

# Previewing US politics for 2024: What's in store in a presidential election year.

*From the presidential election to Donald Trump's various trials, USAPP Managing Editor, [Chris Gilson](#) looks at the US political year ahead.*

2024 has arrived, and with it the 60<sup>th</sup> United States presidential election. But before we get to election day on November 5<sup>th</sup>, what does the rest of the year have in store for US politics? Here's what we know so far about what we can expect in the coming months and some background on why these events are important.

## **January – the US government budget, Biden impeachment enquiry, and the primaries begin**

On January 7<sup>th</sup>, the US Congress – via Senate Majority Leader, Chuck Schumer (D-NY), and House Speaker, [Mike Johnson](#), (R-LA) [reached a budget deal](#) to avoid a US government shutdown on January 19<sup>th</sup>. The “bipartisan appropriations agreement” sets spending to \$1.59 trillion for the current fiscal year and [needs to be passed](#) by both the House and Senate ahead of January 19<sup>th</sup> when funding for some services runs out, and definitely by February 2<sup>nd</sup>, when funding for the remainder of government ends.

Staying in Washington DC, the US House Impeachment inquiry into President Joe Biden, focusing on the business dealings of his son, Hunter Biden, which was [opened](#) in December, will continue. As the inquiry develops this year, we can [expect](#) Republicans to continue with hearings, request information from Biden, issue subpoenas, and potentially kick off an impeachment trial in the Senate if the GOP-led house approves articles of impeachment.

This month will also see the first contests to select the Republican and Democratic presidential nominees. And while the election is being predicted by many to be a [rematch](#) of the 2020 race between Donald Trump and Joe Biden, a good deal could happen between now and the party's nominating conventions in the summer. On the Democratic side, Joe Biden has [attempted to reshape](#) the party's primary calendar to

remove Iowa and New Hampshire's influence on the nominating contest in favor of South Carolina, and to eliminate caucuses altogether. Biden was not entirely successful; Iowa is still [holding a caucus](#) from January 12<sup>th</sup> to March 5<sup>th</sup>, while the Granite State is still holding the first primary on January 23<sup>rd</sup>. There, the incumbent president is [not actually on the ballot](#) and will have to be a [write-in candidate](#) in order to avoid losing the state's primary. Biden has several primary challengers, but none are expected to pose a [significant threat](#) to his re-nomination by the Democratic Party.

On the [Republican side](#), Iowa will be holding its caucuses on January 15<sup>th</sup> and Iowa on January 23<sup>rd</sup> (at the same time as the Democratic Primary). According to the polls, Trump has a [massive lead](#) in Iowa over his closest Republican challengers, Florida Governor, Ron DeSantis and former South Carolina Governor, Nikki Haley. Trump has less of a lead in New Hampshire; in the opening days of 2024, Nikki Haley has been [gaining](#) on Trump's polling lead there, although the former president remains significantly ahead at this stage.

### **February – New York special election and the Supreme Court hears Trump's 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment case**

On February 13<sup>th</sup> there will be a [special election](#) to fill the US House seat (New York's 3<sup>rd</sup> District) made vacant by the expulsion of Republican George Santos from Congress in December 2023. On the Republican side, the party's candidate is Mazi Pilip, a member of the Nassau County Legislature. The Democratic candidate, Tom Suozzi, is a former member of Congress for the same district.

As 2023 came to an end, both [Maine](#) and [Colorado](#) barred former President Trump from their states' primary ballots citing that he is disqualified from running for office under the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment, because of his role in the January 6<sup>th</sup> 2021 US Capitol insurrection. Trump has appealed the Colorado ruling, and the US Supreme Court will hear oral [arguments](#) for the case on February 8<sup>th</sup>. Whichever way the Supreme Court rules, its judgment in this case will have a major impact on the 2024 presidential election.



*[“Supreme Court of the United States” \(CC BY 2.0\) by Phil Roeder](#)*

South Carolina (3<sup>rd</sup>/24<sup>th</sup>), Nevada (6<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup>), and Michigan (27<sup>th</sup>) will have [Democratic](#) and [Republican](#) primary contests in February.

### **March – Super Tuesday and the State of the Union**

Former President Donald Trump entered 2024 with multiple criminal indictments and pending trials. The case over Trump’s alleged interference with the 2020 presidential election in Washington DC is [due to go to trial in March](#), but this could be delayed over questions around Trump’s presidential immunity from prosecution.

March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024 is Super Tuesday, with 14 states holding presidential primaries to select around 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of each of the party’s delegates for the presidential nomination. Following Super Tuesday, it will be much clearer who the likely 2024 presidential nominees for both parties will be. On March 6<sup>th</sup>, the Phelan US Centre will be holding an in-person and online event to examine and discuss the results: [Déjà vu all over again? Super Tuesday and the race for the presidency](#).

