

# STATE/REGION

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## An April 2 Connecticut primary rundown

By John Moritz  
STAFF WRITER

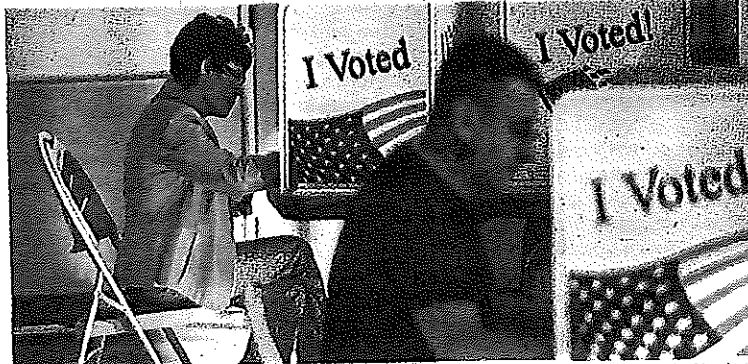
Connecticut's next election will take place on April 2. Here's everything you need to know about the contests, registration, and where and how to vote:

### Who's on the ballot in the 2024 primary?

Both the Republican and Democratic parties are holding presidential primaries on April 2 in Connecticut, to award delegates at their respective conventions later this summer. The front-runners, Republican Donald Trump and Democrat Joe Biden, have already wrapped up the support necessary to move on to the general election, but voters in Connecticut still have the option of voting for three other candidates in either party, or select "uncommitted." Connecticut will hold a second round of primaries in August for other state and federal offices. The three other Democrats are Marianne Williamson, Dean Phillips and Cenk Uygur. The other Republicans are Ron DeSantis, Nikki Haley and Ryan Binckley.

### Am I eligible to vote?

In order to vote you must meet these re-



Tyler Sizemore/Hearst Connecticut Media file photo

Residents cast ballots in Stamford on Election Day in 2022. Connecticut's next election is a presidential primary that will take place on April 2.

quirements: You must be turning 18 on or before Election Day, you must be a U.S. citizen and resident of a town in Connecticut and if you are a convicted felon, then you must have completed confinement. In addition, to vote in the primary, residents must be registered as either a Republican or a Democrat.

### How do I register to vote in Connecticut?

Unaffiliated and unregistered voters

who want to participate in the presidential primaries have until March 15 to send voter registration applications to their local registrar of voters. (Applications from unaffiliated voters must be received by the registrar on this date). The final day for these voters to register in-person with their local registrar is April 2.

The deadline has already passed for voters to switch parties and still participate in the primary.

You can register online to vote online if

you have a Connecticut DMVID at voterregistration.ct.gov.

### Does Connecticut have early voting?

Yes, for the first time Connecticut will open some polls ahead of Election Day. Early voting will take place in every town between March 26 and March 28, as well as on March 30. (The schedule had to be adjusted due to the Good Friday holiday).

### Can I vote in person?

Yes, though a limited number of polling places will be open during early voting. Check with your local registrar of voters or visit the secretary of the state's website to determine your polling place.

### What are the polling place hours?

During early voting, polls will be open between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. Polling locations are open 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Election Day.

### What is the absentee ballot process?

Most people can begin voting via absentee ballot on March 12 after requesting a ballot through a form on the secretary of the state's website or through their local registrar of voters. (Absentee ballots

*Primary continues on 21*

## Voter guide for 2024 presidential primary election

By John Moritz  
STAFF WRITER

Connecticut's April 2 primary will be a chance for voters registered as Democrats or Republicans to head to the polls and cast their ballot for their preferred presidential candidate.

As of early March, there were four Democrats and four Republicans to choose from, although all the challenges to President Joe Biden and former president Donald Trump have pulled out of the race, ensuring a rematch in November between Biden and Trump.

Here is what to know about the candidates ahead of the primary.

