN/Salem Radio Network	Ms. Fiorina, you were CEO of Hewlett Packard. Donald Trump says you, quote, "ran HP into the ground," you laid off tens of thousands of people, you got viciously fired. For voters looking to somebody with private-sector experience to create American jobs, why should they pick you and not Donald Trump?... Mr. Trump, why would you be better at creating jobs than Carly Fiorina?	Jake Tapper	Fiorina, Trump

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2B (Top Eleven) — Simi Valley, CA — 9/16/15 — CNN/Salem Radio Network	Donald Trump says that the hedge fund guys are getting away with murder by paying a lower tax rate. He wants to raise the taxes of hedge fund managers, as does Governor Bush. Do you agree?	Jake Tapper	Kasich, Huckabee
2B (Top Eleven) — Simi Valley, CA — 9/16/15 — CNN/Salem Radio Network	Donald Trump believes in progressive taxation. He says it's not right that rich people pay the same as the poor. Tell Donald Trump why his ideas on taxes are wrong...What do you think of the flat tax? Do you think it's fair?...Senator Paul?	Jake Tapper	Carson, Trump, Paul
2B (Top Eleven) — Simi Valley, CA — 9/16/15 — CNN/Salem Radio Network	Dr. Carson wants to raise the federal minimum wage, you have called it a lame idea. Why is raising the federal minimum wage lame?	Jake Tapper	Walker, Carson
2B (Top Eleven) — Simi Valley, CA — 9/16/15 — CNN/Salem Radio Network	Governor Kasich, you've been on my show a lot. You refused to attack Hillary Clinton, you just don't want to go there, you want to do the up with people. Go, Ohio, OK, and I like that. Carly Fiorina, I don't have to bring up the Secretary of State -- you bring her up. Which one of you is wrong?	Hugh Hewitt	Kasich, Fiorina, Christie
2B (Top Eleven) — Simi Valley, CA — 9/16/15 — CNN/Salem Radio Network	Mr. Trump, Senator Rubio said it was, quote, "very concerning to him" that in a recent interview you didn't seem to know the details about some of the enemies the U.S. faces. Rubio said, if you don't know the answers to those questions, you will not be able to serve as commander-in-chief. Please respond to Senator Rubio...Are you saying that you have the knowledge to be the president that Mr. Trump does not have?	Jake Tapper	Trump, Rubio
2B (Top Eleven) — Simi Valley, CA — 9/16/15 — CNN/Salem Radio Network	What kind of a commander in chief is Jeb Bush going to be, and who are the advisers that are new to your team?	Hugh Hewitt	Bush
2B (Top Eleven) — Simi Valley, CA — 9/16/15 — CNN/Salem Radio Network	When are we going to get some names on your military and your foreign policy advisers?	Hugh Hewitt	Trump
2B (Top Eleven) — Simi Valley, CA — 9/16/15 — CNN/Salem Radio Network	Governor Christie, we just marked the 14th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks. Now Dr. Carson has said that if he had been president at the time, the United States would not have gone to war in Afghanistan. What does that say to you about how Dr. Carson would respond as president if America were attacked again?	Jake Tapper	Christie, Carson, Rubio, Huckabee

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2B (Top Eleven) — Simi Valley, CA — 9/16/15 — CNN/Salem Radio Network	Governor Walker, you say, you just told me a few days ago that the 3,000 U.S. troops there right now are enough, as long as the rules of engagement are changed. What do you know that Senator Graham doesn't know?	Jake Tapper	Walker
2B (Top Eleven) — Simi Valley, CA — 9/16/15 — CNN/Salem Radio Network	We just learned today that despite the Obama administration spending \$500 million to help create those Arab boots, there are only four or five U.S. trained fighters in Syria fighting ISIS. What does that say to you about the effectiveness of the idea of the boots on the ground need to be Arab boots?	Jake Tapper	Paul
2B (Top Eleven) — Simi Valley, CA — 9/16/15 — CNN/Salem Radio Network	After Chief Justice John Roberts voted to uphold Obamacare twice, Senator Cruz criticized your brother for appointing John Roberts to the Supreme Court. Looking back on it, did your brother make a mistake?	Dana Bash	Bush, Cruz
2B (Top Eleven) — Simi Valley, CA — 9/16/15 — CNN/Salem Radio Network	Will you have a litmus test when it comes to appointing Supreme Court nominees?	Jake Tapper	Huckabee
2B (Top Eleven) — Simi Valley, CA — 9/16/15 — CNN/Salem Radio Network	Governor Christie recently said, quote, "if you're getting high in Colorado today," where marijuana has been legalized, "enjoy it until January 2017, because I will enforce the federal laws against marijuana." Will you?	Jake Tapper	Paul, Bush, Christie, Fiorina
2B (Top Eleven) — Simi Valley, CA — 9/16/15 — CNN/Salem Radio Network	Last week, you said the next step in gun issues is to make sure they're not in the hands of mentally ill. In this state, there's a controversial law that allows guns to be taken away from people without a hearing. Where does it go -- and the problem of violence is endemic, but where does it go from what you said last week, how far into people's lives to take guns away from them?...Are you afraid of the next- step theory of what happens to Second Amendment rights?	Hugh Hewitt	Bush, Rubio, Cruz
2B (Top Eleven) — Simi Valley, CA — 9/16/15 — CNN/Salem Radio Network	Chris Christie says billionaires like you and even people who make and earn far less should no longer get Social Security, or at least there should be limits based on -- on their income. Do you think he's wrong, and if so, why?	Dana Bash	Trump, Christie
2B (Top Eleven) — Simi Valley, CA — 9/16/15 — CNN/Salem Radio Network	Ronald Reagan urged skeptics in industry to come up with a plan. He said, do it as an insurance policy in case the scientists are right. The scientists were right; Reagan and his approach worked. Secretary Shultz asks, why not take out an insurance policy and approach climate change the Reagan way?	Jake Tapper	Rubio
2B (Top Eleven) — Simi Valley, CA — 9/16/15 — CNN/Salem Radio Network	What do you make of skeptics of climate change such as Senator Rubio?	Jake Tapper	Christie

Debate Number — Location — Date — Sponsor(s)	Question	Asker	To Whom (or to whom it was directed by moderator)
2B (Top Eleven) — Simi Valley, CA — 9/16/15 — CNN/Salem Radio Network	Donald Trump has publicly and repeatedly linked vaccines, childhood vaccines, to autism, which, as you know, the medical community adamantly disputes. You're a pediatric neurosurgeon. Should Mr. Trump stop saying this?	Jake Tapper	Carson, Trump, Paul, Huckabee
2B (Top Eleven) — Simi Valley, CA — 9/16/15 — CNN/Salem Radio Network	Earlier this year, the Treasury Department announced that a woman will appear on the \$10 bill. What woman would you like to see on the \$10 bill?	Jake Tapper	Paul, Huckabee, Rubio, Cruz, Carson, Trump, Bush, Walker, Fiorina, Kasich, Christie
2B (Top Eleven) — Simi Valley, CA — 9/16/15 — CNN/Salem Radio Network	What would you want your Secret Service codename to be?	Jake Tapper	Paul, Huckabee, Rubio, Cruz, Carson, Trump, Bush, Walker, Fiorina, Kasich, Christie
2B (Top Eleven) — Simi Valley, CA — 9/16/15 — CNN/Salem Radio Network	How will the world look different once your Air Force One is parked in the hangar of your presidential library?	Jake Tapper	Paul, Huckabee, Rubio, Cruz, Carson, Trump, Bush, Walker, Fiorina, Kasich, Christie