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**2024**

The candidates and key issues  
in a historic  
New Hampshire Primary

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**VOTERS**  
**GUIDE**

NEW HAMPSHIRE  
**SUNDAY NEWS**  
JANUARY 21, 2024

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Voting is your most important right. It gives you the power to decide what our future looks like. But you have to be in the know to vote. Election laws and voting places can change. That's why AARP New Hampshire has collected all the most up-to-date election information to make sure that the voices of voters 50-plus are heard on November 8. Make sure you know how to register to vote, where to vote in person, what the rules are for absentee voting, and all the key voting deadlines. Get the latest voting information for New Hampshire at [aarp.org/NHvotes](https://aarp.org/NHvotes)



## ABOUT THIS SECTION

### A note from the publisher

**W**ELCOME to our 2024 Voters First guide to your New Hampshire first-in-the-nation primary. The next president will have no shortage of challenges to contend with — worldwide and at home. We know New Hampshire voters will take their role seriously and, having done their research, will select the candidate they feel best capable of fulfilling this most important role.

Hyperbole always surrounds elections. 2024 is no different. You have no doubt heard that “Democracy is on the ballot.” Well, democracy isn’t on the ballot, democracy is the ballot. Every election gives us choices.

Media, both mainstream and social, have been telling us for years now that the 2024 presidential matchup is a foregone conclusion. Don’t believe

**VOTERS FIRST**  
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FIRST IN THE NATION PRIMARY

them. 2024 is an open field with dozens of candidates across both major party ballots. If your chosen candidate is one of our last two presidents, then by all means cast your ballot for them. But don’t think it’s a done deal. The New Hampshire primary has often been the beginning of major surprises and upsets. Take a look through the pages of this section, do your research, and cast the ballot of your choosing.

Voting is one of our great rights and responsibilities. We know most Granite Staters take this responsibility seriously. Our readers certainly do.

**Brendan J. McQuaid**  
President & Publisher

### Inside this Guide

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## READY, SET, VOTE

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PRIMARY 2024: **THE BIG PICTURE****A one-off, or the new normal for presidential politicking?**

By Kevin Landrigan  
Union Leader Staff

**F**ROM THEIR front row seats for one of the most bizarre presidential primaries in modern history, New Hampshire voters have to wonder:

Is this 2024 race, featuring a single dominating candidate in each party, an isolated event? Or could it be the norm for future presidential elections — which would bode badly for New Hampshire's national political prospects.

Political analysts across the spectrum agree that 2028 could give New Hampshire's political leaders a chance to reestablish the state's preeminence in the presidential nominating process.

"The heavy odds right now are this will be a Biden-Trump rematch in November. Of course, that means four years from now this race on both sides will be wide open," said Wayne Lesperance, president of New England College, a popular speaking stop for White House hopefuls.

"Frankly, that's the best case to be made, that the New Hampshire election could return to normal, but it's by no means any guarantee."

This primary has been a rarity in many respects, with a former president trying to become the first in almost 200 years to unseat an incumbent who ousted him in the previous election.

Former President Donald Trump usually can be counted on to bring the unexpected, but in this race, unlike his past two, the real estate developer-turned reality TV show host-turned politico has stayed on script.

Trump didn't just top the Republican fight card as prohibitive favorite, he refused to



CARLOS BARRIA/REUTERS

Big rallies, rather than smaller town-hall style gatherings with voters, have been the main campaign strategy for former President Donald Trump this time around.

debate his opponents and give them any shot at knocking him out.

"He didn't really hold any events other than his barnstorming circus show, which had next-to-no interaction with the press or the public," said Andrew Smith, director of the University of New Hampshire Survey Center.

"Donald Trump has never had to act in a traditional way of campaigning in New Hampshire with small retail events. But this time he choreographed rambling, but for the most part, pretty well-controlled performances."

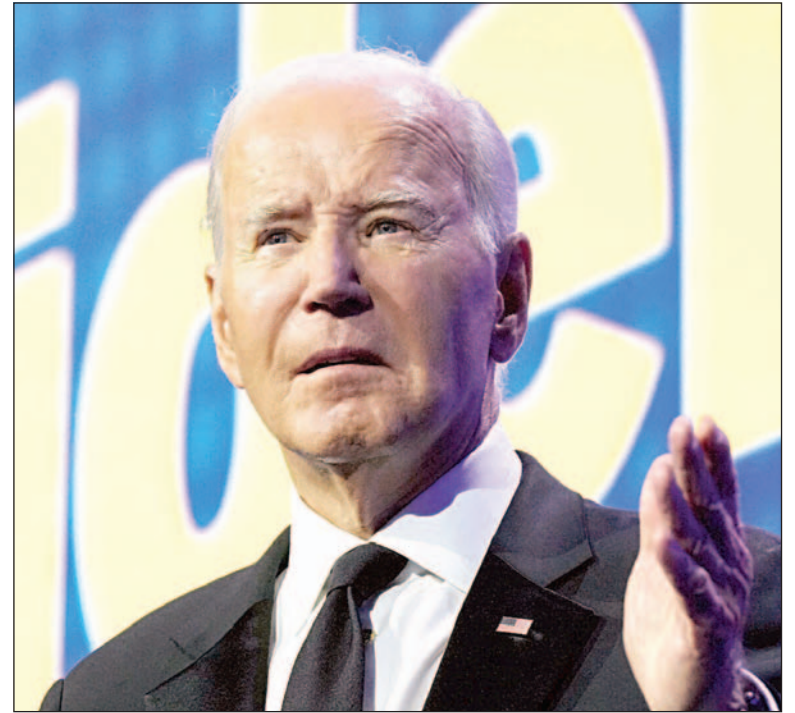
Trump remained so popular with the Republican base here and across the country that only one major candidate, former

New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, challenged his fitness for office.

**From chaotic to calculating**

Trump's Iowa blowout victory revealed a mature candidate who learned how to parlay his chaotic, stunning seat-of-the-pants victory in 2016 into a well-oiled political machine eight years later, employing all forms of old and new means of communication to keep his supporters excited and in the loop.

"You really can see this time Trump is listening to his handlers. He understands that he has got this incredible virtual Rolodex of fans that they can help him harness into an unbeatable army," said Dante Scala, professor of politics at the University of New Hampshire in



KEN CEDENO/REUTERS

The long-term impact of President Biden's decision to bypass the New Hampshire primary remains to be seen.

Durham.

If that weren't sufficient advantage, Trump had the national media eating out of his hand every week, dominating the 24/7 news cycle just as he had from the Oval Office.

Almost on cue, Trump would periodically call a timeout on electioneering to appear in federal or state court for one of his four criminal trials.

"There hasn't ever been anything like this. Usually when the candidate gets indicted, that means the campaign is over, kaput. With Trump, it only made him more viral and popular among Republican primary voters," said former state Rep. Bob Backus, D-Manchester, an early supporter of Bernie Sanders's two presidential primary campaign wins here.

"That's just plain crazy. How do you compete with that?"

Other than Christie and lesser-known former Arkansas Gov. Asa Hutchinson, the major Republican candidates were left to echo the frontrunner and condemn the prosecutions as part of Biden's politically motivated mission to face a wounded Trump again this fall.

Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis admitted Trump's criminal cases were a "distraction" that halted his momentum early on, when he had the potential to claim status as the potential heir apparent to the Trump legacy.

"If Donald Trump is the nominee, the election will revolve around all these legal issues, his trials, perhaps convictions if

## Primary

From Page 5

he goes to trials and loses there and about things like January 6,” DeSantis told a CNN town hall forum in Henniker Tuesday night.

Arnie Arnesen, a political talk show host and former Democratic nominee for governor, said no one ever again will be able to do what Trump has done.

“The only place he is even comfortable is in court,” Arnesen said. “He is debating the legal system. He won’t debate another politician — maybe not even Biden.”

### Haley’s run could help NH

Former South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley, who still has a longshot chance of staging an upset, could help preserve the state’s tradition, said Jim Merrill, a Republican campaign operative who helped run Mitt Romney’s and Marco Rubio’s primary campaigns here.

“This is someone who six months ago was at 3% — not known, not going anywhere,” Merrill said.

“Then she started with one town hall after another, along with solid debate performances, to turn herself into a contender. She did it the new-age way, not the old-fashioned (retail) way, but it’s worked for her.”

Indeed, the Haley 2024 juggernaut wasn’t built from the ground up. There are none of the usual signs of a candidate on the move, a dozen downtown storefront offices, thousands of lawn signs or a campaign bus jampacked with media, like the late John McCain’s legendary Straight Talk Express.

“I saw her give a speech in Iowa that was almost word for word what she had said at the Simon Center (at NEC) two months ago,” Lesperance said. “Campaigns clearly have become more nationalized and more careful.”



MIKE SEGAR/REUTERS

Challengers Ron DeSantis and Nikki Haley, seen here debating in Iowa, have faced an uphill climb in their efforts to wrest the top spot in the Republican race from former President Donald Trump.

