

November 8, 2023

2024 GOP Candidates on Healthcare

Trump Leads Pack Going Into 3rd Debate Nov 8 @ 8 pm ET

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The third debate of the Republican presidential race will take place this evening in Miami, Florida. Below, please find healthcare platforms, along with what we expect to see this evening.

»» Our Take & Next Up

The third GOP debate takes place tonight (Weds Nov 8 at 8 pm ET) ([here](#)), with more of a discussion (fewer participants), and we expect healthcare to be addressed, along with foreign affairs, debt/deficits and the economy. Is anyone watching? Five GOP candidates will take the stage with Trump remaining on the sidelines (as he did the prior two) as he continues court proceedings this week in the NYC civil fraud trial. With a smaller group, there could be more of a discussion versus constant interruption. ACA repeal and replace – for the first time in a decade – has largely disappeared from the GOP platform. This evening we expect middle east/foreign affairs, US economy, as well as healthcare entitlements to be discussed. The next and final debate is scheduled for December 6 in Tuscaloosa, AL. The Iowa Caucuses start January 15, 2024, with New Hampshire Caucus following on January 23, 2024. Super Tuesday is on March 5, 2024. As of now, there is no Democratic Presidential Debate scheduled, with President Joe Biden as the incumbent candidate.

»» Key Points

Last night's election results reflect well for Democrats, not-so-well for Joe Biden. Biden's poor polling (see below) contrasts with a strong election night for Democrats on Tuesday 11/7 when voters in Ohio enshrined abortion rights in the state constitution and Gov Andy Beshear (KY) won a second term, a deep red state. Democrats picked up the Virginia state House to take full control of the VA legislature.

Candidates who have qualified for this debate are as follows. FL Gov. Ron DeSantis, former U.N. Ambassador Nikki Haley, Entrepreneur Vivek Ramaswamy, SC Senator Tim Scott, and NJ Gov. Chris Christie. Former President Trump – who is leading the GOP pack – is skipping out on the debate again, and is scheduled to host a rally in Hialeah, Florida.

The top five: We do not believe that any of the candidates on the stage tonight would be VP material, despite Ramaswamy's tacit interest. Other recent candidate news:

- Former Vice President Mike Pence dropped out of the race in late October.
- AK Gov. Asa Hutchinson did not qualify for the second debate and will again not make it to the stage in FL.
- ND Gov. Doug Burgum, who participated in the first two debates did not reach the minimum to participate.

There was limited healthcare discussion during the 2nd GOP debate (Sept 27), however, transparency and behavioral health are common interests. Debt & deficits are likely to be discussed, particularly given new House Speaker Mike Johnson's desire to create a bipartisan commission. Nikki Haley and Vivek Ramaswamy touched on

healthcare. Haley took a strong stance on the need to support transparency for hospitals, pharmaceutical and insurance companies. Ramaswamy voiced the need to combat the mental health epidemic and bring back face-to-face care.

Former President Donald Trump is the clear front-runner of the field and is beating President Biden in key swing states (NV, GA, AZ, MI, PA, WI). Despite indictments and court hearings Trump currently leads Biden between +4 and +10 in 5 out of 6 swing states ([here](#)). In WI, Biden has a fractional lead. In recent polling done on Nov. 6 by Trafalgar Group, Trump leads in among likely GOP IA Presidential Caucus voters ([here](#)). Trump leads the GOP candidates by +26 with DeSantis coming in second at +18.

On the Democratic side, there has not been much change, with Biden leading the party, despite a lack of excitement from voters. President Joe Biden is still the front-runner to receive the nomination, however, Americans are starting to doubt his abilities with age and health concerns. Two weeks ago, Rep. Dean Phillips (D-MN) stated that he was going to challenge Biden for the Democratic nomination; he has since launched his campaign. Additionally, Marianne Williamson is a candidate for the Democratic party; she announced her candidacy on February 23, 2023. In other news, Robert F. Kennedy Jr. recently declared himself as an Independent, removing himself from the Democratic party. He is hoping to be a voice for the voters who are frustrated with partisan control and divides.

| | Ron DeSantis (FL Gov) | Chris Christie (NJ, former Gov) | Nikki Haley (SC, former Gov & UN Amb.) | Tim Scott (SC Sen) | Vivek Ramaswamy (OH, businessman) |
|---|---------------------------------|---|---|------------------------------|--|
| Repeal the ACA | | | | | |
| Anti-COVID-19 Mask Mandates/Public Health | | | | | |
| Increased Healthcare Transparency | | | | | |
| Regulation of the FDA | | | | | |
| Anti-PBM | | | | | |

Sources: Campaign Website, Press Reports, WSJ, Politico, The Hill, Capitol Street, 2023

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