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News From The States

COUNTDOWN '24

By Kathie Obradovich, [Iowa Capital Dispatch](#)

Another one bites the dust: As the clock ticks rapidly toward the Jan. 15 Iowa caucuses and the start of the presidential nominating season, former President Trump still holds a commanding lead in early states and national polls. A theme of news coverage over the past week can be summarized as “going, going, gone.”

- **He Was Once a Favorite of the Right. Now, Mike Pence Can't Get a Crowd of 15 to a Pizza Ranch.** | [Politico](#)
- **Super PAC backing Tim Scott cancels fall TV ads as campaign struggles to gain traction** | [CNN](#)
- **Michigan businessman Perry Johnson suspends presidential campaign** | [Michigan Advance](#)

Meanwhile, there may be more candidates in the wings:

- **Minnesota Congressman Dean Phillips to announce run in 2024 presidential election** | [CBS News](#)

TOP IMPACT *What to read this week*

[Presidential candidates call for banning pro-Palestine protests, weigh in on House speaker race](#)



(Photo by Robin Opsahl/Iowa Capital Dispatch)

IOWA CITY, Iowa — Seven of the Republican presidential candidates swarmed the campaign trail in Iowa over the weekend, with most competing for the title of “Toughest on Hamas.”

The candidates who spoke Friday at a fundraiser for U.S. Rep. Mariannette Miller-Meeks, R-Iowa, uniformly blamed President Joe Biden for the violence in Israel and many also called for retaliation against college students who demonstrate in favor of Palestine. Vivek Ramaswamy was the only candidate to express discomfort with the idea of an Israeli ground invasion in the Gaza Strip. | [Iowa Capital Dispatch](#)

[Nikki Haley says she would support Israel, strengthen U.S. military as president](#)



(Photo by Robin Opsahl/Iowa Capital Dispatch)

CEDAR RAPIDS — Republican presidential candidate Nikki Haley said Friday that when she talked to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on the recent conflict with Hamas, she had one thing to tell him: “Finish them.”

Haley has emphasized her national security credentials on the campaign trail as a 2024 presidential candidate, speaking extensively on the need to combat China. In the wake of Hamas attacks on Israel, Haley told a crowd in Cedar Rapids Friday that the U.S. needs to pursue three goals when it comes to the Middle Eastern conflict. | [Iowa Capital Dispatch](#)

More tough talk on Israel from the Iowa campaign trail:

- [DeSantis calls for ‘care portal’ for veterans, criticizes media coverage of Gaza hospital explosion](#)
- [U.S. Sen. Tim Scott defends Israel’s actions in Gaza, calls for Biden to denounce progressives](#)

- [Presidential candidate Doug Burgum says he'd consider sending U.S. troops to Israel](#)
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BIG PICTURE *Election coverage across the country*

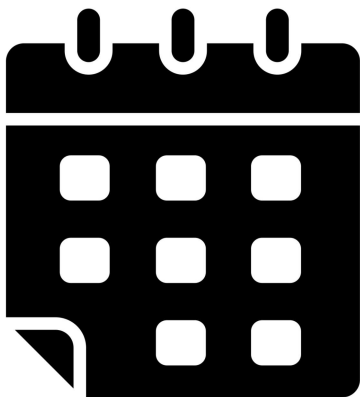


(Photo via Getty Images)

- **'Confusion and delay' bring unsuccessful end in bid to move Pennsylvania's presidential primary** | [Pennsylvania Capital-Star](#)
- **Third federal lawsuit filed over North Carolina's new voting law** | [NC Newsline](#)

- **Proposed constitutional amendment to protect abortion rights in Colorado earns ballot title** | [Colorado Newsline](#)
- **Democrats and members of the public criticize Republicans' 'Iowa-style' redistricting plan** | [Wisconsin Examiner](#)
- **Supreme Court ruling in Louisiana redistricting case creates uncertainty** | [Louisiana Illuminator](#)

COMING UP *Calendar of events*



- **OCT. 29, SIOUX CITY, IOWA** | Trump returns to the Iowa campaign trail.
 - **Nov. 7, ELECTION DAY** | Local and state races and ballot issues will face voters at polling places around the country.
 - **NOV. 8, MIAMI, FLORIDA** | [NBC News](#) will host the third Republican presidential debate.
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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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