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— News From The States —

COUNTDOWN '24

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

The trials of former President Donald Trump and 18 co-defendants are set to start in October in the Fulton County, Georgia case over racketeering charges for allegedly attempting to overturn 2020 presidential election results.

- Fulton County District Attorney Fani Willis requested moving up Trump's trial to Oct. 23, 2023, a move the former president opposed, [CNBC reported in August](#). The judge set the trial date for March 4, 2024.
- According to a Thursday court filing, Trump [voluntarily waived his right to an arraignment hearing](#) scheduled in which a judge was set to formally read the charges against the ex-president in open court.
- U.S. Sen. Tim Kaine, a Virginia Democrat, [suggested on ABC News Sunday](#) that the former president could be disqualified from running for president in 2024 under the 14th Amendment, that states no one who had "engaged in insurrection or rebellion against the same, or given aid or comfort to the enemies thereof" can be elected to the presidency.

TOP IMPACT *What to read this week*

[Federal court blocks Alabama's congressional map, orders new lines drawn](#)



(Stew Milne/Alabama Reflector)

A three-judge federal panel Tuesday ruled that a new Alabama congressional map failed to address Voting Rights Act violations and ordered a third party to draw new lines.

In a 217-page opinion, U.S. Circuit Judge Stanley Marcus and U.S. District Judges Anna Manasco and Terry Moorer sharply criticized the Alabama Legislature, writing that they were “deeply troubled” that lawmakers did not draw a map that gave Black voters in the state the chance to elect representatives of their choosing, as the judges ordered in a January 2022 ruling. | [Alabama Reflector](#)

[Not just Ohio: Biased language is the new tactic to thwart ballot measures](#)



(Graham Stokes/Ohio Capital Journal)

Abortion rights supporters filed a lawsuit last week against what they call “deceptive” ballot language produced by Ohio officials for the state’s closely-watched upcoming referendum on the issue. In recent weeks, officials in Missouri — where another abortion rights measure is at issue — and Idaho also have been accused in lawsuits of seeking to thwart citizen initiatives they oppose by using biased and negative ballot language to describe the issue to voters.

Direct democracy advocates see these language disputes as another tactic in the larger war on ballot initiatives playing out across the country. In all four of the states where controversies over ballot language have flared most prominently, Republican lawmakers have tried other tacks — so far unsuccessfully — to restrict ballot measures more broadly, from imposing more onerous signature requirements to raising the threshold for voter approval above a simple majority. | [News from the States](#)

BIG PICTURE *Election coverage across the country*



(Photo by Mark Makela/Getty Images)

- President Biden touts jobs and economy in Philadelphia on Labor Day | [Pennsylvania Capital-Star](#)
- Biden launches AZ ad highlighting high-tech jobs as part of national blitz | [Arizona Mirror](#)
- Biden biographer says it 'wouldn't be a total shock' if president drops out of 2024 race | [The Hill](#)

Candidates

- New Hampshire AG 'carefully reviewing' challenge to Trump on ballot | [New Hampshire Bulletin](#)
- Sen. Tim Scott says 15-week abortion ban could be winning 'compromise' | [Iowa Capital Dispatch](#)
- Miami Mayor Francis Suarez suspends presidential campaign | [Florida Phoenix](#)
- Standing down: Ramaswamy agrees to stop performing Eminem's work | [Politico](#)
- Gov. DeSantis loses first legal round over destruction of Black congressional district | [Florida Phoenix](#)

Voting

- Iowa attorney general appeals decision allowing non-English voting materials | [Iowa Capital Dispatch](#)
- NC Gov. Cooper to veto expansive GOP elections bill | [NC Newslines](#)
- Lawsuit arguing racial gerrymandering in Michigan's legislative districts to go to trial | [Michigan Advance](#)

Primaries

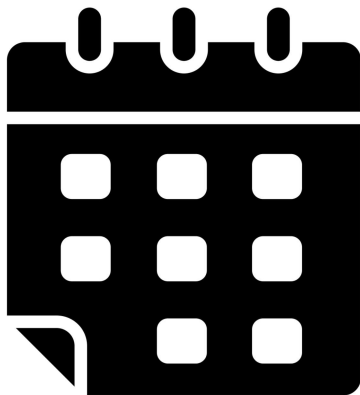
- Maricopa County GOP wants the cash-strapped AZGOP to fund a costly presidential primary | [Arizona Mirror](#)
- Lawmakers take step to give Pa. voters a bigger voice in presidential primaries | [Pennsylvania Capital-Star](#)
- Idaho legislators circulating petitions to call special session to address primary | [Idaho Capital Sun](#)

- [Puerto Rico and the 2024 Republican presidential primaries](#) | [CBS News](#)

Commentary

- [How did the US presidential campaign get to be so long?](#) | [Iowa Capital Dispatch](#)
- [As NC lawmakers push new election laws, here's how to make your voting experience run smoothly](#) | [NC Newsline](#)
- [Political accountability depends on participation in elections](#) | [Oklahoma Voice](#)

COMING UP *Calendar of events*



- **Sept. 30, 2023, COLORADO** | Colorado Republican Party votes on whether to opt out of open primary elections for non-presidential races.
- **Sept. 27, 2023, SIMI VALLEY, CALIFORNIA** | The second GOP presidential debate.
- **Oct. 23, 2023, FULTON COUNTY, GEORGIA** | The trial date set for Trump co-defendant Kenneth Chesebro.

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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