

SPMG Media PEOPLE

MAGAZINE

A portrait of Kamala Harris, Vice President of the United States, against a teal background. She is wearing a dark blue blazer over a black top, a black pearl necklace, and a small American flag pin on her lapel. Her arms are crossed, and she is smiling slightly.

Vice
President
Kamala Harris

Madam
President?

2024
Politics
Issue

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FROM THE PUBLISHER

We thank you for joining us for the October 2024 issue of *SPMG Media PEOPLE Magazine*.

In this issue we're highlighting the historic decision of President Joe Biden to drop out of the 2024 Presidential race and endorse his Vice President Kamala Harris for President. After the disastrous debate with Trump, Democrats were concerned with President Biden's fitness to serve another four years and after weeks of back and forth, Biden made the unselfish decision to step down. Now the work begins!

In this issue we look at that decision, accomplishments from the Biden/Harris Administration, understanding the nomination process and more!

Biden technically also falls into the category of incumbents who decided not to seek a second term, though he initially did try to get reelected. There have been seven other elected incumbents in American history who didn't seek a second term: James K. Polk (in 1848), James Buchanan (in 1860), Rutherford B. Hayes (in 1880), Calvin Coolidge (in 1928), Harry S. Truman (in 1952), and Lyndon B. Johnson (in 1968).

Coolidge, Truman, and Johnson all served more than four years, but they were still eligible to run again; Coolidge became president upon the death of Warren G. Harding in 1923, Truman succeeded to the presidency upon the death of Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1945, and Johnson took office upon the assassination of John F. Kennedy in 1963.

So much in this issue! But we trust you'll be inspired, informed and you'll enjoy!

All the best!

Gina Johnson Smith Stelly, Publisher



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Gina Johnson Smith Stelly, Publisher SPMG Media People Magazine



Madam President?

Vice President Kamala Harris Endorsed by President Biden for 2024 Presidential Bid

Shari Miller | Staff Writer

She's already broken barriers, and now Kamala Harris could shatter several more after President Joe Biden abruptly ended his re-election bid and endorsed her.

Biden announced Sunday that he was stepping aside after a disastrous debate performance catalyzed fears that the 81-year-old was too frail for a second term.

Harris is the first woman, Black person or person of South Asian descent to serve as vice president. If she becomes the Democratic nominee and defeats Republican candidate Donald Trump in November, she would be the first woman to serve as president.

Biden said Sunday that choosing Harris as his running mate was "the best decision I've made" and endorsed her as his successor.

"Democrats — it's time to come together and beat Trump," he wrote on X, the social media platform formerly known as Twitter. "Let's do this."

Harris described Biden's decision to step aside as a "selfless and patriotic act," saying he was "putting the American people and our country above everything else."

"I am honored to have the President's endorsement and my intention is to earn and win this nomination," Harris said. "Over the past year, I have traveled across the country, talking with Americans about the clear choice in this momentous election."



Prominent Democrats followed Biden's lead by swiftly coalescing around Harris on Sunday. However, her nomination is not a foregone conclusion, and there have been suggestions that the party should hold a lightning-fast "mini primary" to consider other candidates before its convention in Chicago next month.

A recent poll from the AP-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research found that about 6 in 10 Democrats believe Harris would do a good job in the top slot. About 2 in 10 Democrats don't believe she would, and another 2 in 10 say they don't know enough to say.

The poll showed that about 4 in 10 U.S. adults have a favorable opinion of Harris, whose name is pronounced "COMM-a-la," while about half have an unfavorable opinion.

A former prosecutor and U.S. senator from California, Harris' own bid for the 2020 Democratic presidential nomination imploded

before a single primary vote was cast. She later became Biden's running mate, but she struggled to find her footing after taking office as vice president. Assigned to work on issues involving migration from Central America, she was repeatedly blamed by Republicans for problems with illegal border crossings.

However, Harris found more prominence as the White House's most outspoken advocate for abortion rights after the U.S. Supreme Court overturned *Roe v. Wade* in 2022. She has also played a key role in reaching out to young people and voters of color.

In addition, Harris' steady performance after Biden's debate debacle solidified her standing among Democrats in recent weeks.