### Key dates

**March 12** Absentee ballots become available

**March 15** Mail-in and online deadline for new and unaffiliated voters to enroll in a party for voting in the primary

**March 26-28, 30** Early voting period

**April 1** In-person enrollment deadline for new voters and unaffiliated voters enrolling in a party in person at town hall

**April 2** Presidential Primary with polls open 6 a.m. to 8 p.m.

### U.S. President (Democrat)

**Joe Biden**

President, *Incumbent*

The 46th President of the United States, Biden is a Democrat who formerly served two terms as vice president and as a U.S. Senator from his home state of Delaware. Elected during the COVID-19 pandemic, Biden signed the \$1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan Act that included \$1,400 stimulus checks for most Americans. His administration subsequently battled inflation and withdrew the last remaining troops from Afghanistan, which brought about significant criticism. He successfully appointed one Su-

preme Court Justice, Ketanji Brown Jackson, and forcefully criticized the court's decision to overturn Roe vs. Wade, which allowed many states to enforce bans on abortion. The Biden administration has sought to expand access to abortion care and contraception to federal workers and women in the military. His efforts to cancel student debt have fallen short of expectations, while still eliminating millions of dollars of debt for Connecticut residents.

**Marianne Williamson**

Author

Williamson, 71, is an author and self-

*Guide continues on 21*

ADVICE

# Birthday party no-shows come at a cost for host

**Dear Abby:** I recently hosted my husband's birthday. It was a great party. I reserved for 85 people, including the DJ, his assistant, the party planner and her crew. On the day of the event, 20% of the guests who RSVP'd did not show up. One couple said their two daughters had a debut party that night. Another family said their son had an outing. Others had legitimate reasons, like being sick or the house catching fire.

I gave my guests ample time to RSVP. I sent the save-the-date cards four months before, the invitation two months before and the deadline to RSVP two weeks before the event. I even extended the invitation to allow other adults and kids to come to the party. I was too generous.

I think it's rude for the families who RSVP for a certain number of people to dismissively not show up because of another event, not considering that each head count means additional cost and planning for the meal, seating chart, etc.

How do I let them know I wish they would have told me ahead of time so I could have removed them and saved myself a few hundred dollars? Or should I even let them know?

*Generous Host In Texas*

**Dear Host:** If I thought a lecture to these boors would be effective, I would tell you to go ahead and do what you have in mind. However, a more effective and less confrontational way to save yourself a future headache would be to simply omit them from your guest list.

**Dear Abby:** My sister-in-law is a lovely woman — generous, with a heart of gold. Her husband,



Abigail Van Buren

DEAR ABBY

my husband's brother, is a kind and gentle man who works hard to provide for his family. They do much for their community and seemingly have every moment of the day

occupied with something.

But whenever I'm with my SIL, she never fails to whine about where her husband falls short. Sometimes, she does it in front of him. It's uncomfortable because I don't want him to think I agree with her. Almost always the problems are minuscule. Example: The house is never clean enough, or he's not doing X-Y-Z to help her. (To me, it looks like he does plenty.) She says she's always doing "everything herself."

I'm not one for confrontation and don't want to cause trouble in our relationship because I do enjoy her a lot, and I'm afraid of the repercussions of "going there." But enough is enough. It makes me dread one-on-one conversations or not want to interact because it is draining. How do I handle this?

*Zero Tolerance*

**Dear Zero Tolerance:** Ask your sister-in-law to please stop complaining, because when she does it makes you uncomfortable. After that, when she starts again, change the subject to something else — cooking, gardening, even politics or religion if you think it will distract her. Good luck.

Contact Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

## GUIDE

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help guru from California who became well known as Oprah Winfrey's spiritual advisor during the 1990s.

**Dean Phillips**

U.S. Representative for Minnesota

A three-term Democratic congressman from Minnesota, Phillips suspended his campaign on March 6 after failing to secure any delegates.

