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PLANS MOVE FORWARD FOR THE MARCH 19TH OREGON REPUBLICAN PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE

PORTLAND, OR – Despite the news that Governor Mitt Romney has declined to participate in the Oregon Presidential Primary Debate, the Oregon Republican Party announced today that it is prepared to move forward with the debate between the three remaining candidates: Rick Santorum, Newt Gingrich and Ron Paul.

Gingrich has accepted the invitation. Organizers are awaiting final confirmation from the Santorum and Paul campaigns.

The Oregon Republican Party believes that the timing and the format of this debate will provide valuable insight to the American public.

“By now voters know a little about each of the candidates,” says ORP Chairman Allen Alley. “We want to give American voters an opportunity to hear more in-depth, thoughtful answers from the candidates about where they stand on critical issues facing our nation.”

PBS and NPR will air the debate live, broadcasting it throughout the country on public television and radio stations. Video of the debate will stream live on pbs.org and npr.org. In addition, the live feed will be made available to Armed Forces Radio and TV, Voice of America and the PBS UK Channel. The debate will be closed captioned in English and in Spanish and a Spanish language translation will broadcast on a secondary audio channel.

PBS NewsHour’s Senior Correspondent Ray Suarez and The Washington Times Chief Political Correspondent Ralph Z. Hallow will moderate the 90-minute debate, which will take place in OPB’s studio at 6:00 p.m. (PDT) on Monday March 19th.

Chairman Alley is available for additional comments and interviews. Please contact the Oregon Republican Party at (503) 595-8881.

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