Even before Biden's endorsement, Harris was widely viewed as the favorite to replace him on the ticket. With her foreign policy experience and national name recognition, she has a head start over potential challengers, including California Gov. Gavin Newsom, Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer and Pennsylvania Gov. Josh Shapiro.

Harris will seek to avoid the fate of Hubert Humphrey, who as vice president won the Democratic nomination in 1968 after President Lyndon Johnson declined to run for reelection amid national dissatisfaction over the Vietnam War. Humphrey lost that year to Republican Richard Nixon.

Nixon resigned in 1974 during the Watergate scandal and was replaced by Vice President Gerald Ford. Ford never won a term of his own.



Vice presidents are always in line to step into the top job if the president dies or is incapacitated.

However, Harris has faced an unusual level of scrutiny because of Biden's age. He was the oldest president in history, taking office at 78 and announcing his reelection bid at 80. Harris is 59.

She addressed the question of succession in an interview with The Associated Press during a trip to Jakarta in September 2023.

"Joe Biden is going to be fine, so that is not going to come to fruition," she stated. "But let us also understand that every vice president — every vice president — understands that when they take the oath they must be very clear about the responsibility they may have to take over the job of being president."

"I'm no different."

Harris was born Oct. 20, 1964, in Oakland, California, to parents who met as civil rights activists. Her hometown and nearby Berkeley were at the heart of the racial and social justice movements of the time, and Harris was both a product and a beneficiary.

She spoke often about attending demonstrations in a stroller and growing up around adults "who spent full time marching and shouting about this thing called justice." In first grade, she was bused to

school as part of the second class to integrate Berkeley public education.

Harris' parents divorced when she was young, and she was raised by her mother alongside her younger sister, Maya. She attended Howard University, a historically Black school in Washington, and joined the Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority, which became a source of sisterhood and political support over the years.

After graduating, Harris returned to the San Francisco Bay Area for law school and chose a career as a prosecutor, a move that surprised her activist family.

She said she believed that working for change inside the system was just as important as agitating from outside. By 2003, she was running for her first political office, taking on the longtime San Francisco district attorney.

Few city residents knew her name, and Harris set up an ironing board as a table outside grocery stores to meet people. She won and quickly showed a willingness to chart her own path. Months into her tenure, Harris declined to seek the death penalty for the killer of a young police officer slain in the line of duty, fraying her relationship with city cops.

The episode did not stop her political ascent. In late 2007, while still serving as district attorney, she was knocking on doors in Iowa for then-candidate Barack Obama. After he became president, Obama endorsed her in her 2010 race for California attorney general.

Once elected to statewide office, she pledged to uphold the death penalty despite her moral opposition to it. She refused to defend Proposition 8, a voter-backed initiative banning same-sex marriage. Harris also played a key role in a \$25 billion settlement with the nation's mortgage lenders following the foreclosure crisis.



As killings of young Black men by police received more attention, Harris implemented some changes, including tracking racial data in police stops, but didn't pursue more aggressive measures such as requiring independent prosecutors to investigate police shootings.

Harris' record as a prosecutor would eventually dog her when she launched a presidential bid in 2019, as some progressives and younger voters demanded swifter change. But during her time on the job, she also forged a fortuitous relationship with Beau Biden, Joe Biden's son who was then Delaware's attorney general. Beau Biden died of brain cancer in 2015, and his friendship with Harris figured heavily years later as his father chose Harris to be his running mate.

Harris married entertainment lawyer Douglas Emhoff in 2014, and she became stepmother to Emhoff's two children, Ella and Cole, who referred to her as "Momala."

Harris had a rare opportunity to advance politically when Sen. Barbara Boxer, who had served more than two decades, announced she would not run again in 2016.

In office, Harris quickly became part of the Democratic resistance to Trump and gained recognition for her pointed questioning of his nominees. In one memorable moment, she pressed now-

Supreme Court Justice Brett Kavanaugh on whether he knew any laws that gave government the power to regulate a man's body. He did not, and the line of questioning galvanized women and abortion rights activists.

A little more than two years after becoming a senator, Harris announced her campaign for the 2020 Democratic presidential nomination. But her campaign was marred by infighting and she failed to gain traction, ultimately dropping out before the Iowa caucuses.

