



### Democratic Presidential Nominee Biden Selects Senator Harris as His Running Mate

Earlier this week, Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden announced that U.S. Senator Kamala Harris would be his running mate for the upcoming November election. With the historic selection, Harris becomes the first African-American woman and first Asian-American woman on a major political party's presidential ticket. She ran for the Democratic Party's presidential nomination herself and is currently serving as one of the two U.S. senators from the state of California. Prior to that, Harris got her start in public office as the District Attorney of San Francisco and later the Attorney General of California. Senator Harris was chosen from a list of candidates that included other prominent figures such as Congresswoman Karen Bass and former national security adviser Susan Rice.

Biden had previously pledged to choose a female vice presidential candidate, and the field of finalists being considered by his campaign was a diverse group of potential running mates. The initial pool of over a dozen contenders consisted of congressmembers, governors, mayors, and diplomats. By the end of June, a smaller list of favorites was beginning to emerge and among that group were Senator Kamala Harris, Congresswoman Karen Bass, former national security adviser Susan Rice, Senator Tammy Duckworth, and Congresswoman Val Demings. With Biden's selection of Harris, she now becomes the third woman to serve as a vice presidential candidate, following Geraldine Ferraro as the Democratic pick in 1984 and Sarah Palin as the Republican pick in 2008.

Harris was one of the leading contenders in the running mate search process because of her experience working at the federal level as a U.S. senator and her familiarity as a 2020 presidential candidate herself. Additionally, with her multi-racial background as a child of two immigrants, she was believed to be a strong complement to Biden as a representation of a diversifying nation. Senator Harris may have also been viewed as the ideal choice because many of the issues she has focused on in her career, like criminal justice reform and improving health care in minority communities, have come to the forefront in today's political climate due to growing public outrage with the prevalence of police brutality against African-Americans and the ongoing coronavirus pandemic.

Several of the other potential candidates who had been considered for the role praised Biden's choice. Former national security adviser Susan Rice called Harris "a tenacious and trailblazing leader who will make a great partner on the campaign trail." Congresswoman Val Demings hailed the selection as a historic moment for the country: "To see a Black woman nominated for the first time reaffirms my faith that in America, there is a place for every person to succeed no matter who they are or where they come from." Congresswoman Karen Bass tweeted that Senator Harris' "tenacious pursuit of justice and relentless advocacy for the people is what is needed right now." Lastly, former President Barack Obama added that Harris is "more than prepared for the job" and that his former vice president "nailed this decision."

On Wednesday afternoon, Biden and Harris made their first public appearance together as a ticket at an event in Delaware. The two delivered remarks outlining their campaign themes as they prepare for November's general election against President Trump and Vice President Mike Pence.