

News From The States

COUNTDOWN '24

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

Welcome back, and happy new year!

It has been a few weeks since you last heard from Countdown '24. We're roughly a week away from the Iowa caucuses kicking off the 2024 Republican presidential nominating cycle. Though former President Donald Trump still leads in early states, the frontrunner is facing some major court challenges:

- The U.S. Supreme Court will [hear arguments](#) on whether Trump can appear on Colorado's 2024 presidential primary ballot following the [December Colorado Supreme Court ruling](#) that barred him under the 14th Amendment.
- The Maine Secretary of State [also disqualified Trump from the state's primary](#) in December.
- Other court cases involving Trump are ongoing. In Georgia, Fulton County District Attorney Fani Willis is seeking to have the former president and 14 remaining co-defendants [stand trial together this coming August](#) on racketeering and conspiracy charges for interfering in the 2020 election.

TOP IMPACT *What to read this week*

[Trump at Iowa event says Jan. 6 participants acted 'patriotically and peacefully'](#)



(Photo by Anna Moneymaker/Getty Images)

Campaigning in Iowa on the anniversary of the Jan. 6 U.S. Capitol insurrection, Trump said that those who attacked the Capitol acted “patriotically and peacefully,” as he called for supporters to help him win reelection against President Joe Biden in 2024.

Trump criticized his legal prosecutors and the congressional committee that investigated the Capitol insurrection. The federal justice system was being unfairly used to persecute him and supporters, Trump told the Iowa crowd, referring to people arrested and prosecuted for their actions on Jan. 6 as “hostages.” | [Iowa Capital Dispatch](#)

2 presidential candidates sue in SC after being tossed off ballots. One wants Trump off too.



(Photo by Win McNamee/Getty Images)

Two long-shot candidates excluded from South Carolina’s presidential primaries have filed separate lawsuits in federal court — one trying to get on the Democratic ballot, the other trying to kick former President Donald Trump off the Republican ballot.

Cenk Uygur, who sued the South Carolina Democratic Party and a host of state officials, says he’s willing to take his fight all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court. On the Republican side, John Castro’s lawsuit to remove Trump from South Carolina’s primary ballot is based on a different clause of the 14th Amendment. | [South Carolina Daily Gazette](#)

BIG PICTURE Election coverage across the country



(Photo by Drew Angerer/Getty Images)

- **Biden in Pennsylvania: America must decide whether democracy remains its sacred cause** | [Pennsylvania Capital-Star](#)
- **New Hampshire Gov. Chris Sununu joins GOP presidential candidate Nikki Haley in Iowa** | [Iowa Capital Dispatch](#)
- **VP Kamala Harris tells SC voters at AME retreat they need to organize to elect Biden again** | [South Carolina Daily Gazette](#)

Candidates

- **Presidential candidates largely mum about details on how to ‘save’ Social Security** | [News from the States](#)
- **DeSantis goes after Trump at CNN town hall in Des Moines** | [Florida Phoenix](#)

- **Vivek Ramaswamy defends new endorser, former U.S. Rep. Steve King** | [Iowa Capital Dispatch](#)
- **Trump Takes Aim at Haley as Primary Enters Final Phase in Iowa** | [New York Times](#)
- **Asa Hutchinson's 2024 campaign isn't breaking through, but he says he's 'full speed ahead'** | [ABC News](#)
- **Far behind Trump, Chris Christie won't drop out of primary** | [Boston Globe](#)
- **DeSantis: Eminent domain needed in pipeline projects like Keystone** | [Iowa Capital Dispatch](#)

Campaigns

- **With abortion on the 2024 ballot, campaigns could see millions in funding from familiar players** | [News from the States](#)
- **Va. poll shows Biden leading Trump ahead of presidential elections and more state headlines** | [Virginia Mercury](#)
- **Minnesota congressional Republicans endorse Trump for president** | [Minnesota Reformer](#)
- **Nikki Haley is testing the limits of big money in GOP presidential politics** | [Politico](#)
- **Nikki Haley announces Washington campaign team, endorsements from state lawmakers** | [Washington State Standard](#)
- **Trump Meets With Teamsters President as Union Weighs 2024 Endorsement** | [New York Times](#)

Voting rights and redistricting

- **Voting, disability rights advocates claim Ohio photo voter ID law violates federal disabilities law** | [Ohio Capital Journal](#)
- **Federal judge approves Georgia's new congressional and legislative election maps** | [Georgia Recorder](#)
- **Restoring voting rights after a felony is rare in Tennessee. The process has gotten harder.** | [Stateline](#)



(Photo by Jeff Swensen/Getty Images)

- **NH lawmakers will be taking up major voting bills this year. Here are some to watch for.** | [New Hampshire Bulletin](#)
- **3 novel legal arguments by Republicans that threaten the Voting Rights Act in 2024** | [NPR](#)
- **No compromise in NC elections lawsuits** | [NC Newsline](#)
- **Redrawing contested legislative district could cost several GOP state lawmakers their seats** | [Washington State Standard](#)
- **Democrats, Governor, voters in redistricting case oppose Legislature's motion to reconsider** | [Wisconsin Examiner](#)
- **Weekly meeting watch: Redistricting Committee to discuss maps** | [North Dakota Monitor](#)

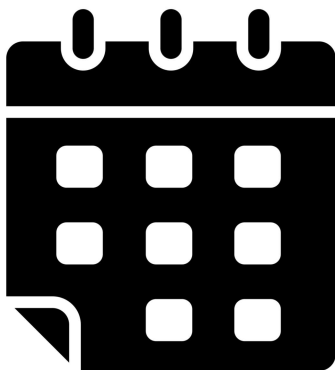
Courts

- **Behind 14th Amendment argument to disqualify Trump: process, reasoning and the role of partisanship** | [Maine Morning Star](#)
- **Liz Cheney backs push to bar Trump from ballot under 14th Amendment** | [Politico](#)
- **Judge rules True the Vote's 2020 mass voter challenges don't amount to illegal intimidation** | [Georgia Recorder](#)
- **Court dates and primaries: Trump faces competing calendars in 2024** | [Fox News](#)

Elections and nominating contests

- **Benson talks election protections and defending democracy in 2024** | [Michigan Advance](#)
 - **Iowa Republicans highlight results reporting system for Jan. 15 caucuses** | [Iowa Capital Dispatch](#)
 - **Fight for congressional majorities launches against backdrop of presidential campaigns** | [News from the States](#)
 - **DNC slams New Hampshire democrats over 'detrimental' primary** | [The Hill](#)
 - **Here's your Texas 2024 March primary ballot** | [Texas Tribune](#)
 - **Monday numbers: Key facts and figures surrounding North Carolina's upcoming primary election** | [NC Newsline](#)
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COMING UP Calendar of events



- **Jan. 15, 2024, IOWA** | The Iowa Republican presidential caucuses.
- **Jan. 23, 2024, NEW HAMPSHIRE** | The New Hampshire presidential primary.
- **Feb. 8, 2024, Washington, D.C.** | The U.S. Supreme Court will hear arguments on the Colorado Supreme Court decision keeping Trump off the state's primary ballot.

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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