Traveling with a small entourage, Haley introduced herself to the electorate here through texting and chats on all social media platforms, millions in super-PAC TV ads and a blizzard of flyers mailed to GOP and independent voters.

The potential for a misstep going viral has forced candidates to be much less spontaneous, Merrill said.

“I call it risk management. You have activists all over the country who are more than willing to try and hijack an event in order to draw attention to their agenda,” Merrill said.

“Campaigns don’t want to do a downtown walk or stop for a Dunkin’ run with the cameras in tow for fear that it only takes a few dozen protesters to turn that

into an ugly sideshow.”

Merrill blamed some of the reduced voter contact on the Republican National Committee, which set unprecedented fundraising and polling hurdles for candidates to get on the debate stage.

“Chris Christie staked it all on New Hampshire, but last summer there were literally weeks that went by when he wasn’t here. Why? He had to be dialing for dollars or jet-setting to fundraisers just to keep his candidacy alive, and ultimately it ran out of oxygen,” Merrill said.

When it comes to the GOP’s support for the first-in-the-nation primary, Scala points to one ominous scenario.

“What if Haley wins New

Hampshire, but like George W. Bush in 2000, Trump goes on to quickly romp to the nomination?” Scala said.

“Isn’t it possible his supporters might say after 2024 that New Hampshire is dead to us, that it masquerades as a purple state but is really a haven for squishy moderates?”

### Whither the write-ins?

Then there’s Biden who, after three failed New Hampshire primary campaigns, decided to usurp the Granite State’s hold on the first primary spot and give it to South Carolina.

Secretary of State David Scanlan refused to budge, scheduling the first primary 11 days ahead of South Carolina’s Democratic primary.

That’s done nothing to extinguish threats from Democratic National Committee leaders, who already have announced plans to review the calendar all over again for 2028.

Meanwhile, Biden backers have aggressively campaigned for voters to write in the incumbent’s name, with multiple flyers detailing the process.

“Despite this write-in that’s put all Democrats in a bad mood, I hope we have a huge turnout on our side. In that way, the message to the DNC is that despite our differences, we support this president and have shown we treat this responsibility very seriously,” Backus said.

NEC President Lesperance is skeptical.

“I increasingly find myself being the cranky old man in the room. Isn’t what we say to Biden and establishment Democrats is that you can literally just mail it in and win New Hampshire?” Lesperance said.

“I see the potential going forward for at least some Democratic candidates thinking next time that they can craft a strategy that completely ignores us.”

Merrill said he was more optimistic, especially if the state’s all-Democratic congressional delegation and other party leaders become even more confrontational in the future.

“We’re already seeing Democrats start to lay the groundwork here for who comes after Biden. (California Congressman) Ro Khanna has been a frequent flier and (Transportation Secretary) Pete Buttigieg looks to be making sure he stays connected with party activists here,” Merrill said.

“As long as the candidates keep coming and the national media and opinion leaders see New Hampshire as this beacon of democracy, I think at the end of the day we’ll be fine.”

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FOCUS ISSUE: **CARING FOR SENIORS**

# Supporting the growing army of family caregivers

By **Roberta Baker**

New Hampshire Union Leader

**A**N ESTIMATED 53 million Americans are family caregivers for children, veterans, disabled people and seniors.

According to a poll by AARP, most 50-plus voters have been or expect to be caregivers, and 43% are caregivers now.

Between 2016 and 2060, the nation's population of adults over 65 is predicted to double. The number of family caregivers also will swell — especially in states like New Hampshire, where 30% of residents will be 60 or older in less than seven years, according to census projections.

Politicians agree: Family caregiving is a labor of love that costs untold time and energy. It can mean lost days of work and sacrificed careers. The cost of long-term-care insurance is prohibitively high for families, and home care is the best and only option for a growing number of people in New Hampshire.

The bottom line: More Granite Staters will take care of their parents, siblings and spouses at home. AARP estimates that family caregivers currently spend on average \$7,200 of their own money each year to help their loved ones.

“The wealthy are going to be fine because they’ll have the money and the assets to cover nursing home costs,” Mike McGuinness, an associate professor of business and economics at St. Anselm College, said during the last election cycle. The poor will be covered by Medicaid, but the middle class will be squeezed. And that’s a big problem.

Here’s how the candidates say they will support family caregiving:

“The number one thing we can do is to reduce the burden



METRO

AARP estimates that family caregivers currently spend on average \$7,200 of their own money each year to help their loved ones.

that’s been imposed by rising prices, interest rates and runaway inflation. It’s making it cost-prohibitive to be family caregivers,” Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis said.

He said Florida instituted a program, “Senior Helping Seniors,” that allows community members, volunteer organizations, churches and businesses to link to a portal that lists seniors in need of help, so people in the community can come forward, reducing the burden on family caregivers.

“We need the government to create connections between people in need and those that are willing to help,” he said. “That will help take the burden off family caregivers, particularly during a difficult economic time.”

Former South Carolina Gov.

Nikki Haley said she currently takes care of her parents, ages 87 and 89, who live in her family’s home.

“What we go through as caregivers...taking them to doctors appointments and picking up their prescriptions and bathing them, it’s emotional, it’s physical and it’s financially challenging.”

Haley said America’s health care system needs to focus more on home health, including telehealth, which eliminates the travel and time for caregivers and older family members.

Family caregivers require financial relief as well as “relief in time so they can do what they need to do,” she said when interviewed by AARP.

“We know that our family members that we love are best taken care of at home. That’s where they heal faster and that’s

where they want to be.”

Vivek Ramaswamy said expanding the professional home care workforce is critical to reducing the burden on family caregivers, and the U.S. Department of Education must do more to support one- and two-year vocational training programs related to senior care and home care.

“Young people in this country right now are starved for purpose and meaning,” Ramaswamy said. Fast-tracked training in caregiving “is a great way to put people back to work and give them a head start” in life.

It’s also a morale builder, he said. “If you’re taking care of someone older than you, you’re building that relationship. You know you’re having that positive impact every day.”

Former President Donald

Trump said, “Families know what’s best for their loved ones, not politicians or bureaucrats.... I will strongly support family caregivers with the time and resources they need to carry out this incredibly important work.”

In April 2023, President Joe Biden signed an executive order that increased support for family caregivers in specific situations. It called for increasing wages and benefits for long-term care professionals who provide federally funded services at home.

Biden asked the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to consider a dementia care model that would include respite care — short-term help to give primary family caregivers a break. He requested improvements in hospital discharge planning and more clearly-set expectations for family caregivers enrolled in the Acute Hospital Care at Home program, which allows hospitals to treat patients where they live.

The executive order called for improving family caregiver access to Medicare beneficiary information and asked the Veterans Administration to consider expanding access to the Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers, and provide more mental health support for family caregivers enrolled.

On her campaign website, Democrat hopeful Marianne Williamson said if she’s elected, her administration will pay family caregivers and expand caregiving hours. She would increase funding for Aging and Disability Resource Centers.

Congressman Dean Phillips has not addressed family caregiving on his website. There is little information available on his position, other than he supports Medicare for all.

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FOCUS ISSUE: **SOCIAL SECURITY**

# Change is needed, but how to do it is a taxing question

By **Roberta Baker**

New Hampshire Union Leader

**S**Ocial Security's trust fund will begin to run out of money in 10 years, experts say, and by 2033 may be able to pay out only 77% of what retirees are due.

While offering and commenting on potential remedies, most Republican and Democrat presidential candidates agree: It's essential to preserve benefit levels for people who have paid into the system — and who continue to pay in — particularly those for whom Social Security is an essential income source.

Suggested modifications include “means testing,” which would exclude the wealthiest Americans, who need them less, from collecting benefits. Raising the retirement age has been on and off the table for 20 years. Privatizing programs like Social Security has been done in other countries — but it's considered risky, and major candidates aren't embracing it now.

Currently, Social Security is financed through a payroll tax. Employers and employees each pay 6.2% of wages up to a taxable maximum — which is \$168,600 this year, according to the Social Security Administration. Self-employed people pay the full 12.4%.

Here's where the candidates stand on protecting Social Security now and in the future:

President Joe Biden proposes taxing earned income above \$400,000, leaving wages from roughly \$168,600 up to \$400,000 untapped for Social Security, according to a report on Yahoo! Finance. That middle range eventually would close up, because the maximum taxable earnings cap rises most years.

Democrat challenger Dean Phillips, a Minnesota congress-



DREAMSTIME/TNS

Without change, Social Security is expected to start running out of money in 10 years.

man, says he would raise Social Security's taxable income to \$250,000, which he says will fund the program into the 2040s, and buy Congress more time to fix it. He favors creating a bipartisan commission to report to Congress on long-term solutions.

Democrat Marianne Williamson supports eliminating the cap on income subject to the Social Security payroll tax. “That simple modification can keep the system solvent indefinitely,” Williamson said.

She is against privatizing Social Security, which she says “is under attack” by Wall Street and financial professionals “who want to privatize it for no other reason than to tap into another new and huge source of income and bonuses.”

“Under no circumstances should we put Social Security at risk, she said.”