**Cenk Uygur**

Political commentator

A left-wing political commentator behind the popular show, "The Young Turks," Uygur has also sought to bring the issue of age and Biden's approach on the ongoing Israel-Hamas war into the Democratic primary. A naturalized citizen who was born in Turkey, Uygur, 53, is likely ineligible to serve as president under the U.S. Constitution, though he has promised to challenge that requirement.

**U.S. President (Republican)**

**Donald Trump**

Former president

Trump, 77, served a single term as president before being defeated by Biden in 2020. The Republican's campaign admin-

istration was marked by numerous controversies, including derogatory comments about women, an attempt to ban travelers from several Islamic countries into the U.S. and his repeated failures to condemn white supremacist movements. Trump also renegotiated a free-trade agreement between the U.S., Mexico and Canada, imposed new tariffs on goods imported from China and pulled the U.S. out of the Iran nuclear deal. On the domestic front, Trump signed \$1.5 trillion in tax cuts and ended the requirement for individuals to carry health insurance that was put in place by the Affordable Care Act. Near the end of his term, Trump tried repeatedly and unsuccessfully to overturn the results of the 2020 election, culminating in the Jan. 6 insurrection at the U.S. Capitol which resulted in his being impeached by the House of Representatives for a second time. After leaving office, Trump was charged with dozens of criminal offenses in four separate cases that have yet to go to trial.

**Ron DeSantis**

Governor of Florida

A 45-year-old, two-term governor of Florida, DeSantis emerged onto the GOP primary stage by promoting his opposition to COVID-19 lockdowns,

'woke' ideology and a legal battle against one of his state's largest employers, Disney. In the end, however, DeSantis' argument that it was time for his party to move on from Trump failed to attract enough Republican voters, and he dropped out of the race several days after the Iowa caucuses in January.

**Nikki Haley**

Former South Carolina governor

Haley, 52, served as Trump's ambassador to the United Nations and was previously elected twice as a Republican governor in South Carolina. Haley has questioned Trump's mental fitness and declared that he is "not qualified" to serve as president again after he made denigrating remarks about her husband in the military. She failed to defeat Trump in any of the early contests, including the primary in her home state of South Carolina. Following Super Tuesday, Nikki Haley says she suspended her campaign.

**Ryan Binkley**

Businessman and megachurch pastor

A businessman and megachurch pastor from Dallas, Binkley suspended his campaign and endorsed Trump in late February after collecting fewer than 5,000 votes across all of the first five GOP contests.

## PRIMARY

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are already available for overseas and military voters). Ballots can be mailed to the town clerk or dropped off at an in-person ballot box. Absentee ballots must be received before the close of polls on the day of the election in order to count.

**How is absentee voting different from early voting?**

Early voting occurs in person at a local polling location, in largely the same manner as voting on Election Day. Absentee

voters must request a ballot, and are able to fill it out at home before returning it to the town clerk. Voters must also meet certain conditions in order to vote absentee.

**Am I eligible for an absentee ballot?**

If you are registered to vote, you can request an absentee ballot if you are actively in the U.S. military, absent from your town of residence, sickness may prevent you from voting in person, religious tenets prevent you from secular activity on the day of the election, duties as an election worker or official prevent you from voting or due to a phys-

ical disability.

**Do I need an ID to vote?**

No, a driver's license or other photo ID is not required to vote — though you may be asked to present identification by a poll worker.

If you do not bring a license or ID, you must present your social security card or a pre-printed form of identification that shows your name and address or name and signature or name and photograph.

Alternatively, you could sign a statement provided by the secretary of the state stating the voter is who they say they are.

For more information on voting, check the Secretary of the

CIAC CLASS S GIRLS BASKETBALL FINAL: SOMERS 56, THOMASTON 42

# Spartans are stoppers at finish

Skalski (22), Cassidy, Wood lead Somers

By Mike Madera  
CORRESPONDENT

UNCASVILLE — There's an old adage of offense winning games and defense winning championships. The Somers girls basketball team is proof of that.

