



[Democratic Party Holds Its Convention Virtually and Officially Nominates Joe Biden and Kamala Harris](#)

The 2020 Democratic National Convention is being held virtually this week due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, as the Democratic Party officially nominates Joe Biden and Kamala Harris for president and vice president respectively. Convention speakers included former President Barack Obama, Senator Bernie Sanders, and others, in addition to former Republican presidential candidate John Kasich, who also spoke in support of Democratic nominee Joe Biden. Kasich attempted to appeal to dissatisfied Republicans, literally standing at a fork in a gravel road in his video address and as such, making the case for Biden as the right candidate to lead a country at a crossroads. The former Ohio governor was one of a few prominent Republicans to speak at the convention, a list which also included former Secretary of State Colin Powell and Cindy McCain, wife of the late Senator John McCain.

Kasich's rebuke of Trump and subsequent endorsement of Biden may well play a vital role in November's election, considering that no Republican has ever won the presidency without winning Kasich's home state of Ohio. Back in 2016, Trump won Ohio by more than 8 percentage points over then Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton, but recent polls in the state regarding the upcoming election signify a very close race between Trump and Biden, as both are within 1 or 2 percentage points of the other. Kasich is a lifelong Republican, but has been a frequent critic of President Trump and his policies, joining other notable political figures in calling out his divisive tactics and rhetoric. In his recorded message at the Democratic National Convention, Kasich expressed his belief that "we're being taken down the wrong road" by the incumbent president and that Trump is "unlike all of our best leaders before him who work to unite us." By doing so, he aimed to persuade other Republicans to put the country's best interest in front of their party affiliation and also support Biden in the upcoming November general election.

Despite it being a powerful attempt to reach out to voters on the other side of the aisle, not everyone was thrilled with Kasich's inclusion in the Democratic National Convention's program. Some progressive Democrats were upset with the fact that Kasich, who opposes various policy stances like establishing universal health care and increasing economic assistance programs, was given a prime speaking slot at the convention. Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez for example, tweeted that while Kasich is welcome to voice his support for Biden, "a Republican who fights against women's rights doesn't get to say who is or isn't representative of the Democratic party." At the same time, some Republican figures were also irked with Kasich's appearance, with former New Jersey Governor Chris Christie calling him a "backstabber" and ripping his endorsement of Biden. President Trump also weighed in and accused Kasich of flocking to the other side in a desperate attempt to stay relevant.

While it is not a regular occurrence for a prominent party leader like Kasich to speak at an opposing party's convention, it is not unprecedented and has taken place several times in recent presidential elections. Former Senator Joe Lieberman, who had been the Democratic vice presidential nominee in 2000, spoke in support of presidential candidate John McCain at the 2008 Republican National Convention. It happened in 2004 and 2016 as well, with Senator Zell Miller and Mayor Michael Bloomberg also crossing party lines to support a presidential candidate.