



## Join the Debate

May. 18, 2010

### Driving the Conversation:

**Arena Ref:** [Fred Barbash](#)

## A Paulist Congress?

If Kentucky Republican Rand Paul makes it to the Senate will he be able to work with home state colleague Mitch McConnell, the Senate GOP leader?

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### David Boaz

Executive VP, Cato Institute :

Rand Paul's landslide victory in Kentucky over a likable-enough, establishment-backed candidate is a big loss for the neoconservatives and big-government Republicans who tried hard to stop him. As Jonathan Martin reported in POLITICO in March, Vice President Cheney's circle were desperately warning conservatives and Republicans about "Rand Paul's troubling and dangerous views on foreign policy." Cheney issued his first 2010 endorsement to Trey Grayson a week later. David Frum and other defenders of the Bush-Cheney foreign policy piled on. Mitch McConnell pulled out all the stops. Grayson ran an ad featuring the clash between Giuliani and Ron Paul over the causes of 9/11, and Rudy endorsed Grayson. And Rand Paul appears to be beating Grayson by 25 points. That's a real poke in the eye to the Republican establishment and the neocons in the Cheney orbit.

The Wilsonian conservatives desperately want to stifle any real debate on perpetual intervention within the Republican party. That's why they tried so hard to stop a Republican Senate candidate who questioned the war in Iraq and the surge in Afghanistan. But that debate may yet break out.

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Date</b>
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