



## **A Conservative Who Can Win Big Battles: Scott Walker Preps Terrain for 2016 Run with Iowa Speech**

**By Kevin Boyd**

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Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker spoke today at the Iowa Freedom Summit. According to the Daily Caller, at the event he portrayed himself as a conservative who has won tough fights:

The Wisconsin governor is expected to use Saturday's speech as an opportunity to introduce himself to Iowa's voters and try to gin up excitement about a possible presidential campaign. He will likely tout the conservative reforms he has signed into law while governor, including his fights with public sector unions and Planned Parenthood over the state budget.

Walker has not officially announced whether he will seek the presidency, but is sending signals that he's serious about running. (He has said he won't make a decision about a presidential campaign until after the budget process in Wisconsin, which means an announcement probably won't come until sometime early this summer.)

Among Walker's accomplishments as governor, other than enacting a bill restricting teacher's unions, was enacting over \$2 billion in tax cuts, earning a "B" from the CATO Institute on fiscal policy, and cutting Wisconsin's unemployment rate. However, Walker will be open to a challenge from more conservative candidates on issues such as immigration and Common Core.

Walker should appeal to those who are looking for executive experience, which is common criticism of Senators Marco Rubio, Ted Cruz, Rand Paul, and Doctor Ben Carson.

Walker's ability to win elections in a swing-state like Wisconsin should give him some credibility with the establishment and provide an alternative to Mitt Romney and Jeb Bush.

Walker's record should win him at least a hearing with conservative voters, while maintaining him as a possible option for moderates and independents. Finally, as a Midwestern governor, Walker should have a geographical advantage that makes it easier for him to connect with Iowa voters than Jeb Bush, Mitt Romney, Mike Huckabee, Rand Paul, and Chris Christie.

As Byron York wrote today in the Washington Examiner, Walker's political victories will cut him some slack with Iowa voters. Only time will tell if he can build on them in any campaign for the White House.