



## Craig Pled Guilty To Lewd Conduct

August 28, 2007

Yesterday afternoon, on its website, [Roll Call](#) broke the news that conservative Republican Sen. Larry Craig was arrested in June at Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport by a police officer investigating "lewd conduct complaints in a men's public restroom." On August 8 Craig pled guilty to misdemeanor disorderly conduct in the Hennepin County District Court. Craig "paid more than \$500 in fines and fees, and a 10-day jail sentence was stayed. He also was given one year of probation with the court that began on Aug. 8." Roll Call noted that during an interview with the airport police Craig "handed the plainclothes sergeant who arrested him a business card that identified him as a US Senator and said, 'What do you think about that?'" The [AP](#) reports that the airport police said a copy of the police report will be available today. Back in DC, according to [McClatchy](#), Craig didn't tell anyone on his staff or any of his Senate colleagues about the incident.

All three network news broadcasts cited the Roll Call article in brief reports. [Fox News' Special Report](#) quoted a Craig spokesman who said "it was a 'he said/he said misunderstanding.'" The [Washington Post](#) reports Craig issued a statement "confirming his arrest and guilty plea," but "maintained that he had not engaged in any 'inappropriate conduct' and that the airport police misunderstood his behavior." Craig's statement read: "At the time of this incident, I complained to the police that they were misconstruing my actions. I was not involved in any inappropriate conduct. ... I should have had the advice of counsel in resolving this matter. In hindsight, I should not have pled guilty. I was trying to handle this matter myself quickly and expeditiously." [The Hill](#) has a brief report on its rival's big scoop.

**The [Los Angeles Times](#) reports that the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force "issued a statement calling attention to Craig's support for a constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriage and his opposition to legislation that would expand the federal hate crime law to cover violent acts based on a victim's sex, sexual orientation, sexual identity or disability."** According to the [New York Times](#), Craig "is married and has three children," and "is known for his advocacy for the rights of gun owners and has a close association with the National Rifle Association."

The [Idaho Statesman](#), in an editorial posted to its website last night, summed up what appears to be the prevailing sentiment about the Craig story: "If Craig's actions in the restroom were misconstrued and he was not involved in any inappropriate conduct, as he said in a statement Monday, then why did he plead guilty? ... On the surface, it seems implausible that any educated professional - much less an elected official - would face criminal proceedings without hiring an attorney."

The [Washington Post](#) reports that in 2006, gay activist Mike Rogers, who runs the Web site BlogActive.com, announced that he had spoken with men "who had sexual encounters with Craig, including in the restrooms at Union Station." Craig's office dismissed the allegations as "completely ridiculous." [The Politico](#)'s Jonathan Martin notes that "rumors of Craig's

homosexuality didn't just pop up last year. Then-Rep. Larry Craig went on network news in 1982 to deny rumors involving cocaine and sex with male pages."

The [Washington Post](#) is also reporting that yesterday Craig resigned as Idaho chairman of Mitt Romney's presidential campaign.