Eight months later, Biden selected Harris as his running mate. As he introduced her to the nation, Biden reflected on what her nomination meant for "little Black and brown girls who so often feel overlooked and undervalued in their communities."

"Today, just maybe, they're seeing themselves for the first time in a new way, as the stuff of presidents and vice presidents," he said.





When Biden finalized his decision to drop out, his staff knew one minute before the public did



At 1:45 p.m. Sunday, July 21, 2024, President Joe Biden's senior staff was notified that he was stepping away from the 2024 race. At 1:46 p.m., that message was made public.

It was never Biden's intention to leave the race: Up until he decided to step aside Sunday, he was all in. His campaign was planning fundraisers and events and setting up travel over the next few weeks. But even as Biden was publicly dug in and insisting he was staying in the race, he was quietly reflecting on the disaster of the past few weeks, on the past three years of his presidency and on the scope of his half-century career in politics.

In the end, it was the president's decision alone, and he made it quietly, from his vacation home in Rehoboth Beach, Delaware, sick with COVID-19, the first

lady with him as he talked it through with a small circle of people who have been with him for decades.

"This has got to be one of the hardest decisions he's ever made," said Sen. Chris Coons, D-Del., the president's closest ally in Congress, who spoke with him Sunday. "I know he wanted to fight and keep going and show that he could beat Donald Trump again, but as he heard more and more input, I think he was wrestling with what would be the best for the country," Coons said in an interview with the Associated Press.

This story is based on interviews with more than a dozen people familiar with the president's thinking over the past few weeks, days and hours as he made his decision. They spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity to talk about private discussions.



Deciding to leave the race


It wasn't until Saturday evening that Biden began to come to the conclusion that he would not run for reelection. He started writing a letter to the American people..

Biden had been off the campaign trail for a few days, isolated because of COVID-19, when it all started to deeply sink in — his worsening chances of being able to defeat Donald Trump with so much of his party in open rebellion, seeking to push him out of the race — not to mention the persistent voter concerns about his age that were only exacerbated by the catastrophic debate.

Biden was at his beach home with some of his and Jill Biden's closest aides: chief strategist Mike Donilon, counselor to the president Steve Ricchetti, White House deputy chief of staff Annie Tomasini, and Anthony Bernal, senior adviser to the first lady.

By Sunday, his decision crystalized. He spoke multiple times with Vice President Kamala Harris, whom he would endorse. He informed White House chief of staff Jeff Zients, and his longtime aide and campaign chairwoman Jen O'Malley Dillon.

A small group of senior advisers from both the campaign and the White House were assembled for the 1:45 p.m. call to relay Biden's decision, while his campaign staff released the social media announcement one minute later.

A photograph of Joe Biden walking outdoors. He is wearing a dark blue suit, a light blue shirt, a blue tie, and dark sunglasses. He is looking slightly to his right. The background is blurred, showing what appears to be a building with columns.

“It has been the greatest honor of my life to serve as your President. And while it has been my intention to seek reelection, 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,” Biden wrote.

Just about a half-hour later came his public vote of support for Harris. It was a carefully choreographed strategy meant to give the president’s initial statement full weight, and to put a period on the moment before launching forward into the next step.

“Today I want to offer my full support and endorsement for Kamala to be the nominee of our party this year,” Biden said in another post on X. “Democrats — it’s time to come together and beat Trump.”

Elizabeth Alexander, Jill Biden’s communications director, said, “down to the last hours of the decision only he could make, she was supportive of whatever road he chose.

The Southwest logo, featuring the word "Southwest" in a blue sans-serif font followed by a stylized heart icon composed of red, yellow, and blue segments.

Southwest

An aerial view from an airplane window looking out over Chicago, Illinois. The city skyline is visible in the distance, with Lake Michigan to the right. The wing of the airplane is visible in the foreground, and the tail fin with its colorful livery is also visible. The sky is clear and blue.

**We're supporting your
well-being and comfort from
check-in to deplane.**

The Southwest Promise.