Republican Nikki Haley, former South Carolina governor and United Nations ambassador, said at a campaign appearance in September, “Social Security and Medicare are the last thing the political class wants to talk about.” But viable candidates need to be frank, she said.

“Social Security will go bankrupt in 10 years. Medicare will go bankrupt in eight,” Haley told AARP. “Everyone in D.C. has loved to spend money, Republicans and Democrats. We will take on the system in a way that allows everyone who has paid in to keep it.”

Haley, who was an accountant before entering politics, said that based on projections

for American life expectancy, she would modify the system for people who are now in their 20s so that Social Security will be available and solvent when they retire.

She has said she would limit Social Security payments for wealthy retirees.

Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis told AARP that preserving Social Security requires controlling inflation, which is eroding the value of benefits even with cost-of-living increases.

Social Security should be tax-free, he said. Seniors should not be penalized for continuing to work while collecting it, and Congress should not be allowed to appropriate money from the Social Security trust fund.

In an interview on CNBC, DeSantis emphasized the need

for bipartisan support for any changes to the Social Security program.

Former Arkansas Gov. Asa Hutchinson said Social Security's solvency depends on bringing more workers into the system.

He has said he is opposed to raising the retirement age because people with physically demanding jobs frequently need to retire at younger ages than white-collar employees. He said he would establish a commission to examine the future of Medicare and Social Security.

Entrepreneur Vivek Ramaswamy told AARP that the best way to preserve Social Security is through economic growth, which he said means tapping energy sources such as oil, coal, natural gas and nuclear power.

“Let me make one thing perfectly clear: No cuts on Social Security or Medicare to seniors,” Ramaswamy told AARP this month. Program problems need to be fixed, and seniors should not be penalized for working while collecting Social Security, he said.

Ramaswamy promotes shaving administration costs and trimming the federal workforce by as much as 75%, according to his campaign statements.

Former President Donald Trump, on his campaign website, states, “Under no circumstances should Republicans vote to cut a single penny from Medicare or Social Security.”

Trump extolled his record as president and said he opposed raising the retirement age. “I will continue to protect Social Security and Medicare. That is my promise,” he told AARP this month.

President Biden's “out-of-control spending needs to be stopped,” he said.

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FOCUS ISSUE: **PRESCRIPTIONS****It's a complex route to controlling drug costs**By **Roberta Baker**

New Hampshire Union Leader

**T**HE UNITED STATES has the world's highest prescription drug prices. It's a chronic condition.

A succession of presidents have tried to come up with prescriptions to make pharmaceuticals more affordable for American consumers, but few plans have been comprehensive or lasting.

Potential fixes include streamlining and speeding the approval of new drugs, making generics more available, requiring greater transparency from drug manufacturers, health insurers and middlemen, and trimming the price-setting influence of pharmacy benefit managers.

Drug pricing regulation has bipartisan support in Congress, and the support is strongest when it comes to reforming pharmacy benefit managers. Those are the companies that manage health insurers' prescription drug plans and negotiate discounts — which are often not passed on to consumers.

Here are the presidential candidates' views and records on lowering prescription prices:

President Joe Biden has made drug pricing a linchpin of his reelection campaign, citing his record, especially provisions in the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 to cap the consumer cost of insulin at \$35 per month and reduce out-of-pocket drug costs under Medicare.

Under the IRA, Medicare may be able to negotiate future discounts of 25% to 60% on 10 of its most expensive drugs. The new prices will be announced in September 2024 and take effect in 2026. Manufacturers who don't negotiate will face stiff penalties.

Bristol Myers Squibb's blood



According to a West Health-Gallup poll, more than 80% of Americans, including 75% of Republicans, support Medicare price negotiation as a tool to make essential medicines affordable.

thinner Eliquis, Medicare's largest drug expenditure, will be the first to have a negotiated price, followed by Jardiance, and Boehringer Ingelheim's diabetes and heart failure drug. Four of the 10 treat diabetes. Others are for blood clots, heart failure, rheumatoid arthritis and blood cancers.

According to a West Health-Gallup poll, more than 80% of Americans, including 75% of Republicans, support Medicare price negotiation as a tool to make essential medicines affordable.

As part of focusing in on the cost of drugs, Biden has requested clear disclosure of the limits of short-term drug plans, so that subscribers are aware of those limits.

Democratic challenger Marianne Williamson wants the government to have the author-

ity to negotiate prices for all prescription drugs, not just for Medicare, under her vision of Medicare for All.

She also favors importing safe and approved prescription drugs at lower costs.

As a Minnesota congressman, Democratic challenger Dean Phillips voted to reduce drug prices by allowing generics to enter the market earlier. He also introduced legislation to require labeling of allergens in medication.

Among the Republican candidates, Gov. Ron DeSantis signed Florida's Prescription Drug Act into law in May. It requires accountability among pharmaceutical middlemen, gives consumers greater choice among pharmacies so they can purchase at the lowest price and mandates drug companies to disclose price increases of 15% within a calendar

year or 30% within a three-year period.

Florida's Office of Insurance Regulation acquired authority to investigate pharmacy benefits managers for rule violations, including requiring patients to restart medications that haven't worked in the past when they switch health insurance companies.

Nikki Haley has called for more transparency in the system, including from drug manufacturers, insurance companies and pharmacy benefit managers, but she hasn't gone into specifics.

Vivek Ramaswamy would decrease the Food and Drug Administration's regulation of pharmaceutical and biologic medicines, which he believes has made it exceedingly time-consuming and expensive to bring new treatments to market. Some "FDA regulations

are hypocritical, harmful and unconstitutional," said Ramaswamy, who has profited from investing in medicines that might face price negotiation in the future.

He supports introducing more generic drugs and opposes the FDA regulating them.

Former Arkansas Gov. Asa Hutchinson cites a law he signed in 2018, authorizing his state to license and regulate pharmacy benefit managers.

Hutchinson says he opposes the IRA's approach to Medicare price negotiation because he believes it is "constitutionally precarious and risks unintended consequences that could stifle research and innovation," he told the Huffpost. He hasn't indicated if he would repeal it.

Former President Donald Trump believes the U.S. shouldn't pay more for prescription drugs than other countries and would reinstate his executive order requiring Medicare Part B and D to pay the same price for drugs as other countries — which the pharmaceutical industry has opposed.

During his term, Trump signed an executive order requiring price transparency on pharmaceuticals. He cut FDA restraints on drug development to increase the availability of generics.

In 2020 he signed four other executive orders related to drug prices. The first required community health centers that serve lower-income areas to pass the savings they receive on bulk purchases of insulin and EpiPens to patients. A second order created a pathway for importing cheaper drugs from foreign countries. A third sought to have PBMs pass on their savings to patients. A fourth attempted to tie Medicare drug prices to the lowest rates abroad.

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FOCUS ISSUE: **MEDICARE**

# Voters have little taste for major changes

By **Roberta Baker**  
New Hampshire Union Leader

**M**EDICARE, the U.S. government health insurance program that currently serves more than 66 million seniors — will start to run out of money in eight years without congressional intervention.

According to the trustees' most recent report, Medicare has enough in its hospital insurance trust fund to pay scheduled benefits until 2031. After that, unless the balance sheet changes, Medicare will be able to cover only 89% of its costs.

Voter surveys show little support for major changes to Medicare — even to financially stabilize it

“If you wait until the trust funds exhaust, then you have to make some real dramatic decisions really quickly, raising taxes rather dramatically, cutting benefits,” Bill Hoagland of the Bipartisan Policy Center told CBS News last year.

Most 2024 presidential candidates acknowledge the looming shortfall and don't want to jeopardize or alienate current or future enrollees.

Here are the candidates' policy records on Medicare and their thoughts on how to preserve it:

Former President Donald Trump's website states, “Under no circumstances should Republicans vote to cut a single penny from Medicare or Social Security.... Bureaucrats in Washington should feel the pain, not hard-working Americans.”

Trump opposes Medicare for All — a controversial proposal to replace all existing public and private insurance plans with a government-run program — and wants to improve program efficiency and lower costs by



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Without changes, Medicare will be able to cover less than 90% of its obligations starting in 2031.

purging abuse, fraud and waste.

During his presidency, Trump decreased the average monthly premium for Medicare Advantage subscribers, dropping it to its lowest point since 2007. He moved to privatize parts of Medicare, allowing private companies to participate through direct contracting.

Republican and former South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley is opposed to expanding Medicare but favors expanding Medicare Advantage plans and increasing competition among providers. Roughly half of Medicare subscribers are enrolled in Medicare Advantage plans, which are similar to HMO plans.

She says she will consider modifying Medicare for future generations.

“If we do nothing, Social Se-

curity will face cuts in 10 years and Medicare in eight,” she said.

“I will keep these programs the same for anyone who's in or nearing retirement,” Haley wrote in a New York Post op-ed in September. “To protect these programs for the next generation, I'll limit benefits for wealthy people, raise the retirement age for younger people just entering the system, expand Medicare Advantage and increase competition.”

Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis is opposed to Medicare for All and expanding Medicare.

