

## A TV star, Trump the say-anything candidate

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Donald Trump has been telling people for nearly three decades that he is what they really need in the White House — a business-hardened deal-maker in chief.

Now that he is running for president, Trump gets to say it Thursday night from center stage and in prime time as the top-polling candidate in the first Republican presidential debate of the 2016 campaign.

A guide to the say-anything candidate.

### Trump is 'really rich'

Most everyone knows Trump is, as he puts it, "really rich."

Politicians tend to play down the wealth that separates them from most in the United States. Trump, on the other hand, has long been accused of inflating his figures — and even the size of his debt when he nearly went bust in the 1990s — for dramatic effect.

"A little hyperbole never hurts," Trump wrote in his 1987 book, "The Art of the Deal." "People want to believe that something is the biggest and the greatest and the most spectacular."

Trump says he is worth about \$10 billion. The wealth-trackers at Forbes magazine say \$4 billion. The Bloomberg Billionaires Index puts him at \$2.9 billion.

Much of the difference stems from disagreement over the value Trump assigns to his famous name. He emblazons across skyscrapers, resorts and golf courses, but also leases it out to brand other people's properties and products. Trump says his name alone is worth more than \$3 billion.

Based on the imprecise financial disclosures required of federal candidates, it's safe to say Trump is a billionaire, and far wealthier than the last Republican nominee, Mitt Romney, or year's Democratic front-runner, Hillary Rodham Clinton.

Trump says that unlike the other candidates, he will not be beholden to campaign donors. "I don't need anybody's money. I'm using my own money."

### Building the family business

Trump's father got him started in real estate. "I learned so much just sitting at his feet playing with blocks listening to him negotiate with subcontractors," Trump said in June as he announced he was running for president.

Fred C. Trump built and owned thousands of rental apartments and townhouses in the New York City boroughs of Brooklyn and Queens. The family estimated his worth at between \$250 million and \$300 million when he died in 1999.

A natural showman, Donald Trump says he was drawn to the glamour of a movie-making career as a young man. But he decided going into the family business would be smarter.

He worked for his father while earning an economics degree at the University of Pennsylvania. By the time he graduated college in 1968, Trump says he was worth about \$200,000 — more than \$1 million in today's dollars.

Trump, 69, says he ignored his father's advice by venturing into the big leagues of Manhattan real estate, where he made his fortune. He remembers telling his father: "I gotta build those big buildings. I gotta do it, Dad."

### Trump at home

"The Donald" of splashy 1980s and 1990s tabloid fame is a grandpa now. He has had two highly publicized divorces, three wives, five children and seven grandchildren.

The Trump brood: —three grown children — Donald Jr., Ivanka and Eric — from his first marriage, to

Ivanka Trump. All are married and working as executives in their father's business. Donald Jr. has five children; Ivanka has two.

—college-age daughter Tiffany, born to second wife Marla Maples, is an aspiring singer who has followed her father's footsteps to the University of Pennsylvania.

—his youngest child, 9-year-old Barron, is the son of Trump's current wife, Melania.

"I think I'm a nice person. Does my family like me? I think so," Trump said at his campaign announcement.

### Past runs for president

Trump flirted with the idea of running for president as far back as 1987, when a New Hampshire Republican activist started a "draft Trump" campaign.

Trump did not run, but gave a teaser speech previewing the pitch he still uses today — that virtually all U.S. politicians are incompetent and only he, as a master negotiator, can outfox foreign leaders. It's a theme he often has come back to.

"Our leaders are stupid. They're stupid people. It's just very, very sad," Trump said in a profanity-laced speech at a Las Vegas casino, hinting at a 2012 presidential run that did not happen.

Ahead of the 2000 election, Trump took it up a notch with a political book, "The America We Deserve," laying out a mix of liberal and conservative views: He called for universal health care, supported abortion rights with some restrictions and endorsed tougher criminal sentences and the death penalty.

