

ABC's *Good Morning America*

05/24/23

7:00:50 a.m. [TEASE]

7 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Race for the White House; Gov DeSantis Ready to Run]

GEORGE STEPHANOPOULOS: Race for the White House. Florida Governor Ron DeSantis set to kick off his presidential campaign in a Twitter event with Elon Musk[.]

(....)

7:08:47 a.m.

2 minutes and 42 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: New This Morning; Ron DeSantis Ready to Run; Florida Gov Set to Announce Presidential Bid on Twitter Tonight]

STEPHANOPOULOS: The latest now on the race for the White House. Florida Governor Ron DeSantis taking to Twitter tonight for the official launch of his presidential campaign one day after South Carolina Senator Tim Scott launched his campaign. Chief Washington Jon Karl is tracking the growing GOP field from Miami. Good morning, Jon.

JONATHAN KARL: Good morning, George. Ron DeSantis has summoned big money contributors to his campaigns here to the Four Seasons in Miami as he prepares to make that announcement official with Elon Musk tonight on Twitter.

DESANTIS [TO VOTER] [in New Hampshire]: What's your name?

KARL: With plenty of money and name recognition, Ron DeSantis is the most formidable opponent to the current front-runner, Donald Trump. He teased his announcement video tweeted by his wife, Casey.

DESANTIS CAMPAIGN AD: But is it worth the fight? Do I have the courage?

KARL: But DeSantis's campaign team says the official statement will come with an audio-only discussion on Twitter with Elon Musk. The first campaign appearance not planned until next week although DeSantis has already appeared like a candidate for sometime, making trips to Iowa and New Hampshire.

VOTER: Thank you.

DESANTIS [TO VOTER] [in New Hampshire]: Wow. Crowded, huh?

KARL: — trying the person-to-person campaigning he is not known for.

DESANTIS [TO VOTER] [in New Hampshire]: What's your name?

TIM AMTHEN [sic] [TO DESANTIS] [in New Hampshire]: I'm Tim Amthen [sic].

DESANTIS [TO VOTER] [in New Hampshire]: Okay.

AMTHEN [sic] [TO DESANTIS] [in New Hampshire]: How are you?

DESANTIS [TO VOTER] [in New Hampshire]: I'm wonderful.

KARL: He's also made a foreign trip where he awkwardly avoided questions about running for president.

DESANTIS [on 04/24/23]: I'm not a candidate, so we'll see if — if and when that changes.

KARL: His challenge now is to try to find a way to beat Trump without alienating Trump supporters. In his first campaign for governor, DeSantis ran as a clone of Donald Trump.

DESANTIS [in 2018 ad]: Then Mr. Trump said, "you're fired". I love that part.

KARL: He won that Republican primary largely because he had Trump's support. Now Trump is relentlessly attacking him, even with this, the very first Trump campaign ad of 2024.

TRUMP CAMPAIGN AD NARRATOR: Isn't it time DeSantis remembers how he got to where he is? Truth is, there's only one person who can make America great again.

KARL: And the Trump team is mocking DeSantis for announcing his plans on Twitter, saying, "announcing on Twitter is perfect for Ron DeSantis. This way he doesn't have to interact with people and the media can't ask him any questions." Trump has already spent millions of dollars on television ads attacking DeSantis. In fact, George, Trump and his political organizations have spent more money attacking DeSantis than they spent in the entire 2022 midterm cycle supporting Republican congressional candidates. As for DeSantis, he has privately said that Trump cannot win, cannot beat Joe Biden, but has said very little critical of him in public. George?

STEPHANOPOULOS: Jon Karl, thanks.