In Florida, he overhauled Medicare's care system and increased direct primary care with contractual relationships between patients and doctors, partially cutting out insurers.

Vivek Ramaswamy opposes

Medicare cuts for seniors and says he would fund Medicare and Social Security by reducing bureaucracy, cutting the federal workforce, eliminating redundant programs and sparking economic growth.

“We're working within the last window I believe we will have, to actually fix this problem while still leaving Social Security and Medicare benefits for current seniors intact,” Ramaswamy said at November's Republican presidential debate.

“Don't use last year's budget as the baseline. Start with zero then ask what's actually necessary. Seventy-five percent head-count reduction? Yes, that is severe. In the number of federal employees in the Washington, D.C. bureaucracy. Shut down redundant agencies that should

not exist. Deliver economic growth as a positive tailwind.”

Former Arkansas Gov. Asa Hutchinson, in a platform outlined on his website, says he will create a Commission for the Future of Medicare and Social Security to make recommendations for necessary reforms.

“My commitment is to safeguard the interests of our senior citizens and secure the long-term sustainability of these vital programs,” Hutchinson said.

President Joe Biden is against Medicare for All but supports Medicare's expansion. He signed the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022, which improved Medicare by expanding benefits, lowering drug costs and stabilizing drug premiums, according to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

The law gave Medicare the ability to negotiate prices for common prescription drugs, notably insulin. Biden lowered the Medicare eligibility age to 60.




Democrat Marianne Williamson wants to overhaul the existing U.S. health care system, doing away with Medicare Advantage plans and switching to a form of Medicare for All to “end the ACA's (Affordable Care Act's) waste.” As part of it, Williamson would promote nutrition education, fund recreation spaces and offer refundable tax credits for gym memberships.

Democrat Dean Phillips last month reversed his position and signed on to a House bill supporting Medicare for All. He doesn't agree with all the tenets, he told Politico in December, and would not do away with private insurance. He said his goal is to improve coverage and create more affordable options.

In the past, Phillips supported strengthening Medicare Advantage benefits for all Americans.

*rbaker@unionleader.com*

## ON THE ISSUES: THE DEMOCRATS

|   | <u>UKRAINE AID</u>  | <u>'AR-15' BAN</u>  | <u>MARIJUANA</u>  | <u>TAXES</u>   | <u>ABORTION BAN</u>   | <u>TRUMP PARDON</u>  |
|---|---|---|---|--|---|--|
|  <p><b>Dean Phillips</b></p>       | For. Favors additional aid.   | For. "We don't allow hand grenades, bazookas or machine guns on our streets, (so) there is precedent for a reasonable approach to assault weapons." | For. Supports legalizing, regulating and taxing cannabis and "stop treating people who use it as criminals."  | For. Wants to raise/reform the debt ceiling, cap future spending, raise the corporate tax to 25% and rescind the 2017 tax cuts.                      | Against. Has voted for House bills ensuring women's access to abortion.       | Against. "Principle matters."  |
|  <p><b>Marianne Williamson</b></p> | For. Says only choice at this point is to support Ukraine, but says U.S. should do everything possible to effect a negotiated settlement with Russia. | For. Wants to "eliminate the sale of assault rifles, ban bump stocks, high-capacity magazines and 3-D printing of firearms.                         | For. Would remove cannabis from the list of Schedule One drugs "on my first day in office. ... Happy 4/20!"   | For. Wants to repeal 2017 Trump tax breaks and reduce taxes on "working people" while enacting "fair taxes" on wealthy individuals and corporations. | Against. Is "one hundred percent pro-choice."                                 | Against. "Nor would I otherwise direct the Justice Department to drop the case against him." |
| <b>NOT ON NEW HAMPSHIRE BALLOT</b>  |   |   |   |  |   |  |
|  <p><b>Joe Biden</b></p>          | For. Has pledged to help Ukraine maintain armed forces capable of deterring Russian aggression over the long term.                                    | For. Wants a ban on "military-style" firearms, saying mass shootings tripled after a 10-year Assault Weapons Ban expired in 1994.                   | For. Wants to decriminalize cannabis and automatically expunge all prior convictions for use while leaving decision on recreational use up to states. | For. In 2022 proposed a new tax that would require households worth over \$100 million to pay a 20% tax on income and unrealized capital gains.      | Against. Has promised to veto a national abortion ban if Congress passes one. | Presumably opposes. He has laughed off questions about it.                                   |

## Candidates' positions on the issues provided by Citizens Count

The information on these two pages was supplied by the nonpartisan, non-profit Citizens Count.

The New Hampshire Union Leader has partnered with the organization to provide details about the candidates' positions on specific issues to readers of this guide.

Citizens Count determines where each candidate stands on the issues by surveying each one individually as well as by thoroughly researching voting

records, candidates' websites, campaign flyers, Project Vote Smart surveys, news interviews and more. Their website contains more than 57,000 candidate positions across state and federal offices.

The organization does not take positions on issues, endorse candidates or stand for or against any elected official.

Visit [CitizensCount.org](https://CitizensCount.org) for more information on all the presidential candidates on the Jan. 23 ballot.

### The questions

The responses on these pages cover the following questions:

**UKRAINE:** Should the U.S. government continue to provide military aid to Ukraine (without putting U.S. soldiers on the ground)?

**GUNS:** Should the federal government ban certain "military-style" firearms, such as the AR-15?

**MARIJUANA:** Should the government

legalize marijuana at the federal level?

**TAXES:** Should the federal government raise taxes to reduce budget deficit?

**ABORTION:** Should the federal government have a role in limiting abortions?







**TRUMP PARDON:** Would you pardon former President Donald Trump if he were convicted of a crime?



# Citizens Count®

Inspiring NH Citizens to Make a Difference

## ON THE ISSUES: THE REPUBLICANS

|  | <u>UKRAINE AID</u>  | <u>'AR-15' BAN</u>   | <u>MARIJUANA</u>  | <u>TAXES</u>   | <u>ABORTION BAN</u>   | <u>TRUMP PARDON</u>   |
|--|---|--|---|--|---|---|
|  <p><b>Ron DeSantis</b></p>                                    | Other. Doesn't want to become "further entangled in a territorial dispute between Ukraine and Russia" and has said further aid should be contingent on European countries' participation. | Against. Says such a ban would turn "law-abiding citizens into felons."  | Against. "We have too many people using drugs in this country right now."                         | Against. Wants to extend tax cuts and further simplify the tax code.   | For. Signed a six-week abortion plan in Florida and said he'll be "a pro-life president," but doesn't expect Congress "to do anything meaningful in this regard." | For. "I don't think it would be good for the country to have an almost 80-year-old former president go to prison."                        |
|  <p><b>Nikki Haley</b></p>                                     | For. "It's in the best interests of our national security for Ukraine to win. We have to see this through. We have to finish it."   | Against. Says "getting rid of AR-15s will not prevent mass shootings" and instead has emphasized plans to address mental health issues.  | Other. Says she is "a states' rights person" and states should decide the issue for themselves.   | Against. Wants to balance the budget but has offered few specific spending cuts. Has backed big tax cuts for individuals and small business but opposes "corporate welfare." | For. Thinks agreement can be reached on a late-term abortion ban but says anything more than that isn't realistic given votes required in Senate.                 | For. "It's no longer about the crime."  |
|  <p><b>Donald Trump</b></p>                                   | Against. Has called for a pause on aid to Ukraine and has said Biden "should not be dragging us further toward World War III."  | Against. After 2000 support for a ban on military-style "assault weapons," has taken staunch positions against.  | For. Has expressed support for letting states determine for themselves the best approach to take. | Against. In the fall, he reportedly discussed an aggressive new set of tax cuts to individual and corporate rates building on his controversial 2017 tax law.                | Other. Has refused to endorse a national ban, but appointed three conservative Supreme Court justices who helped overturn Roe v. Wade.                            | Other. Has said it is "very unlikely" he would pardon himself if he wins another term. "I didn't do anything wrong."                      |
| <b>RECENTLY WITHDRAWN CANDIDATES</b>   |   |  |   |  |   |   |
|  <p><b>Chris Christie</b><br/><i>(withdrew Jan. 10)</i></p>  | For. Doesn't like that there's a war and U.S. is supporting it, but says alternative is worse: conceding "a proxy war with China."  | Against. "It's a right for people to own guns, including assault weapons. He "largely believes" states should handle their regulation.   | Other. Says "states have the right to do what they want to do" about marijuana.                   | Against. Said he didn't plan to balance the budget in four years — "the hole is too big" — but spending trend needs reversed.  | Against. "Let states make that decision. . . and see if they form a national consensus."  | Against. "To get a pardon, you have to accept responsibility for what you did. I doubt very highly that Donald Trump would ever do that." |
|  <p><b>Asa Hutchinson</b><br/><i>(withdrew Jan. 16)</i></p>  | For. "Sure, we need to have accountable funds, we need to have audits, we need to have controls over it, but it is really important that we support them."                                | Against. Would not sign a ban on "military-style" firearms, though he doesn't believe such legislation would pass both chambers of Congress.   | Against. Decriminalizing marijuana "ignores the science."   | Against. Wants to "cut taxes and reduce regulations to boost the private sector and enhance wages for American workers."   | For. Would sign an anti-abortion bill that includes exceptions for life of the mother and cases of rape and incest.   | Unknown. "No candidate for president should be discussing specific use of the pardon power in individual cases."                          |
|  <p><b>Vivek Ramaswamy</b><br/><i>(withdrew Jan. 15)</i></p> | Against. "We're depleting U.S. military resources to dangerously low levels that we need in other conflict situations."   | Against. Describing himself as a "Second Amendment absolutist," he opposes restrictions on military-style firearms but considers background checks "a legitimate part of the process." | For. Supports decriminalization. "We got to catch up with the times."                             | Against. Believes "we can grow our way out of most of our economic problems," but allows that reducing taxes is "table stakes for pro-growth candidate."                     | Other. Would not support a federal ban on abortion because "the federal government should stay out of it" but supports six-week bans passed by states.            | For. "One of the right ways to (move the country forward) is to pardon (Trump) from what is clearly a politicized prosecution."           |

