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The Arena

Can Paul Babeu weather the storm?

Feb. 24, 2012

Arena Ref: David Mark

David Boaz :

This is not a test of whether an openly gay Republican can win a primary.

A Republican who's forced out of the closet by a scandal involving possible blackmail and threats of deportation, and a relationship with a Mexican when he's appealing to anti-immigration voters, is hardly a poster boy for gay Republicans. So if he does win, then yes, it will demonstrate that being gay doesn't kill your chances with Republican voters. But if he loses, it probably reflects all the other baggage, not just hostility to gay candidates.