



policyresolutiongroup.com/pulse

Quick Notes on the Republican National Convention

- **Dates and Locations.** The Republican National Convention will take place in two phases, Monday, August 24 in Charlotte, NC; and Tuesday, August 25 through Thursday, August 27, in and around Washington, DC.
- **General Schedule.** The main speeches will take place every night from 8:30 to 11:00 pm EDT. Headlining speakers will speak after 10:00. The speeches will take place in a central "hub" in Washington, DC, rather than in Charlotte.
- **Working on Content.** President Trump and the Republican Party are still finalizing plans for the convention. One of the unknowns: the President knows good TV, and he and the GOP are closely watching this week's Democratic National Convention to figure out what works and what doesn't work. Like the DNC, the Republicans plan a mix of live speeches, videos and virtual content. Major themes will include:
 - Law and order, with particular emphasis to supporting police and opposing urban civil unrest;
 - Economic recovery and threats to job creation; and
 - Attempts to frame the Biden/Harris candidacy as a "Trojan horse" for progressive elements of the Democratic base.
- **Business in Charlotte.** Lots of folks like the DNC mix of live and taped video roll call votes to officially nominate Biden, but the Republicans will have conducted the formal vote in a small in-person session in Charlotte on Monday morning.
 - Originally, 2,550 delegates and half as many alternates were to attend a jam-packed convention. Now, only a max of 336 delegates will attend the nomination in Charlotte.
 - Charlotte will be the site for RNC official business, including the formal nominations of President Trump and Vice President Pence.
 - With most of the convention cancelled, it is possible that the nominations will take place by a virtual "voice vote" during the one-day event, although proxy voting via the internet has been also discussed.
- **Move to DC.** With the official convention business over, the three-day entertainment event will be anchored at the Andrew W. Mellon Auditorium in Washington, D.C., with various other events taking place in that city and elsewhere.
- **Keynotes.** Key speeches and locations are listing below. See Appendix.
- **Other Speeches.** The RNC will feature some rising stars. But instead of affording the bulk of their programming to party figures and activists, several aides said they hope to feature unconventional guests — including suburban men and women whose lives, they claim, would be disrupted by progressive policies and voters who can share personal stories related to recent cultural flashpoints.
 - Some rising stars. The RNC will feature a number of rising stars, including former UN Ambassador Nikki Haley, Senators Tim Scott (R-SC) and Joni Ernst (R-IA), and South Dakota Governor Kristi Noem.
 - The RNC will seek to counter some of the effective DNC speakers, like the woman whose 65 year old father died from COVID -- "His only preexisting condition was trusting Donald Trump — and for that he paid with his life," she said.
 - Some unconventional possibilities:
 - Andrew Pollack, whose daughter was killed during the Parkland, Fla., school shooting in February 2018, but whose focus is enhanced school security;

- Abby Johnson, a former Planned Parenthood clinic director who’s been heralded in conservative circles for leaving the organization to become an outspoken opponent of abortion;
 - former Covington Catholic student Nick Sandmann, who recently settled defamation lawsuits with The Washington Post and CNN; and
 - Ann Dorn, the widow of retired St. Louis police captain David Dorn, who was shot and killed while responding to a burglary during race-related protests in June.
- **Polling on the Conventions.** A POLITICO/Morning Consult poll was conducted Aug. 14-16, surveying 1,994 registered voters. The margin of error is plus or minus 2 percentage points.
 - The poll, conducted before the DNC started, shows voters are skeptical of both parties — though they narrowly see Democrats as more united and caring about people like them.
 - The POLITICO/Morning Consult poll shows more voters see the Democratic Party (27 percent) as united than the Republican Party (19 percent) — though 38 percent say the word “united” describes neither party.
 - Republicans are viewed as slightly more “extreme” than Democrats, 33 percent to 29 percent, and “unreasonable,” 38 percent to 32 percent. And more voters say the Democratic Party “cares about people” like them than the GOP, 37 percent to 28 percent. But 23 percent says neither party cares about people like them.
 - Voters are split on which party looks more like America: 29 percent say the GOP does, and 27 percent say Democrats do.
 - About a third of voters plan to watch each convention. Thirty-six percent say they plan to watch the Democratic convention — including 56 percent of Democrats, 22 percent of Republicans and 26 percent of independents. But 46 percent of voters say they don't plan to watch. Slightly fewer, 32 percent, plan to watch the Republican convention. That includes 55 percent of Republicans, 18 percent of Democrats and 22 percent of independents. A slim majority, 52 percent, don't plan to watch the GOP convention.
- **Demonstrations and Media Coverage.**
 - Convention on Founding Principles. In May 2020, Republicans opposed to Trump's presidency announced their intent to host a competing Convention to occur at the same time as the RNC. Among the scheduled speakers are former CIA director Michael Hayden; former FBI director James Comey; former Republican governors and members of Congress, and several founders of the Lincoln Project. For more, see <https://www.cfp2020.us/>
 - Al Sharpton's National Action Network initially had gotten the permits to have a large march and rally of up to a hundred thousand people in the National Mall for August 28, with earlier events taking place in the days just before. This was well before RNC activities moved to the city. More on this event can be found here, <https://www.washingtonian.com/2020/08/18/heres-what-you-need-to-know-about-al-sharptons-march-on-washington/>
 - Media coverage. After initially suggesting the RNC would be closed to the press in favor of live streaming, on August 5, President Trump stated that the convention, in fact, would be open to the press. Convention organizers are anticipating the major television networks to broadcast the last hour of each night live.

APPENDIX: Key RNC Speeches and Locations

Tuesday, August 25

8:30–11:00pm EDT

Theme: "Land of Promise"

Speaker	Position/notability	Location	Notes
Melania Trump	Spouse of the presidential nominee and current first lady of the United States	White House Rose Garden in Washington, D.C.	

Wednesday, August 26

8:30–11:00pm EDT

Theme: "Land of Opportunity"

Speaker	Position/notability	Location	Notes
Mike Pence	Nominee for vice president, incumbent vice president of the United States.	Fort McHenry National Monument, Baltimore, Maryland	Vice presidential nomination acceptance speech

Thursday, August 27

8:30–11:00pm EDT

Theme: "Land of Greatness"

Speaker	Position/notability	Location	Notes
Donald Trump	Nominee for president, incumbent president of the United States.	White House lawn in Washington, D.C.	Presidential nomination acceptance speech