

# News From The States

## COUNTDOWN '24

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

With less than five weeks until the Iowa caucuses, presidential candidates are ramping up campaign efforts in the first-in-the nation state in hopes of winning over Iowa caucusgoers.

- This weekend, Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, former U.N. Ambassador Nikki Haley and entrepreneur Vivek Ramaswamy campaigned in Iowa, [heading with their families to Sioux Center](#) in hopes of winning an endorsement from U.S. Rep. Randy Feenstra.
- Former President Donald Trump will be back in the state to [hold a rally in Coralville](#) on Wednesday, Dec. 13.
- CNN [announced a Republican presidential debate](#) in Iowa Jan. 10, just 5 days before the Iowa caucuses.

While candidates like DeSantis hope a win at the Iowa caucuses will provide a path forward for a Trump alternative, the most recent [Des Moines Register/NBC News/Mediacom Iowa Poll](#) found Trump has made major gains in Iowa:

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

**[Trump's caucus lead grows to majority, 51%, in most recent Iowa Poll](#)**



*(Photo by Jared Strong/Iowa Capital Dispatch)*

The former president expanded his lead in Iowa with less than five weeks left until the 2024 Republican caucuses, with more than half of likely GOP caucusgoers naming him as their first choice candidate in the [Des Moines Register/NBC News/Mediacom Iowa Poll](#) published Monday.

The latest poll found Trump is the top pick for 51% of poll takers who plan to participate in the Jan. 15 Iowa Republican caucuses. That's an increase from 43% in the October Iowa Poll. While some political commentators predicted that a consolidated field would help Republicans looking for an alternative to Trump rally around a single candidate, DeSantis and Haley did not see a major shift in the latest poll. | [Iowa Capital Dispatch](#)

## **[Experts urge investigation of 'coordinated plan' to compromise election software](#)**



*(Photo by Kevin Mohatt/Colorado Newsline)*

A new letter from election security experts calls on federal officials to investigate the connection between voting system breaches in Georgia to breaches in other states, including Colorado, and warns of similar threats to 2024 election security.

The letter sent to U.S. Attorney General Merrick Garland, Federal Bureau of Investigation Director Chris Wray and Special Counsel Jack Smith says the 2020 Coffee County, Georgia breach that prosecutors have tied to former President Donald Trump’s legal team is “just one element of a much broader, coordinated plan that involved many of the same actors engaging in the same unlawful activities in the pursuit of unauthorized copies of voting system software from multiple states.” | [Colorado Newsline](#)

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



*(Photos from Fulton County Sheriff's Office)*

- **Fulton 19 update: Witness list emerges, flirtation with bond revocation, Trump trial date wrangling** | [Georgia Recorder](#)
- **Colorado Supreme Court hears arguments in Trump 14th Amendment case** | [Colorado Newsline](#)
- **Group sues Oregon Secretary of State Griffin-Valade to keep Trump off ballot** | [Oregon Capital Chronicle](#)

**Campaign trail**

- **Nikki Haley says she and Trump will run a two-way race after Iowa caucuses** | [Iowa Capital Dispatch](#)

- It's 'infrastructure decade,' Biden says while touting high-speed rail funding in NV | [Nevada Current](#)
- Haley draws fire from rivals in GOP presidential debate, as Christie calls Trump 'unfit' | [News from the States](#)
- GOP presidential candidate Vivek Ramaswamy talks about Libertarian past, eminent domain | [Iowa Capital Dispatch](#)
- Biden goes into 2024 with the economy getting stronger, but voters feel horrible about it | [Associated Press](#)
- Rick Santorum is back — the 'patron saint' of every 2024 long-shot campaign | [Politico](#)

## Voting

- NH Supreme Court closes door on partisan gerrymandering cases, taking lead from SCOTUS | [New Hampshire Bulletin](#)
- Lawmakers close redistricting session; judge to decide if GOP-crafted maps comply with order | [Georgia Recorder](#)
- Voting rights groups find new photo ID law caused trouble for voters and county officials | [NC Newslines](#)
- Maryland civil rights groups allege county violates voting rights laws | [Washington Post](#)

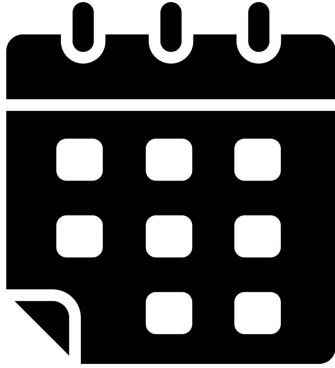
## Elections

- Growing threat of political violence looms over 2024, former members of Congress warn | [News from the States](#)
- Broken seals, shredding and a FBI investigation: Carbon County couple raise election concerns | [Daily Montanan](#)
- Second closed primaries measure gets a hearing in the Ohio House | [Ohio Capital Journal](#)
- GOP seeking to head off ballot initiatives on abortion access, Florida's included | [Florida Phoenix](#)
- Missouri abortion-rights amendments face 'torturous' process to make it to 2024 ballot | [Missouri Independent](#)

## Nominating contests

- Ahead of Biden write-in effort, towns and cities issue calls for more poll workers | [New Hampshire Bulletin](#)
  - Decision to put only Biden's name on the FL ballot in March 2024 spawned a federal lawsuit | [Florida Phoenix](#)
  - Iowa Republicans announce 2024 presidential caucus locations | [Iowa Capital Dispatch](#)
  - Although Biden is favored to win SC primary, state Democrats push voter turnout. Here's why | [The State](#)
  - A return to tradition: Why Illinois' primary election is moving back to March in 2024 | [Daily Herald](#)
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**COMING UP** Calendar of events



- **Jan. 10, 2024, DES MOINES** | CNN will [host a Republican presidential debate](#) at Drake University.
- **Jan. 15, 2024, IOWA** | The Iowa Republican caucuses.
- **Jan. 21, 2024, Goffstown, NH** | CNN will host a second debate at Saint Anselm College, two days before the New Hampshire primary.

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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