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Pawlenty to Pursue GOP Nomination

Former Minnesota Gov. **Tim Pawlenty** will formally announce his bid for the Republican presidential nomination on Monday in Iowa, according to an aide.



Tim Pawlenty speaks to local residents during a breakfast meeting at a Pizza Ranch restaurant May 3, in Ames, Iowa. (AP Photo/Charlie Neibergall)

Mr. Pawlenty has been actively campaigning for the nomination ever since he announced plans back in March to launch an exploratory bid. He has already built a robust campaign operation with a large footprint in Iowa, the first-in-the-nation caucus state.

Despite jumping into the race earlier than most of his rivals for the nomination, the former Minnesota governor continues to lag in early polling.

Mr. Pawlenty's wife, **Mary**, will introduce him to a crowd of Iowa voters in Des Moines late Monday morning. He will follow up the announcement with a trip to Florida, another of the early primary states, for a town hall meeting on Facebook and then meet with

reporters at the Cato Institute, a citadel of small-government conservatism, in Washington, D.C., on Wednesday.

The former Minnesota governor has made repeated trips to Iowa and New Hampshire and was one of only five candidates to participate in the Republicans' first debate of the election cycle earlier this month in South Carolina. He has also been active on the fund-raising circuit, meeting with wealthy donors all across the country and hosting another big event in Minneapolis earlier this week.

Presidential announcements were once accompanied by large crowds and lots of fanfare. But campaigns increasingly string out the process by first announcing an exploratory bid followed by a formal campaign kick-off. With his announcement Monday, Mr. Pawlenty will embark on the formal phase of his campaign, which is more of a legal distinction than a stylistic one.

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