

February 25, 2024

## A Closer Look at South Carolina Results

What Happens to Nikki Haley? Michigan & Super Tuesday Next

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### »» Our Take & Next Up

**Donald Trump won handily (+20 pts) in South Carolina, Nikki Haley's home state ([here](#)).** Trump's victories make it virtually impossible for any other potential candidate to break through. Nikki Haley says she will still stay in the race (given her support among independents and others). If Haley were to receive the nomination, we believe she could beat Joe Biden in the general election. It would pay for her to hang out under the hoop ([here](#)). Next up: Michigan Primary is February 27, and Super Tuesday is March 5. On the latter, residents in Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Iowa (D), Maine, Massachusetts, Minnesota, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia and American Samoa will be voting 3/5. Once those are complete, over half of the delegates needed to secure the nomination will have been awarded.

### »» Key Points

**A closer look at SC results could paint a concerning national picture for Donald Trump (1)** Trump lost to Haley in two of South Carolina's three most populous counties, Charleston and Richland, as well as in Beaufort County. Those three are the only counties in the state in which residents with a college degree make up 40% or more of the adult population. **(2)** Trump lost among SC voters with postgraduate degrees—typically professional-class workers—and he lost among voters with a yearly household income of \$100,000 or more, per AP VoteCast ([here](#)).

**Trump has now won the first five nominating contests convincingly.** He appears to lack “professional class” and suburban voters potentially making November tough. Independents (polled in SC ad IA [here](#)) support Haley over Trump. However, there are many months between now and election day. The saying holds that if you can win the Presidency once...

**Trump's charges, fines, and trials have not seemingly altered GOP support in recent primaries.** On February 16, Trump was ordered to pay \$354.8 M in a civil fraud case; the judge also banned him from opening or running businesses in New York for the next 3 years ([here](#)). Trump faces 91 felony charges in 4 different states, the first of the criminal case trials will start March 25 ([here](#)).

**The DOJ special counsel report notes that President Joe Biden's memory is more than spotty ([here](#)) with the public questioning his mental health, as a potential second-termer.** The President's memory is hazy, poor, and fuzzy as it pertains to personal milestones ([here](#)). Biden continues to fire back at critics that his memory is fine.

**There is currently no backup nominee if something were to happen to Biden before the election.** Kamala Harris is not necessarily embraced within party leadership as a Presidential nominee but would assume the position if Biden was unable to serve if elected this fall (that is, if she remains his VP).

If the election were today (sources: [here](#), [here](#), [here](#))

- **Trump would beat Biden by <2 points (46.1% to 44.2%).** This is clearly close and could go either way. In a Haley-Biden contest, Haley would prevail (45% to Biden's 40.1%) ([here](#)).
- **The Senate would flip to a slim Republican majority.** The Senate is currently 51 Democrats and 49 Republicans, the projected 2025 Senate will have 49 Democrats and 51 Republicans.
- **The House would flip to Democratic control (truly a coin-flip at this time).** House is currently made up of 212 Democrats, and 219 Republicans. Currently Dems need 4 seats to take control. The Democratic party flipped former Rep George Santos' (R-NY) seat; Democrat U.S. House Candidate Tom Suozzi (D-NY) was victorious in the special election ([here](#)).

**Healthcare has proven to be low profile in this election as Ukraine, Inflation, Guns, Immigration, and the Middle East are key, center-stage topics for voters.** No candidates from either party have mentioned much of anything concerning healthcare, apart from healthcare transparency, mental health, with Repeal & Replace a Trump mantra (that won't happen).

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