## VOTER INFO

# Never voted in a New Hampshire primary? Here's what you need to know

**A**S LONG as you are a U.S. citizen and a New Hampshire resident, you can vote in Tuesday's state primary.

Following are some basic questions and answers for new voters from the New Hampshire Secretary of State's Office.

### Who can vote in a primary?

Any registered voter can vote in a primary. If you are registered as a Republican or a Democrat, you may only select that party's ballot at the polls.

If you are undeclared, you can choose either ballot. After voting, you can return to undeclared status before leaving the polls. Otherwise, you will be listed as a member of the party whose ballot you chose.

Registered Republicans and Democrats cannot change their party affiliation at the polls. They must do so with their city or town clerk or supervisors of the checklist. It's too late to make that change for Tuesday's primary. To check your party affiliation, go to [app.sos.nh.gov/viphome](http://app.sos.nh.gov/viphome).

### Can I still register to vote in the primary?

You can register at the polls on primary day.

### Who can register vote?

New Hampshire inhabitants who are U.S. citizens and will be 18 years of age or older on the day of the election. There is



no minimum period of time you are required to have lived in the state before registering to vote. You may register as soon as you move into your new

community.

### What do I need to register?

You will be asked to show proof of identity, age, citizenship and domicile. This proof may be shown in paper or electronic form.

A driver's license or non-driver ID is acceptable proof of identity and age. A birth certificate, U.S. passport or passport or a naturalization document is proof of citizenship.

To prove domicile, state law says you

need a document that "manifests an intent to maintain a single continuous presence for for domestic, social and civil purposes..." For a list of specific documents that meet these requirements, see <https://bit.ly/3RkUM0r>

If you do not have proof with you when registering, these qualifications may be established by signing an affidavit.

### Can I still request an absentee ballot?

Not unless your city or town clerk accepts in-person requests on Monday. Contact your clerk's office soon to request an absentee ballot for the Nov. 5 general election. And be aware that the special rules that made it easier to qualify for an absentee ballot in 2020 because of COVID-19 are no longer in place.

Political Advertising

# DONALD TRUMP: UNFIT TO BE PRESIDENT

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"...World leaders see Trump as a laughing fool."<sup>1</sup>  
*John Bolton (Trump's National Security Advisor)*

"Anyone who puts himself over the Constitution should never be President of the United States."<sup>2</sup>  
*Mike Pence (Trump's Vice President)*

"Donald Trump is wholly unfit for office and a clear and present danger to democracy. Republicans, please take him on."<sup>3</sup>  
*Alyssa Farrah Griffin (Trump's Communications Director)*

"It's time to stand up for the principles and beliefs that we founded this party on and this country on."<sup>4</sup>  
*Former Governor Chris Christie (R-NJ)*

"There is no question, none, that President Trump is practically and morally responsible for provoking the event of that day [January 6th]."<sup>5</sup>  
*Mitch McConnell (Senate Minority Leader)*

"Since 2016, Republicans have done nothing but lose. Doubling down on losing isn't just foolish. It's a gift to the Democrats."<sup>6</sup>  
*Governor Larry Hogan (R-MD)*

(Trump supporters near the U.S. Capitol, on January 06, 2021 in Washington, DC. Photo by Shay Horse/NurPhoto via Getty Images)

<sup>1</sup>businessinsider.com/bolton-trump-russia-ukraine-laughing-fool-world-leaders-nato-2023-5?utm\_source=copy-link&utm\_medium=referral&utm\_content=topbar, John L. Dorman 05/16/2023; <sup>2</sup>politico.com/news/2023/08/01/pence-reacts-trump-indictment-00109312, Kelly Garrity, 08/01/2023; <sup>3</sup>x.com/Alyssafarah/status/1592705261349007361?s=20, 11/15/2022; <sup>4</sup>foxnews.com/politics/chris-christie-says-gop-should-move-past-trump-time-stop-being-afraid-any-one-person, Landon Mion, 11/20/2022; <sup>5</sup>apnews.com/article/mitch-mcconnell-donald-trump-impeachment-c9a38d7492f6ea56821f4e0930914b61; <sup>6</sup>x.com/LarryHogan/status/1592700140866904067?s=20, 11/15/2022

POLITICAL ADVERTISING

# New Hampshire voters in both parties' primaries have a unique opportunity this Tuesday.

## They can vote for "PEACE" in Gaza and Israel.



The brutal attack by HAMAS on October 7th, which killed over 1,250 Israeli civilians and others, was an act of terror and clearly a war crime. Over 125 Israeli and other foreign nationals are still being held captive in Gaza.

But nothing can justify Israel's ongoing indiscriminate use of lethal force in their carpet bombing of Gaza which has to date killed an estimated 25,000 Palestinians, the overwhelming majority of whom have been civilians. This constitutes over 1% of the total population, equivalent to over 3 million US citizens. Over 80% of the population has been internally displaced and is suffering from the lack of access to food, shelter, water, and medical care. Most of them are crowded into Israeli designated "safe areas" which nonetheless continue to be bombed.

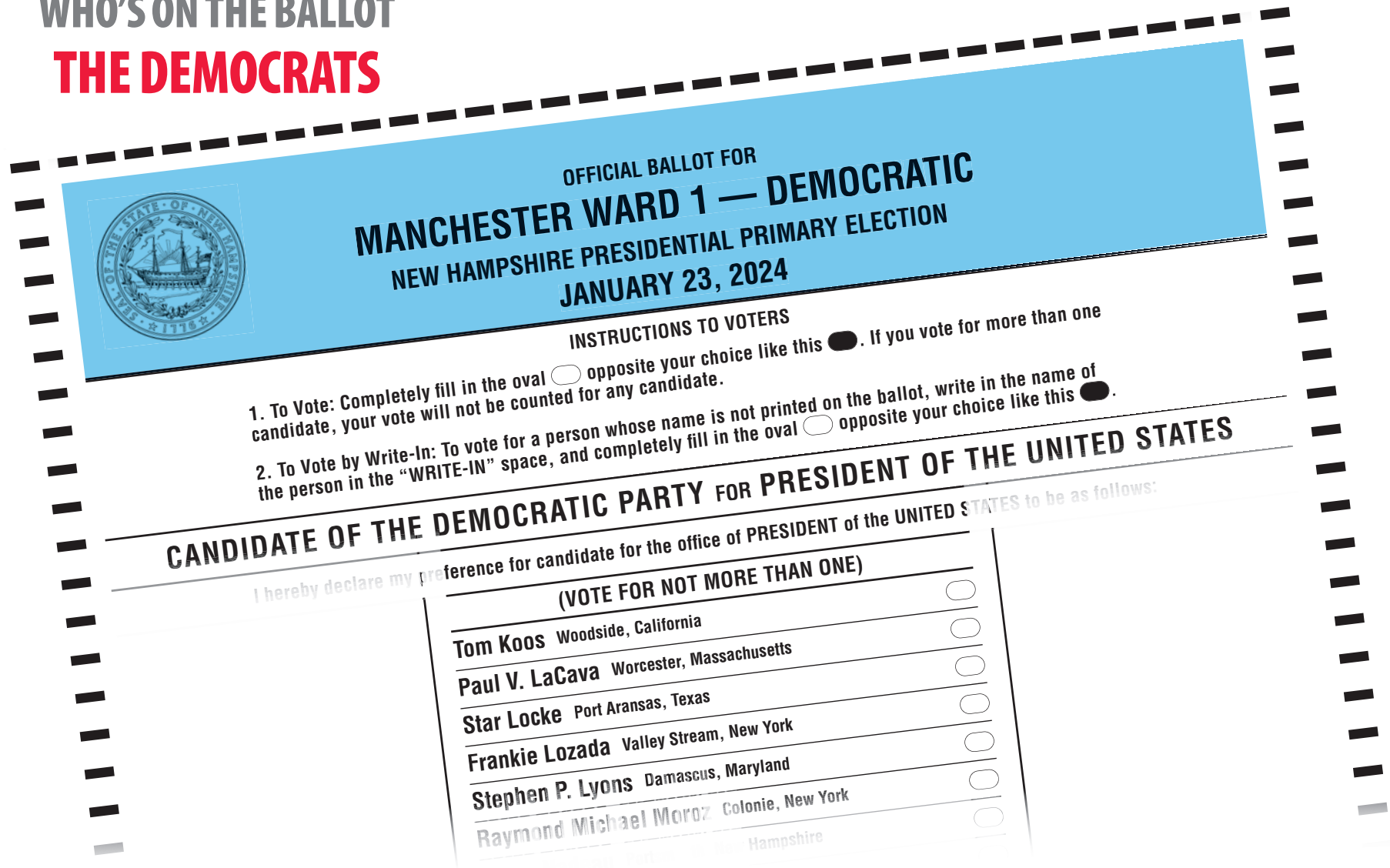
Sadly, the overwhelming majority of politicians on both sides of the political divide have either remained silent or outright defended Israel's tactics, regardless of their effect on innocents. This is being carried out using weapons made in the US and paid for with our tax dollars. The U.S. can no longer be complicit in prolonging this conflict. There has been more than enough suffering on both sides.

