

# News From The States

## COUNTDOWN '24

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

The field of Republican presidential hopefuls is consolidating as some Republicans seek to unify behind a single candidate who can rival former President Donald Trump, the clear frontrunner leading into the 2024 Republican nominating cycle.

- U.S. Sen. Tim Scott [dropped out of the race](#) Sunday night, saying that voters told him, "Not now, Tim."
- Former U.N. Ambassador Nikki Haley is hoping to overtake Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis as the top Trump alternative. Her campaign will reserve \$10 million in campaign advertising in Iowa and New Hampshire beginning in December, [the AP reported](#).
- The super PAC backing Trump [sent a memo to donors and supporters](#) saying that polling found the former president's lead would not be hurt if DeSantis won an endorsement from Bob Vander Plaats, a top Iowa evangelical leader.

**TOP IMPACT** *What to read this week*

## **Abortion-rights victories cement 2024 playbook while opponents scramble**

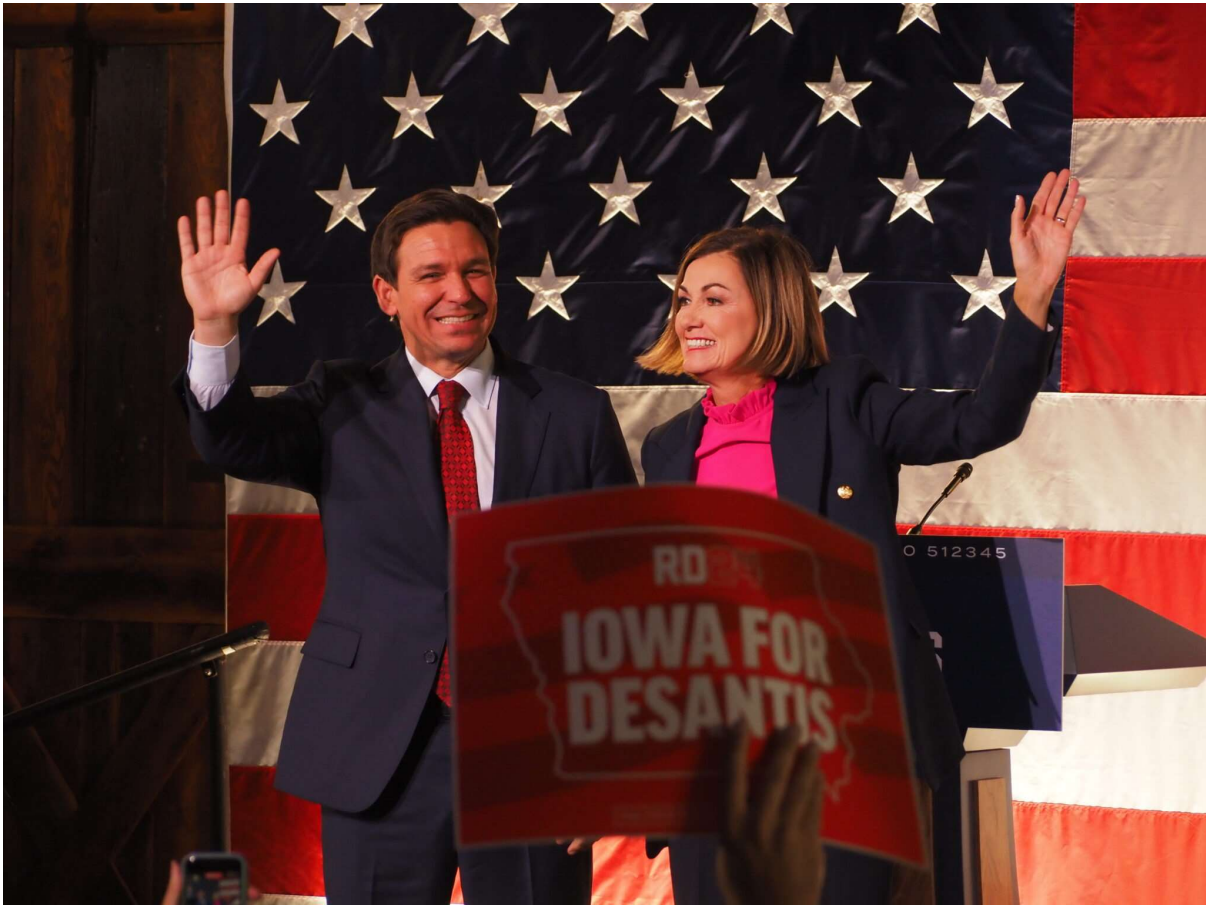


*(Photo by Graham Stokes for Ohio Capital Journal)*

Anti-abortion leaders woke up Wednesday to the sobering reality that abortion rights remain the nation's predominant political issue. Decisive wins in swing and red states in two national election cycles since *Roe v. Wade* was overturned last year have given momentum to reproductive rights groups, who aggressively campaigned and fundraised in key states across the country, and intend to triple down for 2024.

