



Written by [D. Michael DeRidder](#) on January 16, 2024

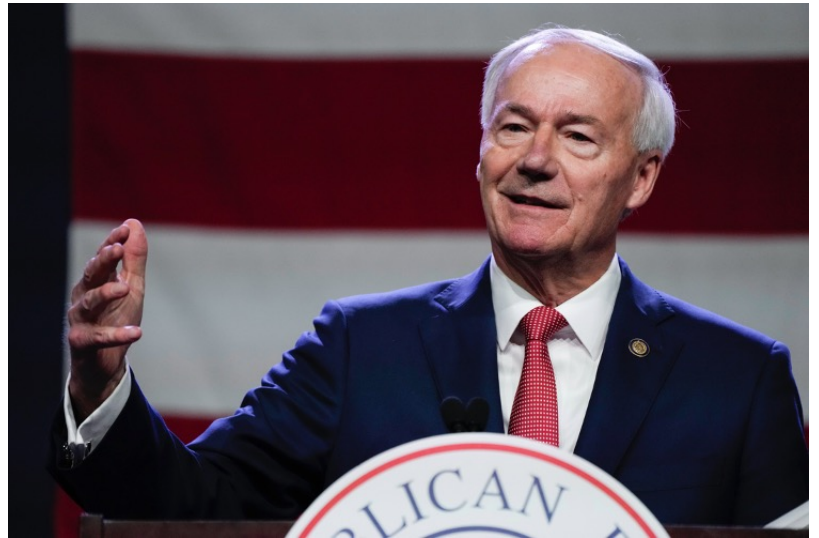
## Trump Critic Asa Hutchinson Drops Out of GOP Race

Former Arkansas Governor Asa Hutchinson dropped out of the GOP presidential race today [after receiving only 191 votes — 0.2 percent of the Iowa caucus vote](#). [In his statement, he congratulated former President Donald Trump, saying](#), “I congratulate Donald J. Trump for his win last night in Iowa and to the other candidates who competed and garnered delegate support.”

Hutchinson also stated that he [stood by his campaign critical of Trump](#), saying, “My message of being a principled Republican with experience and telling the truth about the current front runner did not sell in Iowa.” Hutchinson made statements that, if elected, he [would not promise to pardon Trump](#) if the former president is [convicted on federal charges, saying on X](#), “Despite the pledge of Haley and DeSantis to pardon Donald Trump, I will not make that commitment. It is wrong to promise pardons to score political points and it undermines the principle of equal justice.”

The DNC [released a statement after Hutchinson suspended his campaign, saying](#), “This news comes as a shock to those of us who could’ve sworn he had already dropped out.”

GOP voters overwhelmingly [rejected the “never Trump” movement, and are putting pressure on the GOP leadership](#). Trump political opponents Ron DeSantis and Nikki Haley losing by over 30 percentage points, along with Hutchinson’s campaign only gathering 191 votes, highlights the momentum of what [the DNC fears and has labeled “Ultra MAGA”](#).



AP Images  
Asa Hutchinson



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