Voters in both primaries can write in "PEACE" on Tuesday. In every poll, the overwhelming majority of U.S. citizens have expressed support for an immediate ceasefire. In two days we can send a clear message that the U.S. must do everything we can to end this war. Now.

Wouldn't it be amazing if "PEACE" won in both primaries?

# WHO'S ON THE BALLOT

## THE DEMOCRATS



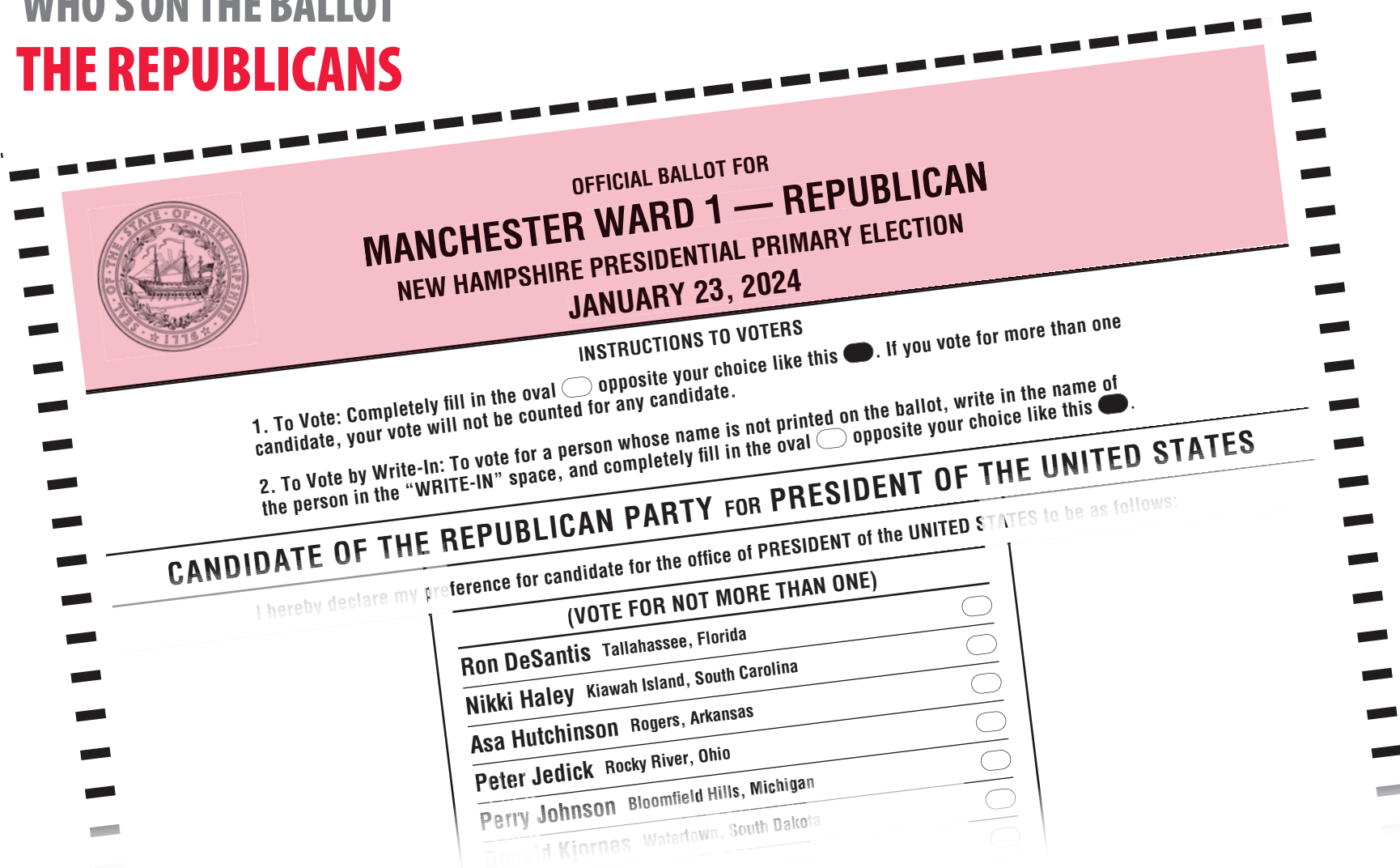
*Twenty-one candidates appear on the Democratic primary ballot. The names are printed in random order from one community to another. Here is an alphabetical list:*

- President R. Boddie • Atlanta, Georgia
- Terrisa Bukovinac • Washington, D.C.
- Eban Cambridge • Hayward, California
- Gabriel Cornejo • Las Vegas, Nevada
- John Vail • Easton, New Hampshire
- Mark Stewart Greenstein • West Hartford, Connecticut
- Tom Koos • Woodside, California
- Paul V. LaCava • Worcester, Massachusetts
- Star Locke • Port Aransas, Texas

- Frankie Lozada • Valley Stream, New York
- Stephen P. Lyons • Damascus, Maryland
- Raymond Michael Moroz • Colonie, New York
- Derek Nadeau • Portsmouth, New Hampshire
- Jason Michael Palmer • Baltimore, Maryland
- Mando Perez-Serrato • Orange, California
- Dean Phillips • Wayzata, Minnesota
- Donald Picard • Cambridge, Massachusetts
- Paperboy Love Prince • Brooklyn, New York
- Richard Rist • Baltimore, Maryland
- Vermin Supreme • Rockport, Massachusetts
- Marianne Williamson • Washington, D.C.

# WHO'S ON THE BALLOT

## THE REPUBLICANS



*Twenty-four candidates appear on the Republican primary ballot. The names are printed in random order from one community to another. Here is an alphabetical list:*

- Scott Alan Ayers • Carpentersville, Illinois
- Ryan L. Binkley • Dallas, Texas
- Doug Burgum • Bismarck, North Dakota
- Robert S. Carney, Jr. • Minneapolis, Minnesota
- John Anthony Castro • Mansfield, Texas
- Chris Christie • Mendham, New Jersey
- Ron DeSantis • Tallahassee, Florida
- Nikki Haley • Kiawah Island, South Carolina
- Asa Hutchinson • Rogers, Arkansas
- Peter Jedick • Rocky River, Ohio
- Perry Johnson • Bloomfield Hills, Michigan

- Donald Kjornes • Watertown, South Dakota
- Mary Maxwell • Concord, New Hampshire
- Glenn J. McPeters • Essex Junction, Vermont
- Scott Peterson Merrell • Norwalk, Connecticut
- Darius L. Mitchell • Lowell, Massachusetts
- Mike Pence • Zionsville, Indiana
- Vivek Ramaswamy • Columbus, Ohio
- Tim Scott • Hanahan, South Carolina
- Hirsh V. Singh • Linwood, New Jersey
- Samuel Howard Sloan • Oakland, California
- David Stuckenberg • Tampa, Florida
- Rachel Swift • Hagerstown, Maryland
- Donald J. Trump • Palm Beach, Florida

## ACTIVE CANDIDATES



SERGIO FLORES/REUTERS

## RON DeSANTIS REPUBLICAN

**R**ON DeSANTIS's overwhelming reelection to a second term as governor of Florida in 2022 cast him early on as the leading challenger to former President Donald Trump's third Republican nomination, and he even led Trump in some early 2023 polls.

But DeSantis's campaign was beset with missteps. His election announcement crashed on social media, and a rash of staff shakeups and resignations followed.

DeSantis, 45, remains popular with conservative Republicans for his record of fighting Trump and Biden administration mandates during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic and for signing laws protecting parental rights and banning abortions after six weeks.

He got plenty of pre-campaign attention for his feud with Disney, his home state's largest employer, after the

company came out against his proposal to ban teaching of sex and sexuality to students through third grade. He then convinced lawmakers to pass a bill that placed more state supervision over operations of the theme park complex.

