

Sandoval doesn't fit stereotypical Republican

By Karoun Demirjian, Las Vegas Sun

TAMPA – When Brian Sandoval spoke to the Republican National Convention, he used his personal American story to make a pitch for the country to vote for Mitt Romney.

But it's what he didn't say about himself that may have been his loudest message at the convention.



Brian Sandoval

Sandoval is in many ways the Republicans' best answer to the two voting blocs where the Democrats feel they have the upper hand on the issues: women and Hispanics.

Democrats have long been charging that Republicans aren't sympathetic to Hispanic voters because of the party's opposition to immigration reforms like the Dream Act, a measure that would put undocumented immigrants with long tenure in this country on a pathway to citizenship.

They've also charged Republicans with waging a "war on women" over reproductive rights, a claim that was punctuated 10 days ago when Republican Rep. Todd Akin, who is running for the Senate in Missouri, questioned the necessity of abortion because he believed women were hard-wired to "shut that whole thing down" and avoid pregnancy in the case of rape.

Republican leaders cut off Akin's campaign funding and publicly called for him to drop out of the race after his statements but still have sustained hits from Democrats who accuse the GOP of sharing the bulk of Akin's views, even if they condemn his comment.

Enter Sandoval, the pro-choice Republican.

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