



[Notable Developments from the 2024 Republican National Convention in Milwaukee](#)

Roughly 2,400 delegates assembled together this week in Milwaukee for the 2024 Republican National Convention (RNC). Milwaukee is the largest city in the important battleground state of Wisconsin, where Former President Trump currently holds a slight lead in the polls over President Biden. At the convention, delegates awarded 2,387 votes to Trump, officially solidifying him as the Republican nominee for president. The vote was merely viewed as a formality, since Trump had long unofficially secured the nomination several months ago back in March. The former president had obtained an estimated 2,243 delegates during the course of the primary process, easily surpassing the 1,125 needed to be the presumptive Republican nominee. Certain delegates are “pledged” based on their state’s voting results, while others are “unpledged” and can cast a vote for anyone. The four-day convention began Monday, just two days following the attempted assassination of Former President Trump at a campaign rally in Pennsylvania.

Federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies were all on high alert at the RNC as a result of the recent incident. The FBI, Secret Service, and local police departments conducted a joint threat assessment prior to the start of the convention. No conclusive or specific threats were flagged by the agencies, and the Secret Service’s RNC coordinator stated over the weekend that “we’re not anticipating any changes to our operational security plans for this event.” The planning of RNC security had been in the works for a year-and-a-half according to officials, and Milwaukee Police Chief Jeffrey Norman noted that Wisconsin’s open-carry laws prevent law enforcement from restricting guns anywhere in the city. The convention also took place in the aftermath of Miami U.S. District Judge Aileen Cannon dismissing Trump’s classified documents case. Judge Cannon ruled that Special Counsel Jack Smith was unlawfully appointed to his role as head of the prosecution and that he did not have the authority to bring forth the case, prompting the Justice Department to state that it would appeal the decision.

Just minutes before the convention kicked off, Former President Trump announced that U.S. Senator J.D. Vance (R-OH) would be joining the ticket as his running mate. Vance was elected to Congress in 2022 following a relatively tight race with Democratic nominee and Former U.S. Representative Tim Ryan (D-OH). Some analysts have pointed out that Trump’s pick of Vance seems to be aimed at appealing to both younger voters and critical general election ones in the Midwest. The decision could have notable potential implications for U.S. foreign policy if Republicans retake the White House, as Vance manifests the “America First” approach espoused by Trump. At the Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC), Vance argued that the United States should stop all financial support to Ukraine, and expressed his stark disapproval with America’s European allies at the Munich Security Conference held earlier in the year. Commentators have also drawn attention to the Ohio senator’s past outspoken distaste for the former president, whereby Vance frequently criticized Trump during the latter’s first presidential run in 2016, even writing in an op-ed for the New York Times that “Mr. Trump is unfit for our nation’s highest office.”

During the first night of the convention, the GOP used a lineup of black and female Republicans in an attempt to portray a deep and diversified set of leaders. Some speakers broke away from Trump’s typical hyperbolic and divisive rhetoric, while others such as U.S. Senator Ron Johnson (R-WI) went on the attack, labeling Democrats’ agenda as “a clear and present danger to America.” Tuesday night displayed a more conventional Trump message, and the theme used by speakers was “Make America Safe Once Again.” GOP members such as U.S. Senator Ted

Cruz (R-TX) frequently correlated Democrats to crime and illegal immigration, and reinforced their main argument that the United States was safer under the Trump administration. Anti-crime activist Madeline Brame played a prominent role as well, verbally slamming Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg, who brought the 34 felony counts against Trump. In addition to featuring elected officials and politicians, Republicans clearly held a desire to showcase “everyday Americans” at the RNC as well.

Trump’s main primary election rivals Nikki Haley and Ron DeSantis both spoke at the RNC, despite their recent fierce political battles with the former president. Haley previously claimed that she would not be at the convention, nor vote for Trump in the upcoming November election. Yet, last week, she urged her 97 delegates to vote for Trump, and revealed on Sunday that she would be a scheduled speaker at the RNC. Both Haley and DeSantis publicly endorsed Trump at the convention, and there was a clear attempt by Republicans to demonstrate that they are unified – especially at a contentious time for Democrats regarding the candidacy of President Biden. The RNC concluded last night with Former President Trump’s formal acceptance of the Republican Party’s nomination and an address to the convention, his first public remarks since last Saturday’s assassination attempt.