Outdone only by Texas GOP Gov. Greg Abbott, DeSantis has used his day job to support crackdowns on illegal immigrants. These included signing an anti-sanctuary city state law, sending 1,000 National Guard troops to assist with Abbott's border activities and spending \$12 million to relocate migrants to other states, including Martha's Vineyard, Mass.

DeSantis, who was deployed to Iraq while serving in the U.S. Navy, is seeking to become the first combat veteran elected commander in chief since George H.W. Bush in 1988.

**Experience:** Florida governor (2019–present); U.S. House of Representatives (2013–18)

**Residence:** Tallahassee, Florida

**Age:** 45

**Family:** Married, three children

**Education:** B.A. History, Yale University; J.D., Harvard Law School

**Website:** rondsantis.com



JODIE ANDRUSKEVICH/UNION LEADER

## NIKKI HALEY REPUBLICAN

**T**HE DAUGHTER of Indian immigrants, Nimarata “Nikki” Haley is seeking to become the first woman and first Republican President of color in American history.

She was the first female governor in South Carolina and resigned in January 2017 during her second term to become ambassador to the United Nations.

Haley has shied from directly criticizing former President Donald Trump other than to say, “chaos follows him,” he’s “thin-skinned” and he saddled the country with trillions in federal debt.

Haley would support Trump if he becomes the nominee, has not ruled out running as Trump's vice president, and if elected, would pardon Trump of any of the federal crimes he is accused of.

Haley, 51, says it's time for a “new generation of leadership” to succeed Trump, 77, and Biden, 81.

Haley has called for a mental competency test for public officials 75 years or older and supports a ban on teaching sex and sexuality in public schools until students reach seventh grade.

Among GOP candidates, Haley has spoken out most strongly in favor of federal support to the war in Ukraine, vowed to end foreign aid to countries whose leaders condemn the U.S. and called China this nation's greatest domestic and national security threat.

Her husband, Michael, is an officer in the South Carolina National Guard who has been deployed to Africa throughout her campaign.

**Experience:** U.N. Ambassador (2017–19); So. Carolina governor (2011–17), legislature (2005–11)

**Residence:** Kiawah Island, South Carolina

**Age:** 51

**Family:** Married, two children

**Education:** B.S. Accounting and Finance, Clemson University

**Website:** nikkihaley.com



ELIZABETH FRANTZ/REUTERS

# DONALD TRUMP REPUBLICAN

**D**ONALD TRUMP is seeking to become the second president in American history, after Democrat Grover Cleveland, to win back the White House after being defeated in a bid for a second term.

He also would make history if he wins and is convicted of any of the four sets of state and federal charges he faces.

Trump insisted election interference cost him reelection in 2020, and he has urged supporters to elect him to carry out retribution against their common enemies.

He said he would like to be a “dictator,” but only on Day One of his presidency, which would entail signing executive orders to secure the southern border, jumpstart more domestic energy production and end civil service protection for federal workers.

Much of Trump’s agenda revolves around finishing previously started efforts, including construction of a full wall along the Mexican border, repeal of the Affordable Care Act and a departure from the NATO alliance unless “they treat us properly.”

While Trump’s picks to the the U.S. Supreme Court figured heavily in the decision to overturn Roe vs. Wade, he has declined to say whether he would sign a federal ban on abortions.

He has vowed to eliminate the U.S. Department of Education and pursue a federal law recognizing only two genders in America.

He would defund the FBI and Justice Department, which he insists President Joe Biden has weaponized to prosecute him as well as derail challenges to the 2020 election results.

**Experience:** President (2017-21); real estate developer; former TV show reality host

**Residence:** Palm Beach, Florida

**Age:** 77

**Family:** Married, five children

**Education:** B.S. Economics, MBA, Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania

**Website:** donaldjtrump.com

## 2024 NOMINATING SCHEDULE

### REPUBLICAN CAUCUSES

**Jan. 15:** Iowa  
**Feb. 8:** Nevada, Virgin Islands  
**March 2:** Idaho, Missouri  
**March 4:** North Dakota  
**March 5:** Alaska, Utah  
**March 12:** Hawaii  
**March 15:** Northern Mariana  
**March 16:** Guam  
**April 20:** Wyoming  
**May 14:** Maryland, Nebraska, West Virginia

### REPUBLICAN PRIMARIES

**Jan. 23:** New Hampshire  
**Feb. 24:** South Carolina  
**Feb. 27:** Michigan  
**March 3:** District of Columbia  
**March 5:** Alabama, American Samoa, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Maine, Massachusetts, Minnesota, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, Virginia  
**March 12:** Georgia, Mississippi, Washington  
**March 19:** Arizona, Florida, Illinois, Kansas, Ohio  
**March 23:** Louisiana  
**April 2:** Connecticut, Delaware, New York, Rhode Island, Wisconsin  
**April 21:** Puerto Rico  
**April 23:** Pennsylvania  
**May 7:** Indiana  
**May 14:** Maryland, Nebraska, West Virginia  
**May 21:** Kentucky, Oregon  
**June 4:** Montana, New Jersey, New Mexico, South Dakota

### REPUBLICAN NATIONAL CONVENTION

**July 15-18,** Milwaukee

### DEMOCRATIC CAUCUSES

**March 5:** Iowa  
**April 13:** Wyoming  
**May 25:** Idaho  
**June 8:** Guam, Virgin Islands

### DEMOCRATIC PRIMARIES

**Jan. 23:** New Hampshire  
**Feb. 3:** South Carolina  
**Feb. 6:** Nevada  
**Feb. 27:** Michigan  
**March 5:** Alabama, American Samoa, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Maine, Massachusetts, Minnesota, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia  
**March 12:** Democrats Abroad, Georgia, Mississippi, Northern Mariana, Washington  
**March 19:** Arizona, Florida, Illinois, Kansas, Ohio  
**March 23:** Louisiana, Missouri  
**April 2:** Connecticut, Delaware, New York, Rhode Island, Wisconsin  
**April 6:** Alaska, Hawaii, North Dakota  
**April 23:** Pennsylvania  
**April 28:** Puerto Rico  
**May 7:** Indiana  
**May 14:** Maryland, Nebraska, West Virginia  
**May 21:** Kentucky, Oregon  
**June 4:** District of Columbia, Montana, New Jersey, New Mexico, South Dakota

### DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL CONVENTION

**Aug. 19-22,** Chicago

Source: 270twin.com

**Granite State Observer**

It's one thing to betray NH, but for SC? See page 8

the end of SOLID SOUTH See page 9

In a Pandemic Year! See page 9

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PHILLIPS FOR CONGRESS

## DEAN PHILLIPS DEMOCRAT

**I**N LATE OCTOBER, Dean Phillips became the last major candidate to enter the 2024 race, saying Democrats must nominate someone other than President Joe Biden or risk losing to former President Donald Trump.

A month later, Phillips, 54, announced he would not be seeking reelection to the swing suburban district he has represented in western Minnesota since 2018.

Phillips was 6 months old when his father, Artie Pepper, died fighting in the Vietnam War. His mother married Eddie Phillips, heir to a lucrative liquor distilling company and son of Pauline Phillips, the advice columnist Dear Abby. Eddie Phillips adopted Dean when he was 3.

Dean Phillips took over the liquor business for a time and started successful companies of his own that sell gelato and coffee.

He is one of the richest members of Congress.

Before this race, Phillips rose up the seniority level in the U.S. House as co-chair of the policy and communications committee, a post he quit just before launching this campaign.

Since Biden took office in 2021, Phillips voted 100% of the time with the president's stated views on issues, which made him more liberal than average among his colleagues.

In his first term, Phillips was ranked as 30th-most bipartisan member in the 435-person chamber.

While Phillips initially focused on Biden's age as a disqualifier for a second term, in recent weeks he has broadened his message to call for liberal policies that Biden has failed to support, including Medicare for All, a guaranteed federal income and consideration of federal reparations for Black Americans because of slavery.

**Experience:** U.S. House (2019-present)

**Residence:** Wayzata, Minnesota

**Age:** 55

**Family:** Married, two children

**Education:** BA, Brown University; MBA, University of Minnesota

**Website:** dean24.com



THOMAS ROY/UNION LEADER

## MARIANNE WILLIAMSON DEMOCRAT

**M**ARIANNE WILLIAMSON said she decided to run for president a second time because President Joe Biden has too often bowed to pressure from private companies and watered down his policies.

The author and lecturer mounted a run in 2020 but dropped out a month before New Hampshire primary ballots were cast.

She is best known as the author of "A Return to Love: Reflections on the Principles of A Course in Miracles," which sold three million copies. Some have described it as a religion. Williamson said it was "spiritual psychotherapy" born out of her own experiences after a nervous breakdown and years of alcohol and drug abuse.

In this race, Williamson campaigned on a "Marshall Plan" economic bill of rights that would include free college tuition, universal preschool, government-run

health care and a new Department of Peace.

She has called for independent regulation of the pharmaceutical industry, accusing it of exploiting profit at the risk of harm to patients.

