Democratic presidential contenders

Democrats are beginning to lay the groundwork for possible 2028 presidential bids, with the contours of the primary race likely to come into focus after the November 2026 midterm elections



Andy Beshear
Former attorney general of ***Kentucky*** – now its governor. Not well known outside state, and with bipartisan approach to politics, may not appeal to wider Democrats
War chest: ***$1.2m***



Pete Buttigieg
Failed to win 2020 Democratic nomination. Was transportation secretary under ***Biden***. Performs poorly with black voters due to scandals when mayor of ***South Bend, Indiana***
War chest: ***$5m+***



Rahm Emanuel
Former ambassador to ***Japan***, congressman, mayor of ***Chicago*** and ***White House*** chief of staff under ***Obama***. Seen as long-shot, polling at 1% among primary voters*
War chest: ***$8.1m***



Kamala Harris
Former vice president to Biden, she polls well although candidates who have previously run and lost – as she did to ***Trump*** in 2024 – are often viewed skeptically by voters
War chest: Unknown



Mark Kelly
Retired astronaut and navy pilot, he is gun reform lobbyist since wife ***Gabby Giffords*** survived assassination attempt in 2011. May be seen as too moderate by some Democrats
War chest: ***$22m***



Gavin Newsom
California governor known for his sharp criticisms of Trump. His state has some of highest petrol prices, taxes and homelessness rates in U.S. – ammunition to ***GOP***
War chest: ***$4m+***



Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez: Country's most prominent progressive and heir apparent to movement built by ***Bernie Sanders***. Republicans portray her as leftist who supports taxing wealthy
War chest: ***$28.9m***



JB Pritzker
Billionaire heir to ***Hyatt*** hotel empire and governor of ***Illinois***. Known nationally for criticising Trump's deployment of ***National Guard*** troops and ***ICE*** agents across America
War chest: ***$23.3m***



Josh Shapiro
Former attorney general and now governor of ***Pennsylvania***. Weaves Jewish identity into his politics, which could go against him while criticism of ***Israel*** military action is high
War chest: ***$36m***

*Trump registered 1% support among primary voters in 2016, while Bill Clinton polled below 1% before winning presidency in 1992. Source: Reuters. Pictures: Creative Commons, Getty © GRAPHIC NEWS