He briefly pursued the nomination of the Reform Party, created by billionaire Ross Perot, but backed out, blaming the rickety third party's infighting.

Trump has mused publicly about joining every presidential race since, and floated the idea of running for governor of New York.

He acted like he meant it in 2011, unleashing a new, more-conservative political book, bashing President Barack Obama's health care law, questioning whether Obama was born in the U.S., and giving countless speeches and interviews.

But that May, Trump announced that while months of unofficial campaigning had convinced him that he could win the White House, his heart was in his business, including hosting the reality TV show "Celebrity Apprentice."

### Cost to celebrity

In a Republican field with many senators and governors, only Trump can boast a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. His celebrity status — cultivated for years as billionaire-about-town, author of get-rich-like-me books, and star of his two "Apprentice" shows — has helped him leap to the front of primary polls.

Forays into politics are usually good for promoting one's personal brand. But this time Trump has taken some financial hits.

His remarks characterizing Mexicans crossing into the U.S. illegally as criminals, drug dealers and rapists sparked an angry backlash, prompting NBC to drop its broadcasts of the Miss Universe and Miss USA beauty pageants, which were a joint venture between the TV network and the billionaire.

Spanish-language network Univision refused to broadcast Miss USA. OraTV, a company backed by Mexican billionaire Carlos Slim, said it was ending a project under development with Trump.

The PGA moved its Grand Slam of Golf out of Trump's Los Angeles golf course. Macy's stopped selling Trump-branded shirts and ties. Serta dumped a Trump mattress.



Stephen B. Morton/AP Photo

Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump speaks in Bluffton, S.C., in July.

## Republicans take a crowded stage in opening debate of campaign

### Trump and Bush in, Fiorina and Perry out of first GOP debate

By STEVE PEOPLES  
Associated Press

CLEVELAND — Ten candidates have made the cut for the first Republican presidential debate Thursday, with polling front-runner Donald Trump hoping for a civil evening but ready to pounce if attacked.

The seven others lagging in the polls and relegated to an afternoon forum? Call them the not-ready-for-prime-time players, at least in the eyes of debate organizers.

Sharing the Cleveland stage with the billionaire businessman will be former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker, Texas Sen. Ted Cruz, Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul, Florida Sen. Marco Rubio, retired neurosurgeon Ben Carson, former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee, New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie and Ohio Gov. John Kasich.

Candidates with time to watch that debate are former tech executive Carly Fiorina, former Texas Gov. Rick Perry, Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal, South Carolina Sen. Lindsey Graham, former Pennsylvania Sen. Rick Santorum, former New York Gov. George Pataki and former Virginia Gov. Jim Gilmore.

The largest field of contenders in modern memory challenged debate organizers. Fox News relied on an average of five national polls to decide the lineups for the prime-time debate and the forum four hours earlier.

