



President Biden's Decision to Drop Out of the 2024 Race and Where Things Stand

Following a troubling debate performance, plummeting poll numbers, and growing concerns regarding his capability to run for and potentially serve another term, U.S. President Joe Biden dropped out of the 2024 race earlier this week on Sunday. While it had been anticipated as a possibility over the past several weeks, the historic and consequential move – coming so close to the upcoming election – sent shockwaves through both Democratic and Republican circles, setting the stage for a remaining campaign season unlike any other. As the political landscape shifts, both parties are now bracing for new dynamics and challenges. In a post on the social media platform X, Biden wrote “While it has been my intention to seek re-election, I believe it is in the best interest of my party and the country for me to stand down and to focus solely on fulfilling my duties as president for the remainder of my term.” Many quickly pointed out that his stepping down came on the heels of a debate performance that shocked and worried many of his party members and supporters. In a recent poll released by AP-NORC, only 35% of Democrats polled said that Biden should stay in the race. U.S. Representative Jim Costa (D-CA), U.S. Representative Jamie Raskin (D-MD), U.S. Representative Mike Levin (D-CA), and U.S. Representative Brittany Pettersen (D-CO) are among just some of the Congressmembers who had called for Biden to withdraw from the race last week. Media outlets had also reported that even top-ranking Democrats like U.S. Representative and Former Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi (D-CA), U.S. Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY), and U.S. House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries (D-NY) were privately expressing their concerns to Biden regarding his candidacy.

There had been rumors circling President Biden's re-election campaign that his departure from the race could be inevitable, but the sudden nature of the announcement this past weekend surprised some and left others wondering where exactly it left the state of things. Almost thirty minutes after his announcement, a follow-up X post was made in which he announced his official endorsement of U.S. Vice President Kamala Harris saying “My very first decision as the party nominee in 2020 was to pick Kamala Harris as my Vice President...And it's been the best decision I've made...Today I want to offer my full support and endorsement for Kamala to be the nominee of our party this year...Democrats — it's time to come together and beat Trump.” Many key figures also expressed support for the Vice President's potential nomination including Former President Bill Clinton, Former U.S. Senator, Secretary of State, and First Lady Hillary Clinton, U.S. Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg, U.S. Senator Elizabeth Warren (D-MA), and U.S. Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-NY). These are merely some of the over 200 Democrats who have come out to endorse Vice President Harris's candidacy publicly. Just 24 hours into her 2024 presidential candidacy, Harris's campaign made headlines by announcing that it had raised a whopping \$81 million. Most recently today, Former President Barack Obama and Former First Lady Michelle Obama endorsed Vice President Harris for president as well.

In addition to the plethora of Democrats who were swift to throw their support behind Harris, none have stepped forward to directly challenge her for the impending Democratic nomination. Some have pointed out that with the Democratic National Convention still several weeks away in mid-August, she was not guaranteed as the party's 2024 nominee for president. In the wake of Biden's departure and even leading up to it, a few Democrats' names had been tossed in the ring as alternative nominees including California Governor Gavin Newsom, U.S. Senator Joe Manchin (I-WV), and Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer. However, all of these have come out to endorse

Harris except for Manchin who said “I think that we have a lot of talent on the bench, a lot of good people, and I’m partial to governors, because a governor can’t afford to be partial...They can’t afford to be partisan strictly, because that pothole or that bridge doesn’t have a D or an R on it,” implying that he was potentially holding out his support for a different candidate, but in recent days Manchin did state that he himself was not planning on running for president and challenging Harris for the Democratic Party’s nomination.

The news of Biden dropping out and endorsing Harris did not only affect Democrats' campaign trail, as Republicans, and specifically Former President Donald Trump's campaign reportedly were not exactly pleased with the incumbent president’s departure from the 2024 race. Much of Trump’s campaign material had been highlighting President Biden’s presumed failures and his alleged weakening physical and mental state. Thus, the campaign was designing itself to target and defeat Biden, and so the news of him dropping out forced a serious campaign strategy pivot. However, the former president’s team is not going down without a fight, now aiming to link the president and vice president together as one in an effort to make Harris culpable for Biden’s actions. On Sunday, senior Trump campaign officials Chris LaCivita and Susie Wiles said “They own each other’s records, and there is no distance between the two.” Additionally, one of Trump’s largest super PACs MAGA Inc. posted an ad stating that “They created the mess...They — no, Kamala — owns this failed record,” further trying to emphasize the connection between the two.

President Biden's decision to step down from the 2024 race has undoubtedly reshaped the political landscape surrounding the upcoming November election, leaving both Democrats and Republicans trying to navigate uncharted waters. While Biden's endorsement of Vice President Kamala Harris provides a clear direction for the Democratic Party to move towards, the time yet remaining until the mid-August Democratic National Convention means that this may not be officially finalized until then or at least shortly beforehand. On the Republican side, the anticipated shift in focus from Biden to Harris presents new challenges and strategies for the Trump campaign as they aim to link the two together. All of this leaves the nation preparing for a unique remaining campaign cycle and a consequential impending election.