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— News From The States —

COUNTDOWN '24

By **Robin Opsahl**, [Iowa Capital Dispatch](#)

Former President Donald Trump holds a strong lead in the [latest Des Moines Register/NBC News/Mediacom Iowa Poll](#) published Monday morning. What you need to know:

- 42% of likely Iowa Republican caucusgoers say they plan to support Trump for the 2024 GOP presidential nomination.
- Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis trails the former president by 23 percentage points, with 19% of Republican caucusgoers planning to support him.
- Trump's lead grew following [his Georgia indictment](#). The poll, conducted from Aug. 13-17, found Trump leading DeSantis 38% to 20% in the days before the indictment. In the days after, Trump led DeSantis 43% to 18%.
- U.S. Sen. Tim Scott held third place with 9% of likely caucusgoers' support. Former U.N. Ambassador Nikki Haley and former Vice President Mike Pence tied at 6%, former New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie polled at 5% and entrepreneur Vivek Ramaswamy at 4% in the poll.
- Overall, 52% of likely GOP caucusgoers polled who have a first choice for president said they could still be persuaded to support a different candidate. But 66% of those who said Trump was their top pick said their mind was made up, and could not be persuaded to support another candidate.

Read more on the big takeaways in a [column from Kathie Obradovich](#), editor in chief of the Iowa Capital Dispatch.

TOP IMPACT *What to read this week*

Fulton prosecution of Trump, allies reason ‘why the RICO statute was invented’



(Photo by Ross Williams/Georgia Recorder)

The high-profile 2020 election interference case presented by Fulton County District Attorney Fani Willis against former President Donald Trump and his 18 allies presents a unique set of challenges, according to prosecution and election experts.

Georgia's RICO Act (Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations) is being used in the investigation of the former president and his inner circle for alleged 2020 election interference, which is modeled after a federal law designed to target mafia leaders and other conspirators suspected of committing crimes. | [Georgia Recorder](#)

As ranked choice voting gains momentum, parties in power push back



(Photo by Otto Kitsinger/Idaho Capital Sun)

From conservative Utah to liberal New York City, 13 million American voters in 51 jurisdictions — including all of Alaska and Maine — now use ranked choice voting, a system under which voters rank candidates based on preference, leading to an instant runoff in a crowded race.

This year, Democrats and Republicans in power pushed back. Arguing that ranked choice voting is too complicated for voters to understand, Democrats in the District of Columbia and Republicans in states such as Idaho, Montana and South Dakota took steps to prevent adoption of the voting system. | [Stateline](#)

BIG PICTURE *Election coverage across the country*



(Photo by Robin Opsahl/Iowa Capital Dispatch)

- Presidential candidates wrap up state fair political events | [Iowa Capital Dispatch](#)
- GOP presidential candidates Hutchinson, Binkley and Scott campaign at state fair | [Iowa Capital Dispatch](#)
- Kellyanne Conway, in Norfolk, preaches GOP unity at state party gathering | [Nebraska Examiner](#)
- My Pillow conspiracy theorist plans drone surveillance of Louisiana voting sites, report says | [Louisiana Illuminator](#)

Republican primary debate

- How Many Republicans Have Qualified for the Debate? It's Still Unclear. | [The New York Times](#)
- Trump says he will skip GOP presidential primary debates | [Associated Press](#)
- Biden campaign plans first big push - skewer the Republican debate | [Reuters](#)

Trump indictment

- Pence defends Georgia election after Trump indictment, announces states' rights plan | [Indiana Capital Chronicle](#)
- 2024 Republican candidates weigh in on Trump's Georgia indictments | [Iowa Capital Dispatch](#)
- Georgia Republicans' mixed reaction to Trump indictment reflects rift in party's politics | [Georgia Recorder](#)
- Trump indictment underscores election security risk for 2024 | [Politico](#)

Voting

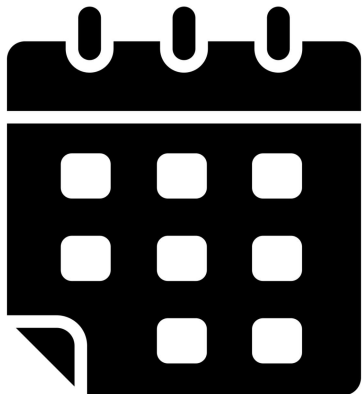
- Rulebook for Arizona's 2024 elections faces criticism from multiple sides | [Arizona Mirror](#)
- DePerno present for 'tests' on voting machines, court documents say | [Michigan Advance](#)
- Massive bill tightening NC voting laws moves toward adoption | [NC Newslite](#)
- Abused and stalked, US election workers are bracing for 2024 | [BBC](#)

- **Nebraska GOP stops short of curbing power of groups of women, young people** | [Nebraska Examiner](#)
- **Nevada GOP takes state to Supreme Court to block primary** | [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#)
- **Idahoans for Open Primaries to begin ballot initiative signature drive Saturday** | [Idaho Capital Sun](#)

Redistricting

- **Proposed Ohio constitutional amendment seeks to end gerrymandering after legislature defied courts** | [Ohio Capital Journal](#)
- **At second Alabama redistricting hearing, parties seem focused on the first** | [Alabama Reflector](#)

COMING UP *Calendar of events*



- **Aug. 23, 2023, 8 p.m. CST/9 p.m. EST, MILWAUKEE** | First Republican presidential primary debate.
- **Aug. 28, 2023, 6 p.m., SOUTH CAROLINA** | DeSantis and Scott plan to speak at [U.S. Rep. Jeff Duncan's Faith & Freedom BBQ](#) in Anderson, SC.
- **Sept. 5, 2023, GEORGIA** | The date Fulton County District Attorney Fani Willis has asked to schedule the arraignments for defendants in the 2020 election interference case, including Trump.

Follow state-level coverage of Election 2024 anytime at [News From The States](#). Send tips and thoughts to ropsahl@iowacapitaldispatch.com, and follow them on Twitter [@robinlopsahl](#)

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