

# News From The States

# EVENING WRAP

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By [Kate Queram](#)

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I have returned to mark my triumphant recovery from a heinous stomach virus by recapping the results of Super Tuesday. Sometimes, the jokes write themselves.



## The Big Takeaway

Nikki Haley on Wednesday officially withdrew from the Republican presidential contest, effectively guaranteeing a November rematch between President Joe Biden and the oft-indicted Donald Trump, [the South Carolina Daily Gazette reported](#). Haley congratulated Trump during remarks in Charleston but pointedly declined to endorse him, saying it was up to him “to earn the votes of those in our party — and beyond it — who did not support him.”

“And I hope he does that,” she added.



*Good night and good luck.  
(Photo by Abraham Kenmore/South Carolina Daily Gazette)*

**The concession followed a bruising Super Tuesday for Haley.** She lost 15 of 16 states and clinched [just nine delegates](#), leaving Trump with an insurmountable lead and extinguishing whatever slim hope she had of securing the GOP nomination. Mostly, this was unsurprising. Haley’s campaign had always been a long-shot effort to wrest control of the Republican Party by courting independent voters and moderate Democrats, who do not typically participate in GOP primaries and would probably not have supported her in November anyway. Her candidacy broke barriers, making her the first woman to ever win a GOP presidential primary (in D.C. and Vermont). But it will likely be best remembered as a footnote to Trump’s inevitable nomination.

**The frontrunner celebrated his big win with a dark-yet-whiny speech** containing all the greatest hits: Election fraud! Unfair prosecution! Inflation! The “migrant invasion!” Drill, baby, drill! Speaking from Mar-a-Lago, Trump lashed out at Biden (“the worst president in the history of our country”), complained about the military gear left behind in Afghanistan (“jets and tanks and everything you can think of”), and warned of a [nonexistent](#) “migrant crime” wave (“and that’s Biden’s migrant crime”), [our D.C. bureau reported](#).

“In some ways, we’re a third-world country,” he said. “We’re a third-world country at our borders and we’re a third-world country at our elections. And we need to stop that.”



*“Goggles. Night goggles.”  
(Photo by Scott Olson/Getty Images)*

**And then, as if it made perfect sense after all of ... that, Trump called for unity**, both in the GOP and nationally. He offered no details on how he might achieve this lofty goal. It’ll just happen once he wins. (Poof! Unity.)

In a Trump second term, “you’d only have success and that’s what’s going to ultimately unify this country, and unify this party,” he said. “We have a great Republican Party with tremendous talent and we want to have unity. And we’re going to have unity, and it’s going to happen very quickly.”

**Biden, shockingly, seemed skeptical.** After a [near-sweep](#) of Tuesday’s Democratic contests — and the ouster of [his only sort-of challenger](#) — Biden pivoted to November, framing the general election as “a clear choice” between “moving forward” or allowing Trump to “drag us backwards into the chaos, division and darkness that defined his term in office.”

“He is driven by grievance and grift, focused on his own revenge and retribution, not the American people,” Biden said in a statement. He is determined to destroy our democracy, rip away fundamental freedoms like the ability for women to make



their own health care decisions, and pass another round of billions of dollars in tax cuts for the wealthy — and he'll do or say anything to put himself in power.”



*Come on, folks.*

*(Photo by Sean Rayford/Getty Images)*

**Neither candidate has amassed enough delegates to outright secure their party's nomination**, which should change by the end of this month. But the math was already clear to leading Republicans, including Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, who endorsed Trump Wednesday in a statement couched in barbs designed to own the libs, [the Kentucky Lantern reported](#).

“During his Presidency, we worked together to accomplish great things for the American people including tax reform that supercharged our economy and a generational change of our federal judiciary — most importantly, the Supreme Court,” McConnell said. “I look forward to the opportunity of switching from playing defense against the terrible policies the Biden administration has pursued to a sustained offense geared towards making a real difference in improving the lives of the American people.”