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About that debate

It’s not like things had been going great before the June 27 debate. In an August 2023 poll from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research, fully 77 percent of U.S. adults said Biden was too old to be effective for four more years. Not only did 89 percent of Republicans say that, but so did 69 percent of Democrats.

And it hadn’t gotten any better by April, when more than half of U.S. adults thought Biden’s presidency hurt the country on issues like the cost of living and immigration.

But Biden had insisted — to himself, to the nation, to his supporters — that he would be able to bring voters around if he got out there, told people about his record, explained it to them. Talked to them. Looked them in the eye.

He had a lifetime of experience that told him that if he stuck to it, he’d overcome. His campaign was so confident, in fact, that they arranged to go around the Commission on Presidential Debates to set up a series of faceoffs with Trump under a new set of rules.

That produced the June 27 debate that set Biden’s downfall in motion. Biden gave nonsensical answers, trailed off mid-sentence and appeared to stare blankly in front of an audience of 51 million people. Perhaps most distressing to other Democrats, Biden didn’t go after Trump’s myriad falsehoods about his involvement in the violence around the insurrection on Jan. 6, 2021, abortion rights or immigration.

Biden and his team blamed the night on so many different things. He had a cold. He was jet-lagged. He needed to get more sleep. That night opened the door for his party to push him out.

A slow acceptance

Publicly and privately Biden was fighting to stay in the race. He was working to convince voters that he was up for the task for another four years. He was frustrated by the Democrats coming out publicly against him, but even angrier about the leaks and anonymous sources relaying how even former President Barack Obama and former House Speaker Nancy Pelosi were working to get him to drop out.

But the doubts didn’t go away.

Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer eventually invited top Biden staff to a meeting on July 11 to talk about their concerns. It didn’t go well. Senators expressed their concerns, and almost none of them said they had confidence in the president. But even afterwards, Schumer was worried it wasn’t getting to Biden.

Following the meeting, Schumer called Democratic House Leader Hakeem Jeffries, former Speaker Nancy Pelosi and former President Obama. Schumer decided that day to request a meeting with Biden.

At a July 13 meeting in Rehoboth, Schumer told Biden he was there out of love and affection. And he delivered a personal appeal focused on Biden's legacy, the country's future and the impact the top of the ticket could have on congressional races — and how that could potentially affect the Supreme Court. That same day came the attempted assassination of Donald Trump.

Schumer told the president he didn't expect him to make an immediate decision, but he hoped Biden would think about what he said, according to a person familiar with the conversation.

Biden responded, "I need another week," and the two men hugged.

Sunday's decision

It was full steam ahead until Biden pulled the emergency brake.

The president had lost his voice, but he was recovering well and his doctor had sent an update to the public shortly before 1 p.m. on his condition. His small circle decided to post the statement on X on Sunday, rather than let it leak out for days before he was prepared to address the nation, which he is expected to do sometime early this week.

Much of his campaign was blindsided, and it was clear by how little had changed after he dropped out. For hours after the announcement, Biden's campaign website reflected that he was still running and KamalaHarris.com still redirected to Biden's page.

Even Harris' statement announcing her intent to succeed Biden was sent from "Joe Biden for President."

After the public announcement, Zients held a senior staff call, sent out an email and spoke with Biden's cabinet. The president was also making personal calls.

"Team — I wanted to make sure you saw the attached letter from the President," Zients wrote in the staff email. "I could not be more proud to work for President Joe Biden, Vice President Kamala Harris, and the American people — alongside all of you, the best White House team in history. There's so much more to do — and as President Biden says, 'there is nothing America can't do — when we do it together.'"

Vermont Sen. Peter Welch, a Democrat who had called for Biden to bow out, was gardening with his wife when the news broke, and said he was momentarily "stunned." Senators texted each other questioning if it was really happening.

Democratic Connecticut Sen. Richard Blumenthal was at an event in his state, and there was spontaneous applause when it was announced to the crowd that Biden wouldn't run, he said.

There was a sense of excitement and energy in the crowd "that has been completely lacking," Blumenthal said.

"It was also, let's be blunt, a sense of relief," he said. "And a sense of reverence for Joe Biden."

By Sunday evening, Biden for President had formally changed to Harris for President.

