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News From The States

COUNTDOWN '24

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

It's been a busy week on the 2024 campaign trail, with candidates headed to the Iowa State Fair to mingle with caucus goers, meet with Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds and grill pork chops in the lead-up to the 2024 Iowa caucuses.

Some highlights:

- Entrepreneur Vivek Ramaswamy [rapped along to "Lose Yourself" by Eminem](#), which he said was his favorite campaign walkout song.
- Former Vice President Mike Pence was [met with cheers, heckling and questions](#) from fairgoers about his decision to certify the 2020 election results.
- Candidates like Larry Elder and Miami Mayor Francis Suarez [asked fairgoers for help](#) meeting the donation and polling requirements to get on the Republican debate stage in Milwaukee Aug. 23.
- While much of the focus was on Republican presidential candidates, Democrats Marianne Williamson and Robert F. Kennedy Jr., who are running against President Joe Biden for the 2024 Democratic presidential nomination, also [made fair appearances Saturday](#).

TOP IMPACT *What to read this week*

[Trump, DeSantis and more 2024 candidates pack Iowa State Fair](#)



(Photo by Brandon Bell/Getty Images)

The Republican frontrunners in the 2024 presidential race — former President Donald Trump and Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis — competed for attention Saturday on the packed Iowa State Fairgrounds along with a handful of other candidates.

For Iowans like Patty Joliet of West Des Moines, the Iowa State Fair is an opportunity to hear from a wide variety of candidates in person as they weigh options leading up to the Iowa caucuses in 2024. Joliet said she enjoyed hearing from candidates at Reynolds' "fair-side chats" series, and planned to spend her Saturday afternoon hearing from both Republican and Democratic 2024 hopefuls at the Des Moines Register Political Soapbox. | [Iowa Capital Dispatch](#)

[Trump a rallying cry, minefield for 2024 Senate, House candidates in Nevada](#)



(Photo by Josh Edelson/Getty Images)

As the field for Nevada’s GOP Senate primary grows, candidates are again being forced to reckon with Donald Trump as a campaign issue, with some candidates leaning into their support of the thrice indicted former president and others attempting to keep their distance without angering their party’s primary voters.

Across the aisle, Democratic groups are hoping to capitalize on the Republican infighting. But the vulnerable candidates — including incumbent Sen. Jacky Rosen — appear to be similarly concerned about potential fallout if they vocally criticize Trump and thus far are opting to stay silent on the former president’s third indictment. | [Nevada Current](#)

BIG PICTURE *Election coverage across the country*



(Scott Eisen/Getty Images)

- As Trump visits New Hampshire, supporters cheer an ally on 'parental rights' | [New Hampshire Bulletin](#)
- Fulton indictment in 2020 Georgia election probe could increase polarization going into 2024 | [Georgia Recorder](#)
- The Trump indictments: a seven-year timeline of key developments | [News from the States](#)
- Endorsed by Trump, Jeff Landry won't say whether Trump tried to undermine the 2020 election | [Louisiana Illuminator](#)

Candidates

- Ron DeSantis and his backers paid \$95,000 to an Iowa religious leader's group | [Reuters](#)
- Tim Scott becomes fourth GOP presidential candidate to sign RNC's 'Beat Biden' pledge | [Fox News](#)
- Republican 2024 Candidates Cast Doubt on Hunter Biden Special Counsel | [New York Times](#)
- Trump speech brought in \$1.2 million, says Alabama Republican Party | [Alabama Reflector](#)
- RFK Jr. says he'd sign a federal abortion ban at 3 months of pregnancy, then reverses course | [NBC News](#)

Elections

- Idaho AG Raúl Labrador provides new ballot titles for open primary initiative | [Idaho Capital Sun](#)
- NC elections board certifies the No Labels Party despite questions about its link to a dark money group | [NC Newsline](#)
- Sewell, Congressional Black Caucus: Alabama congressional map defies U.S. Supreme Court | [Alabama Reflector](#)

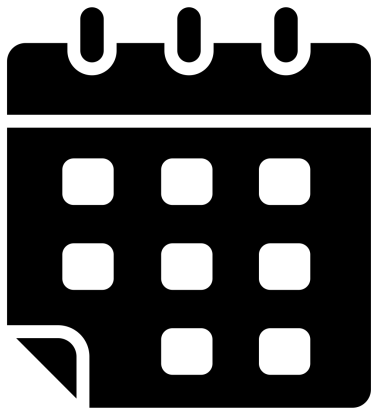
Ballot initiatives

- Campaign launches to give Arizonans a constitutional right to abortion access | [Arizona Mirror](#)
- Mostly silent on Issue 1, Ohio Gov. DeWine now gears up for debate over abortion rights amendment | [Ohio Capital Journal](#)

Commentary

- Missouri general elections used to matter. Now primaries reign — and extremists have the edge | [Missouri Independent](#)
- ‘Never back down’ is a lousy way to lead | [Iowa Capital Dispatch](#)
- Editor’s Notebook: Stage directions | [New Hampshire Bulletin](#)

COMING UP *Calendar of events*



- **Aug. 10-20, 2023, DES MOINES** | The Iowa State Fair continues this week, with 2024 candidates holding events Aug. 15, 18 and 19.
- **Aug. 14, 2023, ATLANTA** | Georgia's Fulton County District Attorney Fani Willis, a Democrat, begins presenting the case against Trump for his alleged efforts to overturn the state's 2020 election results.
- **Aug. 23, 2023, MILWAUKEE** | First Republican presidential primary debate.

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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