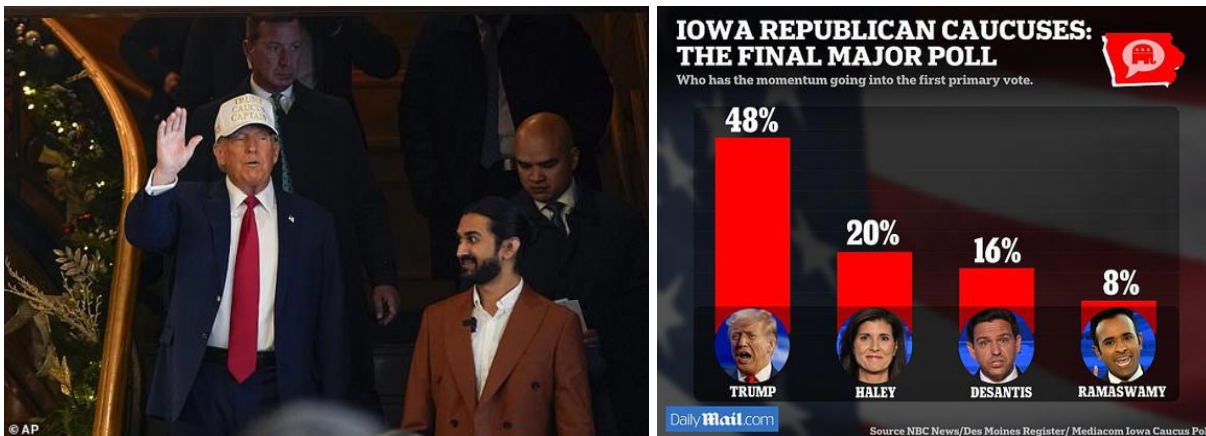


Over 60% of GOP caucusgoers in Iowa say they'll STILL support Trump if he's convicted of a crime

Alex Hammer

The majority of Republican caucusgoers in Iowa have said **Donald Trump being convicted of a crime will not affect their support for the former president.** The NBC News/Des Moines Register/Mediacom poll was conducted in Iowa last week, ahead of the meeting Monday where Republicans will pick their nominee. Trump, despite the bevy of cases against him, has surfaced as a frontrunner, with most polls forecasting he will take roughly 50 percent of the vote.

Of the 705 polled, some 61 percent said it doesn't matter to them if he is convicted of any crime prior to the general election. The results come as voters in the battleground state will commence balloting Monday evening, kicking off the 2024 Republican presidential nomination.



A startling majority of likely Republican caucusgoers have stated that a Donald Trump conviction will not affect their support for the aspiring two-term president, according to the latest NBC News/Des Moines Register/Mediacom poll of prospective Iowa voter© Provided by Daily Mail

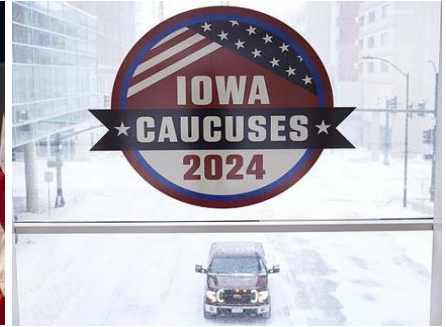
Recent polls have pegged the former president as a pronounced frontrunner, with rivals Nikki Haley and Ron DeSantis - and especially Vivek Ramaswamy - needing to peel off a substantial amount of supporters if they hope to have a chance against the former president© Provided by Daily Mail

Meanwhile, recent polls pegged Trump as a sure-thing, with Nikki Haley, Ron DeSantis and Vivek Ramaswamy needing to peel off support from him.

Much of the focus Monday in the Midwest will be who places second - as both Haley and DeSantis trail in polls but aim for a boost into subsequent states.

Another important - and perhaps even deciding - factor is turnout, coupled with **worries that Trump's supporters will stay home given his comfortable lead.** As a result, Trump has warned against complacency at recent rallies - showing that a victory for a man whose legal woes are testing the GOP's willingness to raise him as their candidate is **still not a sure thing.** He told several hundred supporters gathered in Sioux Center earlier this month: *'Ten days from now, the people of this state are going to cast the most important vote of your entire lives. 'Bad things happen when you sit back.'*

The recent NBC poll likely provides some alleviation to those worries, despite it having little to do with the prospect of voter turnout in Iowa. That said, it could provide a precedent in the other swing and red states still to come, where identical caucuses will be held in the coming months.