O'Malley Dillon told campaign staff their jobs were safe, because the operation was shifting to a campaign for Harris.

The Biden-Harris Record



Lowering Costs of Families' Everyday Expenses



through THE INFLATION REDUCTION ACT

Lower Costs for American Families

\$800 annual savings on health insurance premiums for 13 million Americans

\$500 in annual savings for Americans through clean energy tax credit programs

\$2,000 annual cap on out-of-pocket prescription drug costs for seniors

Provides bonus credits to companies to pay prevailing wages and hire Registered Apprentices

On track to cut emissions in half by 2030 and net-zero by 2050

Make the Tax Code Fairer

1% surcharge on corporate stock buybacks

15% minimum tax on billion dollar corporations

\$0 tax increase for families earning less than \$400,000 a year

Tackle the Climate Crisis

Create good-paying jobs making clean energy in America



When President Biden and Vice President Harris took office, our country faced unprecedented crises - a raging pandemic, economic crisis, climate crisis, and racial injustice. The President and Vice President ran for office on the promise to move quickly to tackle these crises head-on and deliver results for working families. That's what the Biden-Harris Administration has done.

Top Accomplishments

- *Lowering Costs of Families' Everyday Expenses*
- *More People Are Working Than At Any Point in American History*
- *Making More in America*
- *Rescued the Economy and Changed the Course of the Pandemic*
- *Rebuilding our Infrastructure*
- *Historic Expansion of Benefits and Services for Toxic Exposed Veterans*
- *The First Meaningful Gun Violence Reduction Legislation in 30 Years*
- *Protected Marriage for LGBTQI+ and Interracial Couples*
- *Historic Confirmation of Supreme Court Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson and Federal Judges of Diverse Backgrounds*
- *Rallied the World to Support Ukraine in Response to Putin's Aggression*
- *Strengthened Alliances and Partnerships to Deliver for the American People*
- *Successful Counterterrorism Missions Against the Leaders of Al Qaeda and ISIS*
- *Executive Orders Protecting Reproductive Rights*
- *Historic Student Debt Relief for Middle- and Working-Class Families*
- *Ending our Failed Approach to Marijuana*
- *Advancing Equity and Racial Justice, Including Historic Criminal Justice Reform*

- *Delivering on the Most Aggressive Climate and Environmental Justice Agenda in American History*
- *More People with Health Insurance Than Ever Before*

Lowering Costs of Families' Everyday Expenses

The Inflation Reduction Act is a historic legislative achievement that lowers costs for families, combats the climate crisis, reduces the deficit, and finally makes the largest corporations pay their fair share. For the first time, Medicare is able to negotiate the price of certain high-cost drugs, a month's supply of insulin for seniors is capped at \$35, Medicare beneficiaries pay \$0 out of pocket for recommended adult vaccines, and seniors' out of pocket expenses at the pharmacy will be capped at \$2,000 a year. And thanks to the President's actions, including a historic release from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, gas prices are down more than \$1.60 from their summer 2022 peak.

THAT'S NOT ALL — RESIDENT BIDEN HAS ALSO

Signed an Executive Order on
Improving Public Safety and
Criminal Justice for
Native Americans and
Addressing the
Crisis of Missing and Murdered
Indigenous People

The U.S. Presidential Nominating Process



2024 Presidential Election



Summary

- Lasting more than a year, the U.S. presidential campaign and nominating process is one of the longest and most expensive in the world.
- The candidates who win the largest share of their party's delegates secure the nomination and a berth in the general election.
- The national party conventions are mostly ceremonial events that promote each party's candidates, leaders, and rising stars.

The presidential nominating process in the United States is one of the most complex, lengthy, and expensive in the world. Every four years, presidential candidates compete in a series of state contests during the winter and spring before the general election to gain their party's nomination. At stake in each contest—either a primary or caucus—is a certain number of delegates, or individuals who represent their states at national party conventions. The candidate who accumulates the largest share of their party's delegates during the monthslong process wins the nomination and a berth in the general election race.

