

# Seating Chair

## Rubio, Paul clash over military spending Seating Chair

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The Fox Business Network/Wall Street Journal debate - the fourth on the calendar - in turn served to show deep variations inside the still-crowded field.

And all Carly Fiorina and Kasich are doing is campaigning for the warm bucket of (spit) that is the vice presidency. Ted Cruz got lots of speaking time, while rule-followers like Jeb Bush and Ben Carson did not. What he's particularly robust on is foreign policy and fiscal issues regarding taxes and budgets.

Nevertheless, it was Sen. Rubio thinks strengthening the United States military is sometimes more important than cutting spending. However, the most embarrassing moment for Trump in the entire debate was when Rand Paul corrected Trump on China's role in the TPP; it doesn't actually have one. Florida Senator Marco Rubio was his usual polished and slick self. The showdown between Rand Paul and fellow colleague Marco Rubio was an exiting dialogue over taxes, spending and what policies count as "conservative", says The Washington Post. The Fox Business moderators were so relieved that they didn't have to point that out, they practically thanked Paul.

But for all of the wrong and bad things the candidates said during the debate, the most obviously wrong assertion came from (who else?) Donald Trump, who continued to insist that the Trans-Pacific Partnership is bad not because it will destroy collective bargaining rights across the globe and grant corporations additional super-national powers, but rather because the Chinese ate our lunch in the negotiating process.

The politician who most agrees with Trump and Paul on foreign policy is Barack Obama.

Paul said he thinks the federal government should "hold the line" on all spending, and that includes defense. I'm not saying it's a good thing, but you better know at least what we're getting into. You think it is expensive to defend America: try not defending it. We're all the children of people who risked everything for freedom. I am not happy about them flying over there. Where Vladimir Putin - "basically an organized crime figure that runs a country", in the sophisticated

geopolitical patois of Marco Rubio - is running rampant and will only stop when we start blowing his warplanes out of the Syrian skies.

For all his fervor, Paul's approach is unlikely to make much of a dent in this election with an American public alarmed by the rise of the Islamic State and by the general chaos in the Middle East. "We have to win the presidency".

Gabe Lanz, a former U.S. Army soldier from Des Moines who fought in Iraq and Afghanistan, and one of the veterans supporting Paul's candidacy, said he supports Paul's position of limited intervention. John Kasich made his presence felt, even if sometimes a little too aggressively. That was uttered by Donald Trump which was a huge surprise despite his call on stronger military presence.

I know that Rand is a "committed isolationist", Rubio pointedly said to his GOP opponent.

Paul is struggling nationally, but has high hopes for Minnesota because it was one of the strongest states for his father Ron Paul's 2012 bid. They do pay. It is refundable, not just against the taxes they pay to the government, but also the - on their federal income tax, it's refundable against the payroll tax. The libertarian Cato Institute looks at that split and argues that "candidates leaning in a more libertarian direction will likely be benefited at the polls".

"And how, Tom!" I thought to myself as I digested the reaction to last night's debate. Cruz, meanwhile, did a fine job appealing to immigration ultras and anti-Fed cranks on the right - not that anyone should be impressed.