

# [***Trump s VP Shortlist: Here Are The Top Contenders As Tim Scott Suggests He Wants The Job***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:6B59-N2T1-JBCM-F00C-00000-00&context=1516831)

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**Highlight:** Trump has said he won't announce a choice until closer to the Republican National Convention in July but there are reportedly a few frontrunners.

**Body**

**Topline**

Sen. Tim Scott, R-S.C., publicly acknowledged his interest in becoming former President Donald Trump s running mate on Wednesday, as he and other contenders have made the pilgrimage to New York this week to support Trump at his Manhattan hush money trial what s become a loyalty test of sorts for VP hopefuls.

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Former President Donald Trump speaks during a campaign rally at the SNHU Arena on January 20, 2024 in Manchester, New Hampshire. (Photo by Alex Wong/Getty Images)

Getty Images

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**Key Facts**

**Sen. Tim Scott, S.C.:** Trump s former GOP primary challenger told aNewsmaxreporter Wednesday, a day after appearing at a Manhattan fundraiser with Trump, if you re the guy moderating [the vice presidential debate], maybe I ll be talking to you, adding we ll see, we ll see, when asked if he will be on Trump s ticket.

**North Dakota Gov. Doug Burgum:** Burgum also spoke outside of Trump s trial this week, days after appearing alongside him at a rally in New Jersey, where he told theNew York Postthat Trump said earlier this month at Mar-a-Lago (perhaps at the Easter brunch Burgum attended) there were 50 people on his VP shortlist.

**Sen. J.D. Vance, Ohio:** Vance, who toldFox Newsin April he has never spoken to Trump about becoming his running mate, was the first on the rumored list of contenders to show up to his Manhattan trial this week, then attended a private fundraiser with Trump in Cincinnati on Tuesday.

**Sen. Marco Rubio, Fla.:** NBC reportedin March Trump was considering Rubio, while Rubio toldPoliticoin response to the report he hasn t spoken to anybody in Trump s campaign about the prospect, but called it an honor and an incredible opportunity.

**Rep. Byron Donalds, Fla.:** The Florida congressman attended Trump s trial this week, along with the Tuesday Manhattan fundraiser, and while he s frequently floated as a potential Trump VP pick, Trump reportedly suggested he would support Donalds in another role at Tuesday s fundraiser: Florida governor,NBC reported, citing an unnamed source.

**Rep. Elise Stefanik, N.Y.:** The Republican Conference chair is one of Trump s most loyal supporters in Congress: she was among one of the first members to endorse his 2024 presidential bid, consistently promotes his election fraud claims and frequently criticizes his legal troubles in TV interviews.

**Sen. Tom Cotton, Ark.:** Frequently floated by pundits and the press as a potential VP pick, Cotton has declined to weigh in on the VP contest, tellingABCin early May anyone out campaigning for the job or pushing for the job is not helpful to what we should all be focused on, which is winning the election.

**Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis:** Trump met with Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis in Miami, TheWashington Postreported, raising speculation he could be in the running, though the meeting was reportedly about enlisting DeSantis donor network to help Trump and burying the hatchet after Trump repeatedly attacked DeSantis while he was still in the presidential race.

**Tangent**

Several early rumored contenders have reportedly been eliminated from the potential shortlist. Arizona Republican Senate candidate Kari Lake is no longer in the running,The Washington Post reported, citing five unnamed sources who said Trump has expressed annoyance and frustration with Lake and has sought to distance himself from her, concerned that she will lose the Arizona Senate race and he ll be associated with her loss. South Dakota Gov. Kristi Noem, who Trump previously said was a solid potential pick, has been embroiled in backlash after she admitted in her new book that she shot and killed her family s untrainable and dangerous 14-month-old puppy, Cricket, then turned her gun on one of her nasty and mean goats. While the admission is widely viewed to have tanked her VP chances, Trump has staunchly defended Noem,describingthe book incident as a bad week, and Noem as terrific. Trump denieda May reportthat his one-time challenger, former South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley (who has not endorsed Trump since dropping out of the race) was in the running for his VP pick,writingon Truth Social she is not under consideration . . . but I wish her well! Trump has also ruled out his former GOP primary challenger, biotech entrepreneur Vivek Ramaswamy, for the role,Bloomberg reportedin March, citing sources who said Trump told Ramaswamy he is instead considering him for a cabinet position.