Trumpy Republicans also fared well in [Tuesday's down-ballot races](#), setting up key showdowns in November that could decide control of the U.S. House (and with it, the MAGA-ness of the GOP caucus). Winners included [Rep. Barry Moore](#), an Alabama Republican and member of the far-right House Freedom Caucus; [Brandon Herrera](#), a gun influencer (this is the stupidest timeline) who will face

Rep. Tony Gonzales (R-Texas) in a May primary runoff; and [Addison McDowell](#), a Trump-endorsed lobbyist who will advance to a runoff against former Rep. Mark Walker in a North Carolina district redrawn last year to be more GOP-friendly.

### **So just a boring election year, then**

- [Maine House rejects second attempt to impeach Sec. of State Bellows over Trump ballot case](#)
- [On a busy Super Tuesday, most North Carolina races went as expected](#)
- [Democrats back a former Republican for South Dakota's U.S. House seat](#)
- [Caucus 'fiasco': Registration issues frustrate Utah GOP voters](#)



### **Also Trending**

The head of a massive Indiana health system on Sunday urged hospital stakeholders to donate to gubernatorial Brad Chambers, citing deep concerns “about the next four years if one of the other candidates is our next Republican candidate for governor.” The email included instructions on how to funnel the money through a “policy” nonprofit that does not disclose donors or impose contribution limits, [the Indiana Capital Chronicle reported](#).

“[We have a] shared concern that our legislative leaders do not believe that we as hospital and health systems play a vital role in the health and well-being of our communities,” Dennis Murphy, CEO and president of IU Health, wrote to two dozen of his peers in a message later shared with the Capital Chronicle by two sources. “Rather, our legislative leaders see us only as a cost to be managed, entities who do not fulfill their not-for-profit status, or the sole reason for the poor health outcomes that exist in our state.”

The upcoming election, Murphy continued, “has the potential to make these set [*sic*] of issues even worse.”

“One candidate has been willing to meet with hospital and health system leaders and truly talk openly about the issues facing our state and our industry, Brad Chambers,” he wrote.

Murphy is likely referring to a legislative onslaught that began in 2022, when state leaders sent a letter warning [insurers](#) and [health systems](#) to lower prices or face lawmaker intervention. A rash of bills followed in 2023, including [a proposal](#) to increase reporting requirements for nonprofit hospitals where costs exceed 285%



“We must work together to improve health outcomes for Hoosiers at prices they can afford,” he said. “Increased competition and price transparency are an important part of the equation, but there is more we can do. As governor, I’ll bring all stakeholders to the table to take a holistic approach with the goal of increasing access to high quality care at affordable prices, with an overall focus on improving the average health of Hoosiers.”

## **Atrial fibrillation**

- [Alaska domestic violence and sexual assault victims services face \\$4M funding gap](#)
- [Medical care providers support legislation expanding birth control access in Michigan](#)
- [In New Hampshire, finding in-patient psychiatric care is especially hard for older adults](#)
- [Wisconsin health care navigators, insurance regulators see increase in questionable sales pitches](#)



## **From The Newsrooms**

### **Education**

- [GOP bill would let Arizona college students challenge grades based on ‘political bias’ of professors](#)
- [Florida Legislature says OK: ‘Age-appropriate’ children would learn about history of communism](#)
- [Retirement Regrets: Why Louisiana legislators have resisted higher ed flexibility for decades](#)
- [North Carolina GOP faithful reach to the far right for state superintendent nominee](#)

### **Environment**

- [Florida now poised to become the first state in the nation to ban lab-grown meat](#)
- [Controversial, manufacturer-friendly PFAS language could be resurrected in Indiana](#)
- [Wildfire season is starting early in Michigan, thanks to a mild winter](#)
- [Despite February snows, New Mexico drought to continue](#)

## Gov & Politics

- [Illegal immigration would be a state crime in Iowa under Senate bill](#)
- [Maine Sec. of State says proposed election materials fund is 'crucial to democracy'](#)
- [Missouri House gives initial approval to bill banning political deepfakes](#)
- [Tennessee Attorney General Skrmetti would set his own salary under House-approved bill](#)



### One Last Thing

A biotech company is inching closer to [resurrecting the woolly mammoth](#) after producing a line of Asian elephant stem cells that can potentially transform into the other types of cells you'd need to bring a long-extinct mammal back to life because apparently you've never seen Jurassic Park. Meanwhile, we're still waiting for universal health care.

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