On March 7<sup>th</sup>, President Biden will [deliver](#) the annual State of the Union address to a

joint session of the US Congress, following an [invitation](#) from the US House Speaker, Mike Johnson, to do so, on January 6<sup>th</sup>. March 7<sup>th</sup> – two days after Super Tuesday – will be the latest delivery of the address since 1934. Past academic research [suggests](#) that popular presidents can influence Congress with their State of the Union, but that unpopular presidents are generally ignored. President Biden ended 2023 with a [39 percent approval rating](#).

The remainder of March 2024 will see primaries on March 12<sup>th</sup> in Georgia, Mississippi, the Northern Mariana Islands, Washington (12<sup>th</sup>), Arizona, Florida, Illinois, Kansas, and Ohio (19<sup>th</sup>), and Louisiana and Missouri (23<sup>rd</sup>). While many are aligned, not all these states listed here and later in this piece, have both Democratic *and* Republican primaries on the same date.

### **April and May – More primaries and Trump’s Mar-a-Lago trial to begin**

The primaries continue in April with Connecticut, Delaware, New York, Rhode Island, and Wisconsin (2<sup>nd</sup>), Alaska, Hawaii, and North Dakota (6<sup>th</sup>), Wyoming (13<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>), Pennsylvania (23<sup>rd</sup>), and Puerto Rico (28<sup>th</sup>).

Heading into May 2024, primaries will take place in Indiana (7<sup>th</sup>), Maryland, Nebraska, and West Virginia (14<sup>th</sup>), Kentucky and Oregon (21<sup>st</sup>) and Idaho (23<sup>rd</sup>).

In August 2022, the [FBI raided Donald Trump’s home in Mar-a-Lago](#), Florida and seized classified documents the former president allegedly held onto following the end of his presidency. In July 2023, US District Court for the Southern District of Florida Judge, Aileen Cannon, [set](#) the trial date for the criminal case to May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024, placing it towards the end of the presidential primary cycle for the year.

### **June – Special election in Ohio**

The final primaries of 2024 will be in June – Montana, the District of Columbia, Montana, New Jersey, New Mexico, South Dakota (4<sup>th</sup>), and in Guam and the U.S. Virgin Islands (8<sup>th</sup>).

The other 2024 special election with a confirmed date is for Ohio’s 6<sup>th</sup> Congressional

District on [June 11<sup>th</sup>](#). The election will be to replace Republican Bill Johnson, who is [leaving](#) Congress to be the President of Youngstown State University. The district has been Republican since 2010, reflecting Ohio's position as a Republican – and [no longer a swing](#) – state.



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## **July and August – National party conventions**

The Republican Party will be holding [its national convention](#) to nominate its candidates for president and vice-president from July 15<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> in Wisconsin. The Democratic Party will be holding their [own nominating convention](#) one month later from August 19<sup>th</sup> to the 22<sup>nd</sup>. While Illinois is a Democratic-leaning state, Wisconsin is a swing state – in 2020, Joe Biden [won](#) the state by about 20,000 votes, and in 2016 Donald Trump defeated Hillary Clinton by [just over 22,000 votes](#) (out of over three million votes cast). [Past research suggests](#) that party conventions can swing voters in nearby counties, which can in turn shift the statewide outcome in a close contest. The choice of Wisconsin by the Republican Party could help tilt the result in Trump's favour in that key state.

On August 4<sup>th</sup>, [the trial](#) for Donald Trump's alleged [election interference in Georgia](#) is due to begin. Fulton District Attorney, Fan Willis has rejected calls to delay the case until after the 2024 presidential election. In August 2023, when Trump was originally indicted for this case, UCL's Thomas Gift [wrote](#) that the racketeering charge hinges a great deal on Trump's own words, meaning that it "*might be enough for plausible (legal) deniability*" for the former president.

## November – presidential elections and more

On November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024, millions of Americans will go to the polls to elect the next President and Vice-President of the United States. In addition, the US House of Representative's 435 seats will be up for election, as will 34 of the 100 US Senate seats. There will also be [elections for governor](#) in eleven states and two territories. There will also be elections for countless state and local positions. In the coming months the USAPP blog will be bringing you commentary and analysis on the presidential elections, and the closest and most important federal and state elections.

## Further reading

- [‘The 2024 Elections’ series curated by Peter Finn \(Kingston University\)](#)
- [Q&A series on US elections and politics from Thomas Gift \(UCL Centre on US Politics\)](#)

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