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News From The States

COUNTDOWN '24

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

As the 2024 nominating cycle draws closer, the field of Republican presidential candidates is consolidating.

- Former Vice President Mike Pence [announced suspending his campaign](#) Saturday at the Republican Jewish Coalition Conference in Las Vegas, Nevada, asking GOP voters to choose a "Republican standard-bearer" in 2024.
- Larry Elder, conservative talk radio host and former California gubernatorial candidate, endorsed former President Donald Trump [as he exited the race Thursday](#), calling for the GOP to unite behind Trump to defeat President Joe Biden in the general election.
- Michigan businessman Perry Johnson [also endorsed Trump](#), three days after suspending his own presidential campaign while criticizing the Republican National Committee's rules for debate participation.

Republican presidential candidates will debate next in Miami, Florida on Nov. 8. North Dakota Gov. Doug Burgum and former Arkansas Gov. Asa Hutchinson have not yet met the polling or donor thresholds required by the RNC to participate.

Trump, who skipped the first two debates, will also not join the stage next week. Instead, Trump plans to host a rally in Hialeah, Florida.

TOP IMPACT *What to read this week*

[Trump's lead grows in new Iowa Poll as Haley catches up to](#)



(Photo by Scott Olson/Getty Images)

Trump's lead over his rivals for the 2024 Iowa caucuses grew in the Des Moines Register/NBC News/Mediacom Iowa Poll published Monday, while former U.N. Ambassador Nikki Haley rose to tie with Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis for second place.

The poll found 43% of likely Republican caucusgoers plan to choose Trump as their first choice in the caucuses, up from 42% in the August Iowa Poll. While DeSantis kept hold of his second place spot, his position as the leading alternative to the former president flagged between the two polls. From August to October, DeSantis fell from 19% to 16% of respondents who picked him as their first choice as Haley made a 10-percentage-point leap in the same category, matching DeSantis at 16% in the latest poll. | [Iowa Capital Dispatch](#)

As Biden skips New Hampshire primary, Democrats plan a write-in campaign anyway.



(Photo by Scott Olson/Getty Images)

If a voter writes “Biden” in the write-in portion of the New Hampshire Democratic Party presidential primary ballot this January, it will likely count as a vote for President Joe Biden, Secretary of State Dave Scanlan says.

But if a voter simply writes “Joe”? That depends on if there are any other Joes on the ballot, Scanlan said at a press conference. The questions could soon become important. Biden announced Tuesday that he would not be filing in New Hampshire’s first-in-the-nation presidential primary, pointing to the state’s refusal to agree to the Democratic National Committee’s request that it hold its primary later. | [New Hampshire Bulletin](#)

BIG PICTURE *Election coverage across the country*



(Photo by Robin Opsahl/Iowa Capital Dispatch)

- Tim Scott shifts campaign resources to Iowa as national momentum lags | [Iowa Capital Dispatch](#)
- GOP, Democrat strategists decry epidemic of distrust in politics, plead for new era of respect | [Kansas Reflector](#)
- Kelly and Joe Craft give the max to Trump's rivals in GOP field for president | [Kentucky Lantern](#)
- DeSantis, Haley spar over China and Gaza refugees in PAC campaign ads | [Iowa Capital Dispatch](#)

Candidates

- Trump goes after DeSantis, Haley in Sioux City while predicting a caucus win | [Iowa Capital Dispatch](#)
- Gov. Ron DeSantis says U.S. must stop China from imposing 'dystopian vision' on rest of the world | [Florida Phoenix](#)
- Dean Phillips launches bid for president. 'It could be the end of his political career.' | [Politico](#)
- Vivek Ramaswamy confronts Iowa Sen. Joni Ernst on Israel | [NBC News](#)
- Ron DeSantis calls for GOP presidential debate in Iowa | [Iowa Capital Dispatch](#)

Courts

- Ex-Trump attorney Jenna Ellis pleads guilty to felony in Fulton 2020 election case | [Georgia Recorder](#)
- Trump gag order back in effect in federal election interference case | [CBS News](#)
- Trump lashes out at New York judge for order requiring Ivanka to testify | [Politico](#)
- Trial in case seeking to bar Trump from Colorado ballot begins in Denver | [Colorado Newslane](#)
- Michigan judge declines Trump's request to toss lawsuit to remove him from ballot | [Michigan Advance](#)
- Oregon Supreme Court will hear lawsuit from Senate Republicans who walked out | [Oregon Capital Chronicle](#)

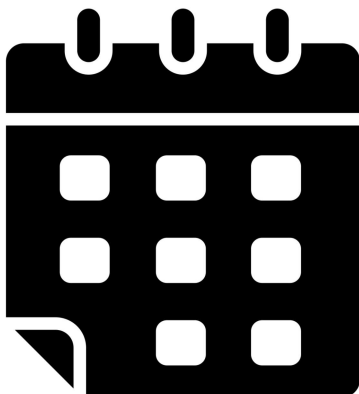
Voting

- Fixes may be coming for 4 of Arizona's election controversies prior to the presidential election | [Arizona Mirror](#)
- Pennsylvania voters' personal info was not shared with election research group, state officials say | [Pennsylvania Capital-Star](#)
- Do new NC election district maps treat Black voters fairly? (And, what is "Gingles"?) | [NC Newsline](#)
- Georgia special legislative session on tap for the holidays after judge tosses political maps | [Georgia Recorder](#)
- Duke political scientists Deondra Rose and Kerry Haynie: The impact of new state laws in 2024 | [NC Newsline](#)
- Youngkin responds to Trump early voting comments: 'every single vote matters' | [The Hill](#)

Commentary

- Politicians love to cite crime data. It's often wrong. | [Stateline](#)
- Backlash against voter suppression is changing politics in Wisconsin | [Wisconsin Examiner](#)
- Latest North Carolina GOP gerrymandering is emblematic of a broader decline in American politics | [NC Newsline](#)
- Oregon voter registration is up but not for the major parties | [Oregon Capital Chronicle](#)

COMING UP *Calendar of events*



- Nov. 8, 2023, MIAMI, FLORIDA | The [third GOP presidential debate](#).
- Nov. 8, 2023, HIALEAH, FLORIDA | Trump plans to [host a rally](#) 15 miles away from the presidential debate.
- Nov. 18, 2023, DES MOINES, IOWA | DeSantis and his wife will give the keynote speech at the [Pulse Pro-Life Christmas Gala](#), an event hosted by anti-abortion advocates.

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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1414 Raleigh Rd #127 | Chapel Hill, North Carolina 27517

info@newsfromthestates.com

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