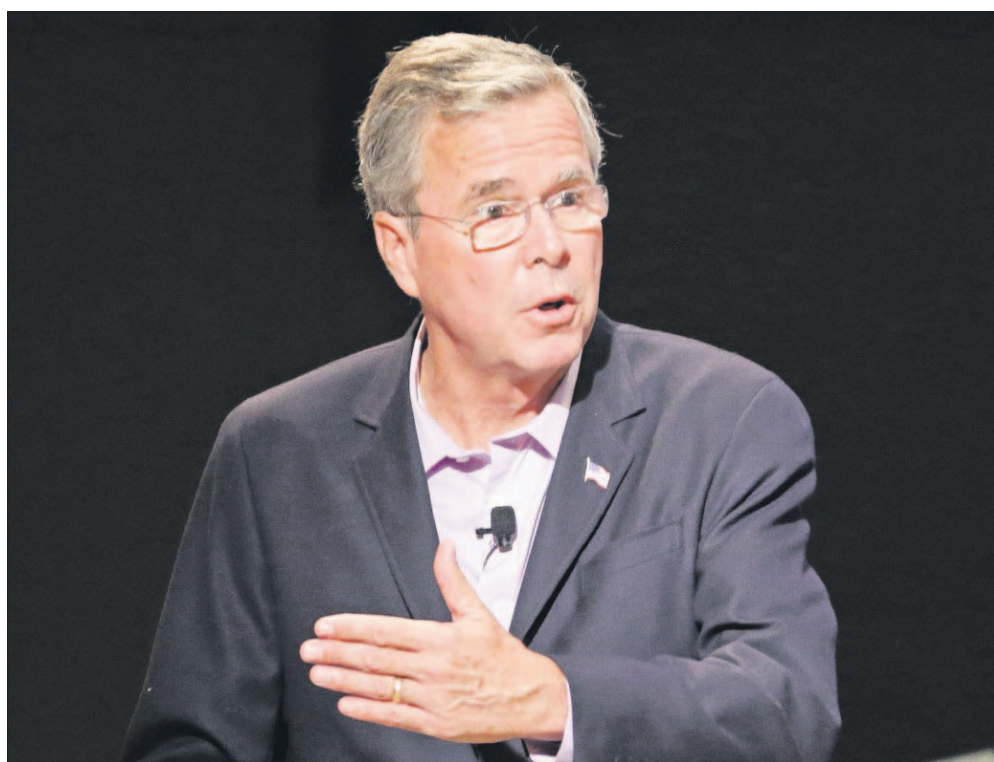
"We never ever envisioned we'd have 17 major candidates," said Steve Duprey, New Hampshire's representative to the Republican National Committee who helped craft the debate plan. "There's no perfect solution."

### Trump's surge a surprise

Republican officials were particularly concerned about Fiorina's status, hoping she would help balance Democratic front-runner Hillary Rodham Clinton's push to rally women. Trump's recent surge in the polls, a surprise to many Republican officials, damaged Fiorina's chances.

Some Republicans fear that Trump's rhetoric on immigration and other issues could hurt the party.

"I probably am the target," he said Wednesday on ABC's "Good Morning America." He said he did not want to attack any of his rivals and preferred to "just



John Raoux/AP Photo

Republican presidential candidate, former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush speaks in Orlando, Fla., in July.



Denis Poroy/AP Photo

Republican presidential candidate, Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker speaks in San Diego in July.



Andrew Harnik/AP Photo

Bob Kunst of Miami Beach, Fla., wears a Hillary Rodham Clinton mask and holds an anti-Hillary poster outside the Quicken Loans Arena in Cleveland Wednesday.

discuss the issues" in the course of a "very civil" debate. Still, he made clear that if attacked, he would have "to do something back."

Trump was far and away the front-runner in the five most recent national polls that determined the debate lineup. Several candidates were grouped together in the single digits, most separated by a number smaller than the margin of error.

For example, in a Monmouth University survey released Monday, Kasich was the 10th candidate with

the support of 3.2 percent of voters. But after taking the margin of error into account, Monmouth noted that Kasich's support could be as low as 1.5 percent, while almost any of the candidates who polled lower could be that high or higher.

Five more party-sanctioned debates are scheduled before primary voting begins in February.

### One opportunity among many

"This first debate is just one opportunity of many,"

Amy Frederick, an aide to Fiorina, wrote supporters. "With many more debates to come, we fully expect that Carly will soon stand on the stage and show America what real leadership looks like."

Jindal spokeswoman Shannon Dirmann issued a challenge of sorts: "The governor will debate anyone anywhere at any time."

Candidates already began to turn their attention toward Trump.

Asked about Trump while courting religious conservatives on Tuesday, Bush said the businessman's rhetoric on immigrants is "wrong." "We have a different tone and a different view," he said.

"I respect the fact that he's the front-runner for the Republican nomination," Bush continued. "This is a serious thing. But I think to win and govern the right way — we have to unite rather than divide."

AP News Survey Specialist Emily Swanson in Washington and Associated Press writer Eric Schelzig in Nashville contributed to this report.