

★ ELECTION 2024 UPDATE ★

What's Happening This Week – August 6, 2024

HARRIS/WALZ TICKET OFFICIAL, HEADING TO DNC

On Friday, August 2, Vice President Kamala Harris officially became the Democratic Presidential nominee after meeting the threshold for a majority of delegates during a virtual roll call vote held by the Democratic National Committee. Now she begins a two-week sprint to the Democratic National Convention in Chicago along with her running mate, Minnesota Governor Tim Walz. The Harris-Walz ticket is set to debut at a rally in Philadelphia today, Tuesday, August 6th, to kick off a week of events in battleground states. Harris concluded that as a popular incumbent governor from the Midwest, Walz's ability to connect with Midwestern voters presents the clearest path to victory this fall by keeping the Blue Wall intact.

**ELECTION
COUNTDOWN:**

91

DAYS UNTIL NOV. 5

DEBATE DRAMA

The next presidential debate remains up in the air. Former President Trump's campaign had agreed to a debate to be held on ABC on September 10th. His campaign now says that the agreement is essentially null and void now that President Biden has exited the race. He has instead suggested a debate on FOX on September 4th. Vice President Harris, however, maintains the September 10th debate agreement holds and has made clear she will be there, whether or not Trump appears. It remains unclear if the campaigns will come to an agreement on holding a debate now that the race has changed.

HARRIS V TRUMP POLLING AVERAGE

Harris leads polls +0.2



47.0%



46.8%

Source: [Real Clear Politics](#) as of 8/6/24

EARLY VOTING BEGINS SOON



COUNTDOWN TO THE DNC: **13** DAYS UNTIL AUGUST 19

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★ STATE OF PLAY ★

August 6, 2024

WHO IS TIM WALZ?

Tim Walz, was born on April 6, 1964, in West Point, Nebraska. After high school, Walz enlisted in the Army National Guard. After earning his degree in social science from Chadron State College and spending a year teaching abroad, Walz settled in Minnesota with his wife, Gwen, where he worked as a public-school teacher, educator, coach, and community leader. In 2018, Walz was elected as the 41st Governor of Minnesota and re-elected to a second term in 2022. After Democrats gained trifecta control of the Governor's office and the Minnesota legislature in 2022, Governor Walz gained recognition for his extensive legislative accomplishments ranging from universal free school meals, advancing reproductive and voting rights, and setting Minnesota on a path toward 100 percent clean electricity by 2040, among others. Notably, Walz has both executive and legislative experience.



- ★ **Governor of Minnesota (2019-Present):** Walz was elected as the 41st Governor of Minnesota in 2018 and re-elected in 2022. Governor Walz is Chair of the Democratic Governors Association (DGA) and co-chair of the Democratic National Convention's rules committee.
- ★ **Congressman for Minnesota's 1st District (2007-2019):** Elected in 2006, Walz served as the representative for Minnesota's 1st district, known as a more conservative, rural district. While in the House, Walz was recognized for his advocacy on veterans' affairs, moderate policy positions, and bipartisan approach, serving on key committees such as Agriculture, Veterans' Affairs, and Armed Services.
- ★ **Teacher and Football Coach, Mankato West High School (1996-2006):** Walz worked as a social studies teacher and football coach at Mankato West High School. His leadership contributed to the school's first state championship in football, and he played an active role in public education and community development.
- ★ **Volunteer Coordinator for John Kerry's 2004 Presidential Campaign (2004):** As a volunteer coordinator, Walz quickly advanced to become the campaign's county coordinator and district coordinator for Vets for Kerry.
- ★ **Command Sergeant Major, U.S. Army National Guard (1981-2005):** Walz served in the Army National Guard for 24 years, eventually attaining the rank of Command Sergeant Major. His service included disaster response, overseas deployments, and training in heavy artillery.

POTENTIAL ADVANTAGES AND LIABILITIES

- ⊕ **Bipartisan Appeal**
Walz has governed as a pragmatic progressive but maintained moderate credentials. As a successful and amiable two-term governor from the Midwest, Walz could help persuade undecided voters while shoring up the Blue Wall states of Michigan, Wisconsin, and Pennsylvania.
- ⊕ **Skilled Communicator**
As a former public-school teacher, Governor Walz is an effective messenger who communicates issues in a way that is clearly understood and resonates with voters. Walz will be an asset on the campaign trail. Walz branding JD Vance as "weird" broke through and helped catapult him to the top of the VP sweepstakes.
- ⊕ **Deep Government Experience**
Walz brings military service, along with extensive government experience both at the federal and state level. Walz is recognized as a pragmatic operator who has kept the same chief of staff since he served in the House of Representatives and knows how to effectively manage government resources.

- ⊖ **Limited Electoral Impact**
President Biden carried Minnesota by more than 7 points in 2020, and Minnesota's 10 electoral votes are unlikely to be a major deciding factor in the 2024 president election. 1972 was the last time a Republican Presidential candidate carried Minnesota.
- ⊖ **Muted Name ID**
Before the recent veepstakes, most voters had not heard of Governor Walz, so he brings limited name ID and fundraising heft.
- ⊖ **Progressive Shift**
Walz has trended more progressive in recent years, having taken stances that when paired with previous Harris positions, could provide fodder for the Trump campaign.