On immigration, Williamson sought a more humane approach at the southern border but does not favor open borders. A Jewish American, she said Donald Trump's support of mass deportations of illegal immigrants is "no different" than what Nazi Germany did to the Jewish people before and during World War II.

She also supports a new Equal Rights Amendment to enshrine protections for LGBTQ individuals against discrimination in the U.S. Constitution.

Williamson has railed against the national media for not giving her campaign enough coverage and too often covering up Biden's failures as president.

**Experience:** Lecturer, author; no elective or appointive office experience

**Residence:** Washington, DC

**Age:** 71

**Family:** Divorced, one child

**Education:** ISD Bellaire High School, Houston

**Website:** marianne2024.com

## JOE BIDEN DEMOCRAT

**J**OE BIDEN is seeking to be the first president since Lyndon B. Johnson to win the New Hampshire primary without having his name on the ballot, but that's where the comparison ends.

In 1968, Johnson hadn't decided whether he would seek a second term. A few weeks after anti-Vietnam Sen. Eugene McCarthy came within seven percentage points of winning here, LBJ announced he would not run again.

By contrast, Biden engineered a Democratic National Committee effort to strip New Hampshire of the first primary and give it to South Carolina, the Republican-leaning state that resurrected his campaign during the 2020 primaries. Citing the DNC rules, Biden last fall refused to file as a candidate, and Granite State supporters have organized a write-in campaign for him.

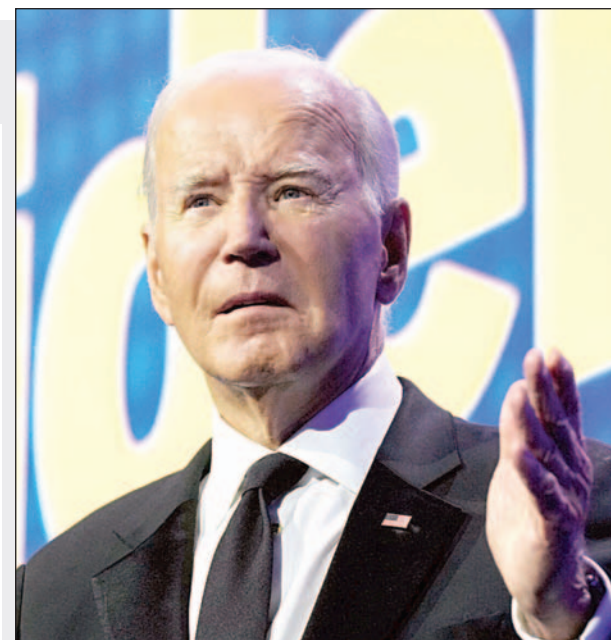
After weathering a 40-year high inflation rate, Biden

argued the U.S. economy is recovering, with low unemployment and declining interest rates.

Biden said he received bipartisan support for his COVID-19 relief laws and a federal infrastructure aid package while dealing with a hostile House of Representatives. House leadership is investigating whether to impeach him over allegations that he enriched himself during and after his service as Barack Obama's vice president.

If he wins a second term, Biden said he would seek a federal law legalizing access to abortions nationwide through at least the first six months of pregnancy, support two years of free community college tuition and affordable, universal preschool for all American children.

Biden has governed in a time of global conflict, withdrawing all U.S. troops from Afghanistan while supporting military aid to both Ukraine and Israel.



KEN CEDENO/REUTERS

**Experience:** President (2021-present); Vice President (2008-16); U.S. Senate (1972-2008)

**Residence:** Wilmington, Delaware

**Age:** 81

**Family:** Married, four children

**Education:** B.A. History and Political Science, University of Delaware; J.D., Syracuse University

**Website:** joe Biden.com

## RECENTLY WITHDRAWN

## CHRIS CHRISTIE REPUBLICAN

**B**EFORE his abrupt withdrawal from the race on Jan. 10, Chris Christie had staked his candidacy on full-throated opposition to former President Donald Trump and on his record of results as a Republican who once ran the deep blue state of New Jersey.

Christie, who announced his candidacy in New Hampshire, had bet the survival of his campaign on a breakthrough finish in the first-in-the-nation primary.

Christie's first White House bid in 2016 ended after a disappointing sixth-place finish in New Hampshire. He endorsed Trump the following day and went on to become the head of Trump's transition team and chair of a federal task force that recommended reforms to deal with the opioid epidemic.

Christie dropped his support for Trump on election

night 2020, when the president refused to concede, insisting instead that the race had been stolen.

While other rivals criticized the prosecution of Trump in state and federal courts as politically motivated, Christie called it "evidence-driven" and said, if elected, he would oppose granting Trump a pardon for any of his crimes.

A former U.S. attorney, Christie pressed for tougher controls against illegal immigration on the southern border, opposed bans on assault weapons and legalization of marijuana.

Christie, who opposes abortion rights, said the Supreme Court rightly decided the matter by sending the issue back to the states. He said he opposed a federal ban on abortion. Christie admitted he was wrong as governor to have opposed same-sex marriage.



JONATHAN NEWTON/THE WASHINGTON POST

**Experience:** New Jersey Governor (2010-18); U.S. Attorney (2002-08)

**Residence:** Mendham, New Jersey

**Age:** 61

**Family:** Married, four children

**Education:** B.A. University of Delaware; J.D., Seton Hall University

**Website:** chrischristie.com



KEVIN LANDRIGAN/UNION LEADER

## ASA HUTCHINSON REPUBLICAN

**U**NTIL HE WITHDREW on Wednesday, Asa Hutchinson was the most experienced candidate in the Republican primary field, having started in politics 42 years ago as the top federal prosecutor in Arkansas under President Ronald Reagan.

He also struggled more than any other major candidate to gain any traction. He withdrew the morning after the Iowa caucuses. He finished sixth — with less than 1% support — behind Ryan Binkley, a Texas pastor who didn't qualify for any GOP debates.

"My message of being a principled Republican with experience and telling the truth about the current frontrunner did not sell in Iowa," Hutchinson said.

Like former New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, Hutchinson has been a sharp critic of former President Donald Trump, predicting Trump will be convicted on federal felony charges and calling on him to abandon the race. A fiscal and social conservative, Hutchinson signed a

virtual ban on abortion while governor, though he had wanted it to include exceptions for rape and incest. He also signed a state law banning cities and towns from extending civil rights protections to LGBTQ individuals.

On immigration, Hutchinson separated himself from the field by opposing Trump's border wall, backed the federal death penalty for fentanyl drug dealers and advocated for expanding the U.S. border patrol presence. He also favored giving states, rather than the federal government, the power to issue work visas.

Hutchinson had said that if elected, he would bring back Ronald Reagan's commission on entitlements in hopes that it could come up with nonpartisan reforms of Social Security and Medicare that make both programs financially solvent well into the future.

Hutchinson urged GOP leaders in Congress to fully support Israel in its war against Hamas and to help finance the defense of Ukraine against the Russian invasion.

**Experience:** Arkansas governor (2015-23) U.S. House of Representatives (1997-2001); U.S. Attorney (1982-85); Drug Enforcement Administration Administrator (2001-03); Homeland Security Department Undersecretary (2003-05)

**Residence:** Bentonville, Arkansas **Age:** 73 **Family:** Married, one child

**Education:** B.A., Bob Jones University; J.D., University of Arkansas

**Website:** asa2024.com



DAVID LANE/UNION LEADER

## VIVEK RAMASWAMY REPUBLICAN

**W**HEN IT COMES to running for president, Vivek Ramaswamy broke all the rules, but it didn't help — he dropped out Monday night out after finishing a distant fourth in the Iowa caucuses.

He has never held any elective office, did not vote in presidential elections from 2008 throughout 2016, and at 39 would have been the youngest president ever.

The Ohio native made much of his almost-billion-dollar fortune from Roivant Sciences, a company he founded that specialized in taking drugs without patents to market. The firm partnered with a state-owned Chinese company in 2017 and sold its stake to a Japanese firm two years later; Ramaswamy is still the firm's fifth-biggest shareholder.

Ramaswamy's political stock rose with the 2021 publication of "Woke Inc.," a best-selling book he wrote that argued the political correctness movement had overtaken American government and corporate institutions

at the highest level.

Ramaswamy offered the most ambitious plan of anyone in either major party to overhaul the federal government, promising to shut down the Department of Education, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, the Internal Revenue Service and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

He said he would lay off 75% of federal government workers in his first term and impose an eight-year term limit for all unelected federal bureaucrats.

Ramaswamy opposes affirmative action, calling it "institutionalized racism," and supports making marijuana use by adults legal under federal law.

He has said Ukraine should end its war by ceding territories to Russia. In exchange, Russia would have to return to negotiations over nuclear weapons and end its alliance with China.

**Experience:** Biotechnology company founder, investor; no elective or appointive office experience

**Residence:** Manhattan, New York

**Age:** 38

**Family:** Married, two children

**Education:** B.A. Biology, Harvard University; J.D., Yale Law School

**Website:** vivek2024.com

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