Using a splendid defensive stand in the final eight minutes, fourth-seeded Somers topped second-seeded Thomaston 56-43 in the Class S state championship game at Mohegan Sun Arena in Uncasville Sunday afternoon.

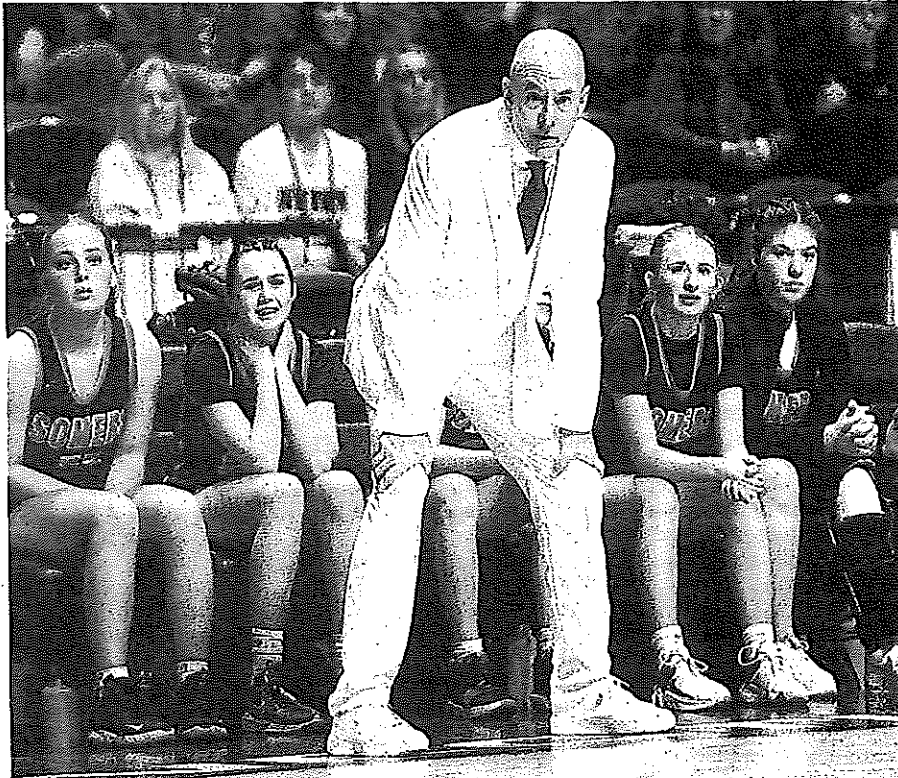
The Spartans held Thomaston to just eight points in the final eight minutes, closing the game on a 13-2 run, to win their first state title since defeating Westbrook in the Class S final in 1977.

"We just thought we could tire them out, get them in the third and fourth quarters, and take advantage of our speed," Somers coach Jason Fenlason said. "Maya (Skalski) really saved us. I think it was 41 and they scored one basket the rest of the way. We just tried to keep wearing them down."

"It's been 47 years. We stood yesterday in the gym below the banner. It is the only state title in girls basketball we had. We said there's a space right below. Can we put one in there and fill it in? I am so happy for these kids."

While the defense did its part, so too did sophomore Maya Skalski, who finished with a game-high 22 points, including eight in the final quarter.

"I put my all into every sport I play," said Skalski, who also added 13 rebounds and three blocks. "The fact that we ended up here is unreal. It is such an amazing feeling with all the hard work we put in every day in practice, and to finally be here and to win is amazing."



Arnold Gold/Hearst Connecticut Media

Following the lead of St. John's Rick Pitino, white-suited Somers coach Jason Fenlason watches the action in Sunday's Class S final.

With a 24-17 halftime lead, Somers extended the margin to 32-21 on a pair of third quarter free throws by Eliana Wood. A 6-0 run by Thomaston got the Golden Bears within six and started a push which would get Thomaston within 36-35 on a bucket by Addison Patchell with eight seconds to go in the third quarter.

