



The Note

[« Previous](#) | [Main](#)

## Tim Pawlenty To Officially Jump Into 2012 Presidential Campaign On Monday In Iowa

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ABC News' Michael Falcone ([@michaelpfalcone](#)) reports:

Former Minnesota Gov. Tim Pawlenty, who [announced a presidential exploratory committee](#) in March, will officially launch his presidential campaign at a town hall meeting in Iowa on Monday.

Pawlenty, who is making a big push in the crucial early nominating state, will kick off his bid for the Republican presidential nomination at the State of Iowa Historical Building in Des Moines. He will be introduced by his wife, Mary.

Prior to his event in Des Moines, Pawlenty will also appear on all three major television network morning shows, including ABC's "Good Morning America," and he is expected to say that he is running for president.

His choice of the Iowa as the venue for this announcement speaks volumes about his strategy heading into the primary season. Pawlenty's team is hoping to use a strong showing in Caucuses there to sling-shot him to nomination.

As part of his three-day presidential roll-out, Pawlenty will travel to Florida on Tuesday for a Facebook Town Hall meeting and he will speak to reporters at The Biltmore hotel in Coral Gables.

Then on Wednesday, Pawlenty will head to Washington, DC and hold a press availability outside the libertarian-leaning Cato Institute think tank.

The trip represents a second bite at the media apple for Pawlenty, who is considered by GOP insiders as a top contender for their party's presidential nomination, but has a lot of work to do to increase his name recognition nationally.

In the most recent ABC News-Washington Post poll, Pawlenty's registered just 1 percent support among GOP primary voters -- behind other better-known candidates like former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney, who has also launched an exploratory committee, former House Speaker Newt Gingrich, who is an official presidential candidate, and Sarah Palin, who has not yet announced her 2012 plans.