Many presidential candidates begin campaigning informally in early-voting states such as Iowa and

New Hampshire more than a year before their primary events. In 2020, the primary calendar kicks off on February 3, when both the Republican and Democratic Parties hold their Iowa caucuses. However, Republican Party leaders in several states have canceled their contests, citing the strength of President Donald J. Trump's incumbent bid and the desire to save costs. The primary season ends at the national conventions this summer, when party delegates officially select their nominee. Since the parties made the process more transparent in the 1970s, presumptive nominees have often emerged much earlier, sometimes only after a few weeks of voting.

What is a caucus?

Often held at school gyms, town halls, and other public venues, caucuses are local meetings that are financed and managed by the two major parties in which registered party members gather to discuss and express support for the various presidential candidates. The parties run their events a little differently. For instance, in Iowa in 2016, Republicans cast a secret ballot for their preferred candidate, while Democrats physically grouped themselves according to the candidate they supported and then took a tally. Democratic candidates must attract a minimum percentage of all the attendees to receive delegates. (Reformers in the 1970s introduced a viability

threshold to weed out smaller, potentially divisive factions.)

Caucus participants are technically not choosing a presidential candidate, but rather choosing delegates who will represent them in voting for their candidate at the next convention level—county, congressional district, and state—where a similar process takes place. Delegates for the national convention are selected at the state and congressional district conventions.

The caucus system [PDF] did not develop to serve a modern presidential nomination process but arose in many jurisdictions simply to help the political parties organize at the local level. Parties in states such as Iowa, where caucuses are held every two years, still see the value in this grassroots system, even as most states have adopted primaries.

What is a primary?

Unlike caucuses, primaries are conducted at regular polling stations, usually paid for by the state and run by state election officials. Voters generally cast a secret ballot for their preferred candidate.

Generally, there are two types of primaries: closed, in which only voters registered with the party holding the primary can participate; and open, in which voters are not required to be registered with the party holding the primary.

Prior to the 1970s, most states chose their delegates using caucuses, but after reforms were instituted in 1972 to make the nomination process more inclusive and transparent, most states adopted primaries.

In 2020, just a handful of states—Iowa, Kentucky, Nevada, North Dakota, and Wyoming—and U.S. territories—American Samoa, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands—are holding caucuses.

Why have the Iowa caucuses become so important?

A number of factors in the 1970s pushed the Iowa caucuses into the national political spotlight. First, the Democratic Party instituted reforms after its 1968 national convention in Chicago, where days of anti-war protests erupted into violence, to limit the power of party bosses and open the nomination process up to regular members. Among other things, new guidelines required state delegates to be selected within the year of the general election, which, for Iowa, meant bumping its caucuses in 1972 up from March or April, when they were typically held, to January, ahead of the New Hampshire primary. (The party needed the extra several weeks to print its rules and other caucus materials for attendees.)

Four years later, Jimmy Carter, then a little-known former governor of Georgia, took advantage of Iowa's first-in-the-nation contest by using a surprise early win there as a springboard onto the national stage. He led a similar grassroots campaign in New Hampshire, where he notched another unexpected victory.

The strategic success of Carter's campaign helped cement the special status of the two states in the presidential nomination process, even though the number of delegates at stake in each is relatively small. In 1980, the Democratic Party changed its rules to effectively preserve Iowa's and New Hampshire's early positions in the nomination process, and the Republican Party followed suit.

How does the delegate process work?

In recent decades, states have competed to hold primaries and caucuses earlier in the calendar—in a phenomenon known as front-loading—to draw the attention of candidates and the national media. However, the political parties have set rules in recent years to discourage front-loading and provide states that hold events later in the spring a greater role in the nomination process.





Both parties allow just four states to hold their delegate selection event in February: Iowa, New Hampshire, Nevada, and South Carolina. The remaining states and territories must wait to hold events until at least March 1. In recent election cycles, more than a dozen states have held events on this day, commonly referred to as Super Tuesday.

Additionally, the Republican Party requires states with contests before March 15 to award delegates on a proportional basis rather than the winner-takes-all method preferred by many state party officials.

Who are the delegates?

Delegates are often party activists, local political leaders, or early supporters of a given candidate. Presidential campaigns court local and state politicians for their slate of delegates because they typically bring the support of their political constituencies. Delegates can also include members of a campaign's steering committee or longtime active members of their local party organization.

