

MISSOURIAN

A Folksy Candidate

May 9, 2015

The entry of Mike Huckabee into the race for the nomination of president on the Republican ticket adds a folksy flavor to the contest. He was governor of Arkansas for 10 years and this is his second try for the nomination.

He's a likeable candidate and will promote his "I'm for the little guy and gal" campaign message. Huckabee wants to associate himself with working-class Americans. Because of his record of being an advocate of big government and taxes, some conservative groups are poised to attack him and will point out that he has a "D" rating from the conservative Cato Institute. He did agree to some tax cuts when he was governor.

In 2008, Huckabee did win the Iowa caucuses, but two months later he knew he couldn't win and dropped out of the race. In the meantime, he has moved out of the middle class and into the wealth class due to his performances on Fox News and a syndicated radio show. He has published a number of books and is a social conservative. He opposes abortion and same-sex marriage.

As governor, he generally had centrist positions in getting along rather well with a legislature that was controlled by Democrats.

Make no mistake, he has a following, but we doubt if it is strong enough to make him a viable candidate. Early on though, he will give the contest an interesting bent, and he spells trouble for some of the other candidates in early primaries.