Meanwhile, the anti-abortion movement is scrambling for an effective 2024 strategy after crushing losses. Longtime anti-abortion activist the Rev. Pat Mahoney said in large part Republicans have been ineffective communicators on the issue and were wildly outspent. | [News from the States](#)

## **Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds endorses Ron DeSantis for the 2024 Republican presidential nomination**



*(Photo by Robin Opsahl/Iowa Capital Dispatch)*

Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds told an enthusiastic crowd of more than 500 at the River Center in Des Moines that there is “just too much at stake” for her to not weigh in on the Republican presidential contest — and that DeSantis is the candidate with the track record of conservative victories that can win Republicans the White House.

Energy was high at the rally — but recent polling shows DeSantis faces an uphill battle to win the Iowa GOP caucuses and the presidential nomination. Trump leads the race by a double-digit margin in Iowa and national polls, and no other Republican candidates have yet been able to unseat him as frontrunner. | [Iowa Capital Dispatch](#)

**BIG PICTURE** *Election coverage across the country*



*(Official White House Photo by Adam Schultz)*

- **Biden tells UAW head Shawn Fain in Illinois: ‘You’ve done one hell of a job, pal’** | [Michigan Advance](#)
- **GOP presidential candidates brawl in Florida debate, while Trump rallies nearby** | [News from the States](#)
- **‘Life was pretty good’: Why Trump voters are sticking with him after indictments** | [USA Today](#)

## Elections

- **Report: Oregon election offices are underfunded, understaffed heading into 2024** | [Oregon Capital Journal](#)
- **How abortion factors into five major elections on Tuesday** | [News from the States](#)
- **Three localities voted to adopt ranked choice voting. But additional roadblocks remain.** | [Michigan Advance](#)
- **Over a hundred thousand in New Mexico cast ballots before Election Day** | [Source NM](#)
- **Virginia voters gave Democrats control of the legislature. What will it mean for policy?** | [Virginia Mercury](#)
- **Judge extends Hinds County precinct hours after numerous ballot problems** | [Mississippi Today](#)
- **Publicly financed candidates nearly sweep Election Day contests** | [Source NM](#)
- **Mapping the Issues: How Ohio's ballot measures stack up against recent elections, one another** | [Ohio Capital Journal](#)

## Courts

- **Judge upholds 2022 Harris County election results, throws out most GOP lawsuits** | [Texas Tribune](#)
- **Trump backs requests for TV coverage of his federal criminal trial** | [Reuters](#)
- **Minnesota Supreme Court dismisses petition to remove Trump from 2024 primary ballot** | [Minnesota Reformer](#)

## Campaign trail

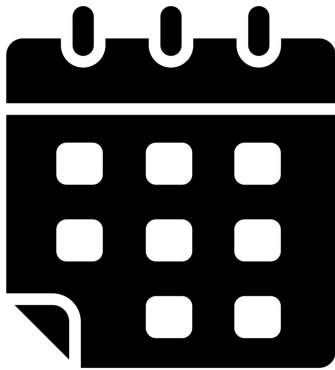
- **Despite RNC warning to candidates, Family Leader plans to hold forum as planned** | [Iowa Capital Dispatch](#)
- **Christie banks on New Hampshire as he makes the case that only he can stop Trump: 'I am the cavalry'** | [Associated Press](#)
- **Former Arkansas Gov. Asa Hutchinson qualifies for 2024 state presidential primary** | [Arkansas Advocate](#)
- **Nikki Haley launches coalition to rally support from farmers** | [Iowa Capital Dispatch](#)
- **Chris Sununu: Vivek Ramaswamy 'would be a poor choice' for president** | [Politico](#)

## Voting

- **Idaho voter registration lawsuits in limbo: Unraveling the latest in voting legal battles** | [Idaho Capital Sun](#)

- **Court suit against Georgia’s law that allows mass voter challenges nears judge’s ruling** | [Georgia Recorder](#)
  - **Monday numbers: NC voter rolls look different than they did eight years ago** | [NC Newsline](#)
  - **Poll worker protections, restrictions on AI in political ads await governor’s signature** | [Michigan Advance](#)
  - **Advocates push for national popular vote for president in Florida and across the U.S.** | [Florida Phoenix](#)
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## COMING UP Calendar of events



- **Nov. 17, 2023, DES MOINES** | The Family Leader, an influential conservative Christian organization, [will host](#) a Thanksgiving family forum.
- **Dec. 6, 2023, TUSCALOOSA, AL** | The fourth Republican presidential debate.
- **Dec. 9, 2023, SIOUX CENTER, IA** | Five presidential candidates will [speak at a fundraiser](#) for U.S. Rep. Randy Feenstra.

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

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1414 Raleigh Rd #127

Chapel Hill, NC 27517

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