How do candidates win delegates?

On the Democratic side, candidates are generally awarded delegates on a proportional basis. For instance, a candidate who receives one-third of the vote or support in a given primary or caucus receives roughly one-third of the delegates.

The rules on the Republican side are more varied. Some states award delegates on a proportional basis, some are winner-takes-all, while others use a hybrid system. In previous cycles, some events, including the Iowa caucus, awarded no delegates and were intended only to assess the preferences of the party faithful. Rule changes for 2016 forced states to scrap these nonbinding events, sometimes called "beauty contests."



How is the turnout?

Generally the turnout in caucuses tends to be lower than in primaries. In 2012, when only the Republican nomination was contested, 6.5 percent of all eligible voters in Iowa—but approximately 20 percent of registered Republicans—participated in the state’s caucuses. (This number was 16 percent in 2016, when both parties had competitive campaigns.) In comparison, the turnout in the New Hampshire primary was 31 percent. Turnout rates were roughly 70 percent for both states for the 2012 general election.

How many delegates are at stake?

In 2020, a Democratic candidate must secure at least 2,376 out of 4,750 delegates to become the party’s nominee. The number of delegates allocated to each state takes into account the state’s Democratic vote in the previous three presidential elections and its assigned number of Electoral College votes.

A Republican candidate must secure at least 1,277 out of 2,552 delegates to win the party’s nomination. The Republican Party allocates each state ten dele-

gates, plus three for each congressional district, and bonus delegates for states that contributed electoral votes to the party in the previous presidential election, as well those that elected Republicans to high offices.

What are superdelegates?

Each party also reserves a certain number of delegate slots for its high-ranking officials, who generally are not bound (or are unpledged) to a specific candidate heading into the national convention (unlike pledged delegates). On the Republican side, these include the three members of each state’s national committee, representing less than 5 percent of the party’s total delegates in 2020.

On the Democratic side, superdelegates include not only members of the national committee, but all members of Congress and governors, former presidents and vice presidents, former leaders of the Senate and the House, and former chairs of the Democratic National Committee. This group represented about 15 percent of the party’s total delegates in 2016.

However, the Democratic Party significantly curtailed the power of superdelegates in 2018, responding to critics who said the system favored establishment candidates. In the 2020 race, superdelegates will for the first time be banned from voting in the first ballot at the national convention, only participating if there are additional rounds of voting.

What role can independents play?

Because independent voters are unaffiliated with any party, they do not as a group receive delegates or hold their own national nominating convention or meeting. However, many states hold so-called open primaries that allow independents to participate. And some states allow voters to switch their party affiliation the day before an election, so that independents could register as a Republican or Democrat if they support a specific candidate.

Third parties, like the Green Party, can pick delegates for their own conventions. But because third-party candidates rarely earn a large percentage of the primary vote, the candidates their delegates select tend to garner little national attention.

What are the conventions?

In recent decades, the national conventions have been mostly ceremonial, simply ratifying the candidate who has secured the support of a majority of delegates. They are generally organized as media events to highlight the presidential and vice presidential nominees, party leaders, and rising stars. Over a period of three to four days, speeches and videos promoting the party's message are interwoven with official business, including the appointment of committee members, and ratification of party rules, credentials, and policy platforms.

However, in the rare presidential election cycle in which a clear front-runner for either party does not emerge during the primary and caucus process, which last occurred in 1952, several rounds of voting

at the national convention may be needed to crown a nominee. Pledged delegates are generally required to vote for a specific candidate in the first ballot—unpledged are not—but they may be allowed to vote for any candidate in subsequent ballots.





New business owners could get a \$50,000 tax deduction under Kamala Harris's plan

Business Insider



Democratic Vice Presidential Pick

Tim Walz

19 Facts About Tim Walz

“You also have to ask yourself at some point: Is this someone you would want to have lunch with every week for four years?” a White House official said.

Mr. Walz, the governor of Minnesota, worked as a high school social studies teacher and football coach, served in the Army National Guard and chooses Diet Mountain Dew over alcohol.

Here’s a closer look at the Democrats’ new choice for vice president.

