

News From The States

COUNTDOWN '24

from States Newsroom

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

No fooling

Dear readers: It's April Fool's Day and that may make you question everything you read today. But here at States Newsroom, April 1 is just like every other day. We do our best to bring you reliable, fact-checked news that you can count on. No jokes, no tricks. We know we have to earn your trust every single day and we will never fool around with that.

Thanks again for your readership and support.

As political candidates begin to look ahead to the general election, some Republican candidates are honing in on immigration as a top issue to motivate voters to support them in November.

- [The 19th reports](#) that some Republicans pushing for more restrictive immigration policy are leaning on an old strategy in their appeal to voters in 2024: broadly framing immigrant men as dangerous next to imagery of young white women victims.
- Former President Donald Trump [will hold a campaign rally](#) in Grand Rapids Tuesday to deliver remarks on "Biden's Border Bloodbath," according to a news release, highlighting the death of a local woman authorities allege was murdered by her boyfriend who was in the country illegally.
- But not all voters are motivated by this issue. In El Paso, [the Texas Tribune reported](#) that some residents said are not interested in voting because state officials and presidential candidates are too focused on immigration, an issue they say doesn't directly affect them, even though they live on the border.

TOP IMPACT *What to read this week*

[Louisiana Secretary of State wants absentee ballot restrictions, despite lack of voter fraud](#)



(Pool photo by Hillary Schienuk/The Advocate)

Louisiana’s top election official wants to restrict how voters can obtain and submit forms to request absentee ballots, along with limits on who may assist voters with the ballots themselves.

Secretary of State Nancy Landry is behind what she’s called a “election integrity legislative package,” although she and her predecessor, Kyle Ardoin, have affirmed Louisiana has not seen any instances of widespread voter fraud. In an emailed statement, Landry’s office cited three incidents involving election fraud misdemeanors in Louisiana as reason to pass restrictive measures. Nearly all of them involved politicians from a single small town — and none revealed evidence of widespread wrongdoing among voters. | [Louisiana Illuminator](#)

[Whitmer and Becerra discuss attacks on IVF and abortion rights at metro Detroit roundtable](#)



(Photo by Ken Coleman/Michigan Advance)

During a Thursday roundtable discussion in Farmington Hills, Democratic Gov. Gretchen Whitmer pushed back on what she said were continuing Republican efforts to take away women’s reproductive freedom.

Whitmer was joined by U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra, who praised Whitmer’s effort to support reproductive freedom policy and initiatives. He also said that the 2022 U.S. Supreme Court Dobbs decision overturning Roe v. Wade is having an impact on reproductive choices such as In-vitro fertilization (IVF). | [Michigan Advance](#)

BIG PICTURE *Election coverage across the country*



(Photo by Henry Redman/Wisconsin Examiner)

- **Tuesday is Election Day in Wisconsin. Here’s what you need to know.** | [Wisconsin Examiner](#)
- **Republicans to battle through dozens of contested primary elections in 2024** | [South Dakota Searchlight](#)

- **Emails reveal Michigan auditor general helped write GOP draft requesting 2020 election audit** | [Michigan Advance](#)
 - **Republican state lawmakers revise Georgia election rules in time for 2024 campaign season** | [Georgia Recorder](#)
 - **Early voting begins in three Arkansas House primary runoff races** | [Arkansas Advocate](#)
 - **Where Oregon House races stand ahead of the primary** | [Oregon Capital Chronicle](#)
 - **In fallout from \$3.5B error, voters could be asked to take SC's chief accountant off the ballot** | [South Carolina Daily Gazette](#)
 - **States rush to combat AI threat to elections** | [News from the States](#)
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CANDIDATES AND CAMPAIGNING

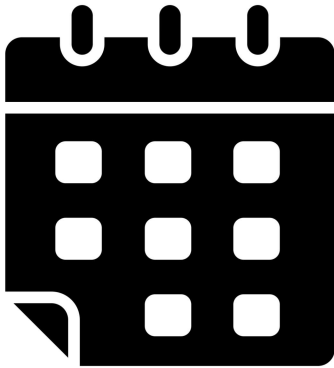
- **Justin Heap won't say if Arizona's elections were fair, but he's voted like an election denier** | [Arizona Mirror](#)
 - **Turning pain into purpose: Tennessee House candidate talks to voters about her abortion** | [News from the States](#)
 - **A GOP candidate appears to be registered to vote, and casting ballots, illegally** | [Arizona Mirror](#)
 - **Democrats open coordinated campaign offices across Pennsylvania** | [Pennsylvania Capital-Star](#)
 - **Gubernatorial candidates pledge to continue China crackdown** | [Indiana Capital Chronicle](#)
 - **Casey says rights are on the line in 2024 election** | [Pennsylvania Capital-Star](#)
 - **Republican with history of vulgar, anti-gay online attacks files for Missouri Senate** | [Missouri Independent](#)
 - **Annie Kuster will not seek reelection, she says, setting off open race** | [New Hampshire Bulletin](#)
 - **Vargas poll shows another tight U.S. House race with Bacon in Nebraska's 2nd District** | [Nebraska Examiner](#)
 - **Clackamas County Democrats Black Caucus didn't let Bynum compete for endorsement** | [Oregon Capital Chronicle](#)
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COURTS

- **Judges raise alarm over Trump's attacks** | [Washington Post](#)

- **Trump, co-defendants ask appeals court to consider booting DA Fani Willis from Georgia case** | [NBC News](#)
- **Montana Supreme court rules voter restriction laws passed in '21 unconstitutional** | [Daily Montanan](#)
- **Appeals court skeptical of Mike Bost's case to stop ballot counts after Election Day** | [Capitol News Illinois](#)
- **San Juan County scraps gerrymandered voting map** | [Source New Mexico](#)
- **Court approves new Michigan House district map** | [Michigan Advance](#)
- **Victims of voter intimidation would have rights to sue under bill passed by Pa. House panel** | [Pennsylvania Capital-Star](#)

COMING UP *Calendar of events*



- **April 2, 2024, MULTIPLE STATES** | Connecticut, Delaware, New York, Rhode Island and Wisconsin will hold presidential primaries on April 2. Arkansas and Mississippi will also hold primary runoffs.
- **April 13, 2024, ALASKA AND WYOMING** | Two Democratic presidential primaries will take place.
- **April 25, 2025, WASHINGTON, D.C.** | Oral arguments [set to begin](#) in U.S. Supreme Court on Trump's presidential immunity claim.

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