The unrest before the caucus shows how all gloves are off amongst candidates, seen here the CNN Republican presidential debate at Drake University in Des Moines, Iowa, Wednesday© Provided by Daily Mail

On Sunday, at an event at Simpson College in Indianola, Trump was photographed proudly raising a fist - while donning a 'Trump Caucus Captain' cap to encourage prospective voters© Provided by Daily Mail

The recent NBC poll likely provides some alleviation to those worries, despite it having little to do with the prospect of voter turnout in Iowa© Provided by Daily Mail

Meanwhile, Trump is facing an eye-watering 91 criminal indictments and ongoing civil fraud trial in his home state of New York, but has still hit the campaign trail hard in Iowa. He began with a pair commit-to-caucus events this past weekend, one in the far northwest corner of the state and one in north-central Mason City. He then maneuver toward central Iowa to cities like Newton, before heading to Clinton in the state's far east.

On Sunday, at an event at Simpson College in Indianola, he was photographed proudly raising a fist while donning a 'Trump Caucus Captain' cap to further encourage voters. He told a captivated crowd: ***'Together we're going to make history but you have show up and you have to follow these instructions'***, before a video played showing instructions on how to caucus and when to show up.

His closing pitch continued: ***'These caucuses are your personal chance to score the ultimate victory over all of the liars, cheaters, thugs, perverts, frauds, crooks, freaks, creeps and other quite nice people. 'The Washington swamp has done everything in its power to take away your voice. 'Tomorrow is your time to turn on them and to say and speak your mind and to vote.'***



Trump Sunday told a captivated crowd: 'Together we're going to make history but you have show up and you have to follow these instructions', before a video played showing instructions on how to caucus and when to show up© Provided by Daily Mail

In contrast, an eye-watering 70 percent of DeSantis voters said it wouldn't matter if Trump were convicted - compared to 26 percent who said it will make them less likely to support the ex-commander-in-chief© Provided by Daily Mail

Nearly half of Haley's Iowa backers said they would vote for Biden over Trump if the former South Carolina Governor does not secure the Republican nod following the upcoming caucuses© Provided by Daily Mail

Other interesting findings gleaned from the Iowa poll included the detail that **nearly half of Haley's Iowa backers said they would vote for Biden over Trump if the former South Carolina Governor does not secure the Republican nod.**

Meanwhile, **56 percent of Haley's supports said a Trump conviction would not make a difference to their vote come November**, while 41 percent answered that it it would make them less likely to back Trump. In contrast, an eye-watering **70 percent of likely DeSantis voters said it wouldn't matter if Trump were convicted** - compared to 26 percent who said it will make them less likely to support the ex-commander-in-chief.

Also surprising was the fact that **36 percent of prospective DeSantis voters expressed doubts about the former president's chances against Biden.**

Haley's supporters, meanwhile, were much more split - with **42 percent contending Trump could win against Biden**, and 54 perhaps saying his legal challenges will make it nearly impossible. Perhaps most astounding, though, was another statistic concerning Trump's locked-in supporters - **35 percent of whom said a conviction would make them more likely to support their favored candidate**.

Voters, meanwhile, are set to flock to the first formal test from voters Monday morning, braving frigid temperatures not forecast to rise above minus 2 degrees all day, in the process.



Trump supporters braved temperatures in the negative teens Sunday morning to see the ex-president and 2024 hopeful speak at a campaign rally in Indianola, Iowa, ahead of Monday's Iowa caucuses, the first time voters will have a say in the 2024 presidential race© Provided by Daily Mail

Earlier this week, four political analysts interviewed by Reuters said **Trump needs a more convincing victory closer to the 30 point-plus margin** suggested by the polls to blunt others' momentum, with one strategist telling the paper that **Trump needs to win by at least 15 to 20 percentage points or risk a loss**.

'That's a bare minimum for Trump. Anything below that shows - and will get blown up as - vulnerability,' strategist Doug Heye said.

Chris LaCivita, co-manager of the Trump campaign, said he was confident that the 'intensity' of the former president's base would translate into a big win despite the cold gripping the Midwestern state. That very well may prove to be Trump's biggest obstacle, as temperatures - With wind-chill factored in - will feel closer to 35 degrees below zero, a level of cold considered extreme to even the most iron bodied of Midwesterners.

'If someone is extremely lucky, they might get to zero,' said National Weather Service meteorologist Allan Curtis, a for the referring to the best-case scenario in terms of warmth.

He went on to add: *'No matter how you look at it, it's going to be a bitter one.'*