



## **One of Sen. Blanche Lincoln's challengers drops out of the race**

**By Sara Wyant**

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Arkansas, Dec. 19. Citing health reasons, Former Arkansas Farm Bureau President Stanley Reed is dropping out of the GOP primary race for the right to challenge Senate Agriculture Committee Chairwoman Blanche Lincoln (D-AR) in 2010. The announcement came about one week over after announcing his bid.

David Sanders, Reed's campaign manager, told the Associated Press that the former chairman of the University of Arkansas Board of Trustees decided to drop out of the race after Reed discovered a health problem related to his blood pressure. Sanders called the condition serious, but not life threatening.

Reed's entrance into the race added excitement to the crowded GOP primary field, but also some level of frustration for the Arkansas farm community, which has largely rallied around Lincoln. Even Reed had been a past supporter of Lincoln, giving money to her campaign as recently as earlier this year---contributions that have already raised the ire of some likely Republican challengers.

Seven other candidates remain in the GOP primary race. Sen. Lincoln continues to trail in her bid for re-election against four of the possible Republican challengers, according to the most recent Rasmussen Reports Election 2010 survey. Her support ranges from only 39% to 41% in these matchups against state Sen. Kim Hendren, Arkansas GOP Chairman Gilbert Baker, business Curtis Coleman and tea party activist Tom Cox.

However, a Daily Kos/Research 2000 survey, which was conducted Nov. 30-Dec. 2, has Lincoln tied or ahead of all four GOP challengers.

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