**Crucial Quote**

TrumptoldFox Business in January the top criteria for a VP pick is someone who could be a good president . . . in case of emergency.

**Surprising Fact**

Donald Trump Jr. made the longshotsuggestionin January that his father could tap former Fox News host Tucker Carlson, telling Newsmax, I would love to see that happen. Trump has also fanned the Carlson rumors, telling podcast hosts Clay Travis and Buck Sexton in November, I guess I would consider him. Carlson, who once texted a confidant that he hate[s Trump] passionately, has since rekindled his relationship with the former president, interviewing him in a counter-program that aired during the first GOP primary debate that Trump snubbed and endorsing him for president. Carlson, however, has dismissed the possibility of serving as Trump s running mate, telling Megyn Kelly in a podcast interview last month a career in ***politics*** was unimaginable.

**Contra**

Several of the candidates have clear downsides. Rubio and DeSantis would draw the same base of home-state voters as Trump, as they re all from Florida, something Rubio mentioned when asked byFox Newsin January about the prospect of joining Trump s ticket. Stefanik represents a solidly blue state that Trump almost certainly can t win. And Scott broke with Trump s GOP allies in Congress and voted to certify the results of the 2020 presidential election. Trump has a thorny history with his previous vice president, Mike Pence, who dropped out of the GOP presidential race in October. Pence has publicly criticized Trump for urging him not to certify the results of the 2020 presidential election, which he refused to do,claiming Trumpasked him to choose between him and the Constitution. Trump has countered that Pence is delusional.

**What We Don t Know**

When Trump will make a running mate decision. He said in a recent interview withFox6 in Milwaukee he would announce his VP pick closer to the Republican National Convention, which kicks off July 15 in Milwaukee. It s very early, he added. Trump s campaign is vetting candidates, but he has yet to hold one-on-one meetings with any contenders, Bloomberg reported.

**Key Background**

Trump and President Joe Biden clinched their respective parties nominations on March 12, making the 2024 primary season one of the shortest in decades. The Republican National Committee is set to formalize Trump s nomination at its convention in Milwaukee in July, and the Democratic National Committee will hold its convention in Chicago in August. Trump has made no public indications of who he will select as vice president, but regularly praises a number of the contenders. He shared his takes on 11 potential running mate picks at a recent Mar-a-Lago fundraiser, calling Scott unbelievable as a campaign surrogate; Burgum very rich (Forbesestimateshe s worth at least $100 million); and Noem somebody that I love, he reportedly said in a recording obtained byAxios.Trump mentioned his former GOP primary opponents DeSantis, biotech Ramaswamy and Scott, along with Donalds, Noem and former Democratic-turned-independent former Rep. Tulsi Gabbard, Hawaii, when Fox asked about his potential running mates in February, calling them all solid, while singling out Scott, who was in the audience, as a great advocate. In December, Trump name-dropped South Carolina Gov. Henry McMaster and Stefanik, calling her a killer when asked who could join his ticket at a dinner at Mar-a-Lago in December, NBC Newsreported.

**Further Reading**

Biden-Trump Debates: What To Know As CNN Reveals Moderators For Next Month s Faceoff(Forbes)

Biden Vs. Trump 2024 Election Polls: Biden Losing Support Among Key Voting Blocs(Forbes)

Biden-Trump Gaffe Tracker: Biden Gets 2021 Inflation Rate Wrong, Trump Bizarrely Riffs About Hot Dogs, Hannibal Lecter And Sinatra(Forbes)

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