Wood had 16 points and 10 rebounds for Somers, while teammate Sydney Cassidy added 16 points and 12 rebounds.

Patchell's basket gave Thomaston life, and when Nicole Decker (13 points) drained a pair of free throws early in the fourth, Thomaston had rallied back to even the game at 37.

"We were down 11 at one point and seven at halftime," Thomaston coach Brian Mozelak said after his team fell short of winning its second state title in three years. "I am extremely proud of how well they fought back to tie it up. At the end, I think we were just a few bodies short of what we needed. They were tired from the very beginning because they gave all they had."

The two teams then traded baskets before Skalski took over. The sophomore gave the Spartans a 41-39 lead, then forced a turnover and scored for a 43-39 advantage with 3:34 left in the game.

"I was like I am not letting this happen right now," Skalski said. "I locked in. I just drove and I was hoping for the best: I tried my best."

After Decker got Thomaston

within two points 18 seconds later, Somers upped the defensive pressure. The end result was a 13-2 run to close the game, including six more points from Skalski.

Thomaston's lone points in the run came from Ava Harkness in the final minute to get the Golden Bears within 52-43. Harkness led Thomaston with 16 points.

"You could see we didn't have our legs," Mozelak said. "Some of the shots that may have usually fallen to force them into difficult situations, just didn't fall for us."

The first half did not start the way Thomaston would have liked and that was related to the defense of Somers. The Golden Bears shot 26.7 percent (4-of-15)

from the field in the open quarter and just 11.8 percent (of-17) in the second quarter when Somers went on a 14-6 run.

"I don't think we came out with the same defensive intensity that we typically play with," Mozelak said after his team shot 6-of-32 (18.8%) from the field the first half. "It kind of surprised me because, having been here before, I said we are not going to get caught up in the moment. We just didn't have it like we did a week ago."

Somers trailed 11-10 after the quarter, but Skalski and Wood carried the weight in the second quarter with Skalski scoring eight points and Wood popping in five during a 14-6 run.

Harkness led Thomaston with 16 points in the loss.

### Player of the Game

**Maya Skalski:** Somers sophomore finished with a game-high 22 points. Skalski came big in the fourth quarter with eight points, including six in a 13-2 run to seal the team's first state title since 1977.

### Quotable

"I think that is probably why we won to be honest. The Spartans were amazing. They never won anything like that. It is always black." — Maya Skalski of Somers on the coaching staff wearing bright suits (white and red) and opposite colors. When they made it, we were scrambling the week to get this stuff. We were trying to take the pressure off the kids." — Somers coach Jason Fenlason on the bright white and red suits worn by the coaches.

**Somers 56, Thomaston 43**  
Somers 30 14 12 20 --  
Thomaston 11 6 18 8 --  
Somers (20-5): Sydney Cassidy 4 0 8-10 11  
Alexa Damboragian 1 0 0-0 2; Eliana Wood 5 0 6-  
Maya Skalski 8 2 4-8 22 Team: 18 2 18-25 56  
Thomaston (20-4): Rejhana Aliu 4 0 0-0 1  
Nicole Decker 4 0 5-7 13; Addison Patchell 2 0 2  
Ava Harkness 5 0 6-12 16 Team: 15 0 13-21 43

Columbia	16 Sacred Heart	Iowa City	16 Holy Cross	March 20-21	11 Auburn	Storrs	12 Vanderbilt	Blacksburg
	16 Presbyterian		16 UT Martin	First Four	11 Arizona		12 Columbia	
	Regional 1 in Albany		Regional 2 in Albany		Regional 3 in Portland		Regional 3 in Portland	

