# Trump’s GOP Running Mate Auditions Intensify Amid Legal Challenges; Biden's Ohio Ballot Dilemma Emerges



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In Mar-a-Lago, former President Donald Trump is orchestrating a high-stakes selection process for his potential 2024 Republican running mate. Recent meetings included prominent Republicans like Rep. Elise Stefanik of New York and Sen. Marco Rubio of Florida, who gathered to express their support. Notable figures such as Sen. J.D. Vance, Rep. Byron Donalds, and Sen. Rick Scott showed their solidarity by attending Trump's trial in New York.

Sen. Tim Scott, who endorsed Trump after competing for the GOP nomination, plans a June fundraiser for Republican donors as an effort to demonstrate his financial backing capabilities. Other potential candidates like Gov. Sarah Huckabee Sanders of Arkansas, entrepreneur Vivek Ramaswamy, and Gov. Doug Burgum of North Dakota have also been actively participating in Trump-related events.

Trump is expected to prolong the selection process, possibly revealing his choice at the Republican National Convention in Milwaukee in July. The process highlights the nuances between demanded loyalty and earned fealty, a distinction critical to Trump, especially considering his strained relationship with previous running mate Mike Pence.

Public auditions for vice-presidential candidates have become more prevalent since Jimmy Carter's 1976 campaign. Historical anecdotes, like Lyndon Johnson’s acceptance to be John F. Kennedy’s running mate, underscore the strategic importance candidates place on vice-presidential selections. The current process, dubbed the "veepstakes," involves complex considerations similar to insider betting odds.

Past campaigns reveal varying selection strategies: from Franklin Roosevelt’s controversial yet successful choice of Harry Truman, to John McCain’s more contentious pick of Sarah Palin. The selection criteria have evolved, with recent choices not necessarily aligning with state electoral significance, as seen in the nominations of Palin, Dick Cheney, and Joe Biden.

Ultimately, the choice of a running mate is influenced by political context and candidate priorities. It reflects the nominee's strategic decisions and potential leadership style, although reliably predicting Trump’s final decision remains challenging.

**Biden's Ohio Ballot Dilemma Amid Certification Laws**

President Biden faces the possibility of not appearing on Ohio’s November ballot unless the Democratic Party certifies his candidacy 90 days before the election, a requirement under state law. The Democratic National Convention, scheduled for August 19-22 in Chicago, prevents timely certification, risking Biden’s exclusion.

Ohio Secretary of State Frank LaRose, a Republican, emphasized the legal necessity and urged Democrats to find a solution. He highlighted two potential remedies: changing the nomination date or legislative action to create an exception. Nevertheless, Ohio House Speaker Jason Stephens indicated no legislative fix would be forthcoming.

Ohio Democratic Party Chair Elizabeth Walters criticized Republicans for politicizing the process. House Minority Leader Allison Russo noted that legislative dysfunction likely prevents a political solution, suggesting intra-party adjustments or court intervention as possible resolutions.

This situation is unique to Ohio, as other states like Alabama and Washington have already adjusted their rules to ensure Biden’s inclusion. Meanwhile, former President Trump’s nomination timeline meets Ohio’s requirements, securing his position on the ballot.

Both articles provide a portrait of the current political landscape leading up to the 2024 election, highlighting strategic maneuvers within the GOP and procedural hurdles faced by the incumbent administration.