



Former New York GOP Gov. George Pataki announces 2016 run

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The latest Republican candidate for President is a former governor who's pro-choice and supports gun control — George Pataki.

The former three-term New York governor launched his bid for the White House on Thursday, heading to Exeter, N.H., to announce his long-shot run for the 2016 nomination.

“It is to preserve and protect that freedom for future generations that I rise. It is to preserve and protect that freedom that I am announcing I am a candidate for the Republican nomination for President of the United States,” Pataki said.

Pataki is the eighth Republican to declare a bid for the nomination and is seen as among the more moderate members of the jammed GOP field.

But he has barely registered in national surveys, coming in far behind top-tier contenders such as former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker, and Florida Sen. Marco Rubio.

Ken Sherrill, of Hunter College, said Pataki's run for the presidency “seems like an ego trip to me.”

Given the crowded field and the battles for early voting states, “He's not going to raise huge amounts of money.

“He isn't a stellar public speaker or charismatic in any sense, and has little hope of running the kind of ground game that would give him a real shot at the nomination,” said Sherrill.

In his Exeter address, Pataki, 69, sounded familiar GOP-friendly themes, promising to reform the tax system, dump the Common Core educational standards, and ban former members of Congress from working as lobbyists.

He wasted little time in going after his fellow New Yorker and presidential aspirant, Democrat Hillary Clinton.

“Let’s let every Washington politician know: From now on, you will live under the same rules and laws we do, no exemptions for politicians from laws they impose on us, no special rules for the powerful,” Pataki said, striking the populist note that serves as the undercurrent of his pitch.

Not impressed: New Hampshire Democratic Party Chairman Raymond Buckley, who snarked in a statement, “Today in Exeter, another Republican joins the clown car of candidates running for President.

Critics have said Pataki’s time in office was a somewhat sleepy era marked by mushrooming state spending — a 67% increase between fiscal years 1997 and 2007, according to the Cato Institute — and a failure to build a strong Republican Party at home.