

*CBS Mornings*

08/05/24

7:09:04 a.m.

3 minutes and 32 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: America Decides; Harris' Running Mate Decision; VP Interviews Contenders Ahead of Campaign Stops on Tuesday]

GAYLE KING: Now we go to the presidential race where Vice President Kamala Harris is expected to announce her running mate as soon as today. Now, the latest CBS News poll shows Harris virtually tied with former President Trump in the battleground states and within the margin of error nationwide, which is a big improvement where President Biden was when he left the race. He was five points behind at that time. Weijia Jiang is at the White House with more on this part of the story. Weijia, the numbers look very encouraging for the Democrats, but it is still very, very early in this race. Good morning to you.

WEIJIA JIANG: Good morning to you, Gayle. Good morning to everybody. It sure is, but our CBS News poll shows that enthusiasm to vote is popping, particularly among Black voters. And Vice President Harris wants to grow that excitement with her VP pick. Aides say she wanted to use every last moment to decide since she didn't have much time to begin with and as soon as she does and announces, she and her pick for VP will hit the campaign trail. On Sunday, Vice President Harris' Washington home was buzzing as she interviewed at least three top contenders in person to be her running mate. Governor Tim Walz of Minnesota, Arizona Senator Mark Kelly, and Governor of Pennsylvania Josh Shapiro, Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg, Illinois Governor J.B. Pritzker, and Kentucky Governor Andy Beshear are also said to be in the mix.

UAW PRESIDENT SHAWN FAIN: I'll tell you, my favorite is Andy Beshear from Kentucky.

JIANG: United Auto Workers President Shawn Fain on "Face the Nation."

FAIN: I mean, the man stood with us, you know, on the picket line.

JIANG: Unlike most of his competitors, Governor Beshear does not come from a battleground state, but insists he can appeal to voters in both parties.

GOVERNOR ANDY BESHEAR (D-KY): I come from a state where you have to cross the aisle, where we put being Kentuckians above being Democrats or Republicans.

JIANG: Other VP hopefuls are using the airwaves to audition, too. Pritzker touted his accomplishments in a new video.

GOVERNOR J.B. PRITZKER (D-IL): There is no better place to see the change possible under Democratic leadership.

JIANG: Whoever Harris picks is scheduled to campaign with her tomorrow in Philadelphia where Mayor Cherelle Parker posted this on social media supporting a Harris-Shapiro ticket along with this video.

PHILADELPHIA MAYOR CHERELLE PARKER (D): I can't think of a better partner than our Governor Josh Shapiro.

JIANG: Sparking speculation that she leaked the choice which she later denied. From Pennsylvania, Harris and her running mate will visit six more battleground states this week. Our CBS News poll shows Harris and Trump statistically tied in Pennsylvania, Michigan, and Arizona, with Harris two points ahead in Nevada and Trump with an edge in Wisconsin, North Carolina, and Georgia. Trump also has an advantage when it comes to personal finances and the potential impact of his policies.

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: America Decides; Race for White House Tightens; CBS News Polls Show Candidates in Virtual Tie in Battleground States]

DONALD TRUMP: On the one hand you have a radical left freak.

JIANG: In Georgia, Trump campaigned in the same arena Harris did days earlier and seized on last month's spike in unemployment.

TRUMP: If Harris wins this election, you will quickly have a Kamala economic crash. You're going to have a crash.

JIANG: Voters may not get the chance to see Harris and Trump face off on the debate stage, he has pulled out of a debate on ABC in September claiming when he agreed, Joe Biden was his opponent. The Harris team says he is simply scared. Trump has proposed a debate on Fox News instead, Vlad.

VLADIMIR DUTHIERS: All right, Weijia, thank you very much, Weijia, appreciate it.