# NCAA TOURNAMENT



16 Howard  
16 Wagner  
W

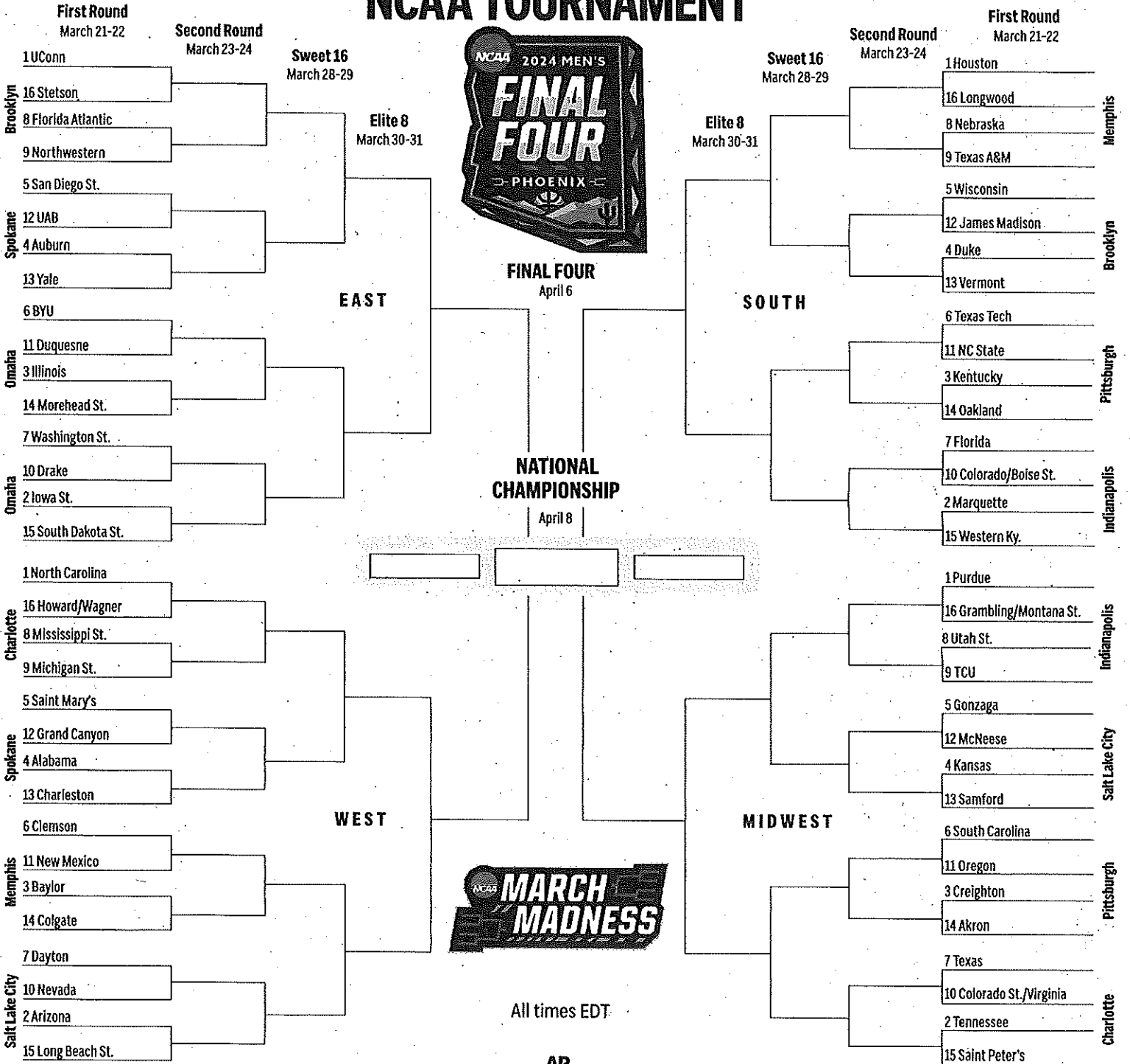
10 Virginia  
10 Colorado St.  
MW

Dayton, Ohio  
March 19-20  
First Four

16 Montana St.  
16 Grambling  
MW

10 Boise St.  
10 Colorado  
S

# NCAA TOURNAMENT



All times EDT.

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