

Sunday January 22, 2012

With South Carolina Victory, Gingrich Rides Adelson Money Train Against Obama

by James M. Wall



Newt Gingrich is the current holder of the Republican crown. On Saturday, he defeated his closet rival, Mitt Romney in the South Carolina Republican primary.

The race for an opponent to run against incumbent President Barack Obama has suddenly narrowed to two candidates, a former House Speaker, and a former Governor.

Romney, a wealthy Mormon (as we will see when he releases his IRS return), finished second in South Carolina, a state with a Mormon population of less than one per cent (.08%), while Gingrich, a former Southern Baptist now a Catholic, won the primary in a predominantly conservative Protestant state.

The early South Carolina primary was pivotal for Gingrich and a major setback for Romney. After losing in Iowa and New Hampshire, Gingrich appeared on his way out of politics. He was a distant second in polls the week before the South Carolina voting. Republican big money was lining up behind Romney.

Money dried up for Gingrich. It certainly did not help that he is a candidate who carries some of the heaviest political baggage this country has seen in these quadrennial shifts in American political power, three wives, admitted infidelities, two divorces, and an ethics charge that led to disciplinary action during his time as House speaker.

Gingrich was not giving up. He turned for help from one of the richest men in America, Sheldon Adelson, a billionaire casino owner and Mr. Gingrich's longtime friend and patron. The two men share a politically conservative ideology and a deep loyalty to Israel.

[\(To continue reading and for advance word the President's Tuesday night State of the Union address, click here.\)](#)