

The Washington ImPACT

The 101 on the 202

SCOTUS unanimously ruled Trump is eligible for 2024 election

- On December 19, 2023, the Colorado Supreme Court ruled that Trump engaged in insurrection on Jan. 6, 2021, thus making him ineligible to appear on the 2024 presidential ballot under the 14th amendment; 16 other states later filed to remove the former president
- Donald Trump appealed this decision to the SOTUS, and on March 4, 2024, SCOTUS overturned the state ruling (9-0) and ruled that Congress has exclusive authority to enforce the 14th Amendment insurrection ban to disqualify federal candidates
- The Supreme Court decided that states may disqualify candidates from holding state offices for violating Section 3

President Biden delivered the State of the Union Address

- President Biden gave the State of the Union address in the House of Representatives Chamber on March 7, 2024; the recitation lasted just under 70 minutes
- Biden appeared lively and spirited, during a speech that covered much of the administration’s agenda for 2024
- International played a key role in Biden’s speech; most notably, the President opened with a strong message to Russian President Vladimir Putin on Ukraine and announced US plans for emergency humanitarian aid to Gaza

Trivia



In which year did Tokyo Mayor Yukio Ozaki gift the city of Washington DC the first cherry trees?

- A** 1876
- B** 1945
- C** 1910

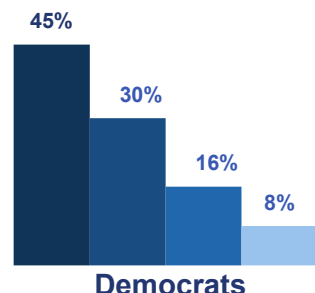
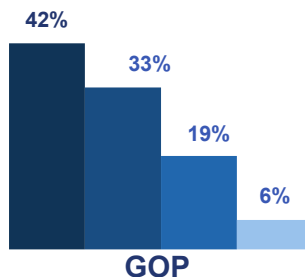
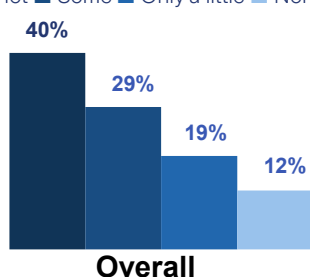
Answer on next page

The vast majority of Americans are paying attention to the 2024 presidential election

HOW MUCH ATTENTION HAVE YOU BEEN PAYING TO THE 2024 ELECTION CAMPAIGN FOR PRESIDENT?

Survey conducted Feb. 25-27, 2024, by The Economist/YouGov; 1,688 US adult citizens

■ A lot ■ Some ■ Only a little ■ None at all



The Look Ahead



Government remains open

The House and Senate passed temporary funding extensions on Feb. 29, setting the government to showdown on March 8 and March 22 without passed appropriations

A partial government shutdown was narrowly avoided, twice

- On March 8, 2024, the Senate approved, and the President signed a \$467.5B appropriations package that allocates funding for the Departments of Energy, Transportation, Agriculture, Interior, Veterans Affairs, and HUD through September 30, 2024
- \$467.5B represents less than 30% of the \$1.7T discretionary spending budget agreed upon in January 2024
- The minibus is the first part of a two-part appropriations package and represents a 0.3% increase over the enacted FY23 funding for similar agencies
- The package home-state earmarks for HUD and DOT account for about half of the roughly 6000 individual projects; Sen. John Thune (R-SD) outlined over \$100M in housing and water infrastructure projects
- On March 23, 2024, the Senate approved, and the President signed a second appropriations package allocating \$1.2T to fund some of the most crucial functions of the federal government — the departments of Defense, Education, Health and Human Services, Homeland Security, Labor, State and Treasury through September 30, 2024.
- Some House Republicans held a press conference to lambast the bill prior to its passing, and post its passing, Georgia Republican Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene filed a motion to oust Johnson.

Former presidential competitors emerge on Trump's VP shortlist



Sen. Tim Scott (R-SC)

A former candidate for the GOP nomination, Scott positioned his support behind Trump since exiting the race

Scott delivered an endorsement speech for Trump in New Hampshire and frequently highlights accomplishments that he and Trump achieved together



Gov. Ron DeSantis (R-FL)

Although DeSantis is a valued conservative leader, his campaign underperformed expectations

DeSantis did not attack Trump as forcefully as others on the campaign trail; he pledged to support Trump's candidacy after dropping out of the race



Vivek Ramaswamy (R)

Ramaswamy emulated Trump during his campaign; utilizing charisma and conspiracy to appeal to the electorate

Ramaswamy was not able to garner enough support to become a legitimate primary challenger and he endorsed Trump after exiting the race



"The person that I think I like is a very good person, pretty standard. I think people won't be that surprised, but I would say there's probably a 25% chance it would be that person,"

Donald Trump on his preferred pick for vice president