1. He is a (very recent) social media darling. Mr. Walz has enjoyed a groundswell of support online from users commenting on his Midwestern “dad vibes” and appealing ordinariness.
2. He started the whole “weird” thing. It was Mr. Walz who labeled former President Donald J. Trump and his running mate, Senator JD

Vance of Ohio, “weird” on cable television just a couple of weeks ago. The description soon became a Democratic talking point.

3. He named a highway after Prince and signed the bill in purple ink. “I think we can lay to rest that this is the coolest bill signing we’ll ever do,” he said as he put his name on legislation declaring a stretch of Highway 5 the “Prince Rogers Nelson Memorial Highway” after the musician who had lived in Minnesota.
4. He reminds you of your high school history teacher for a reason. Mr. Walz taught high school social studies and geography — first in Alliance, Neb., and then in Mankato, Minn. — before entering politics.

5. He taught in China in 1989 and speaks some Mandarin. He went to China for a year after graduating from college and taught English there through a program affiliated with Harvard University.

6. He is a veteran. Mr. Walz enlisted in the Army National Guard as a teenager and retired 24 years later in 2005. He deployed to Italy from 2003 to 2004 in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and received the Army Commendation Medal for meritorious service and two Army Achievement Medals.

7. He was a rare breed in Congress: a Democrat from the rural Midwest. For more than a decade, Mr. Walz represented Minnesota's First District, in the southern part of the state. He was the top Democrat on the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, supported funding for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, voted for the Affordable Care Act and voted against restricting federal funding for abortion.

8. He is a Nebraskan by birth. He was born in West Point, Neb., grew up in Valentine, Neb., attended high school in Butte, Neb., and graduated from Chadron State College before moving to earn a master's degree in experiential education from Minnesota State University, Mankato.

9. He got involved in politics after being barred from a George W. Bush rally. In 2004, when he was still a teacher, he accompanied students to the rally and objected when, in his telling, they were denied entrance for having volunteered for Democrats.

10. The woman who trained him to run for office is now his lieutenant governor. Mr. Walz attended Camp Wellstone, a Democratic political training camp named after former Senator Paul Wellstone, before ousting a Republican incumbent to win his House seat in 2006. Lt. Gov. Peggy Flanagan was a trainer there.

11. He was an early supporter of gay rights. At Mankato West High School in Minnesota in the 1990s, he



sponsored a gay-straight alliance and has said it was important at that time for the sponsor to be "the football coach, who was the soldier and was straight and was married." When he won his House seat in 2006 in a conservative district, he ran on support for same-sex marriage.

12. He has shifted politically on other issues. He was more moderate than many Democrats during his time in the House, voting for stricter vetting of refugees and receiving endorsements from the National Rifle Association. He shifted significantly to the left on guns and on other subjects when he ran for governor in 2018, and he and Minnesota's Democratic legislature have enacted a sweeping progressive agenda.

13. He is a gun owner and hunts pheasants and turkeys. He introduced a "Governor's Turkey Hunting Opener" to kick off the turkey-hunting season in Minnesota and runs a similar event for the pheasant-hunting season. "I guarantee you he can't shoot pheasants like I can," he said on CNN of Mr. Vance.

14. He would be the third vice president from Minnesota. Hubert Humphrey (who served under President Lyndon B. Johnson) and Walter Mondale (who served under President Jimmy Carter) were the first two.

16. He coached the 1999 football state champions. It was the first state championship title for Mankato West High School.

17. He is a Lutheran. More specifically, he sometimes describes himself as a “Minnesota Lutheran.”

“Because we’re good Minnesota Lutherans, we have a rule: if you do something good and talk about it, it no longer counts,” Walz joked during a speech last spring. “So what you have to do is to get someone else to talk about you.”

18. He doesn’t drink after a D.W.I. in 1995. Mr. Walz has said he stopped drinking alcohol after he was pulled over for speeding in 1995 and failed a sobriety test. His wife told him at the time: “You have obligations to people. You can’t make dumb choices.”

19. He also does not drink coffee. He prefers Diet Mountain Dew. As does his Republican counterpart.

Tim Walz Family



Tim and Gwen Walz in 2021.



Walz family after Tim Walz accepts nomination at Democratic National Convention

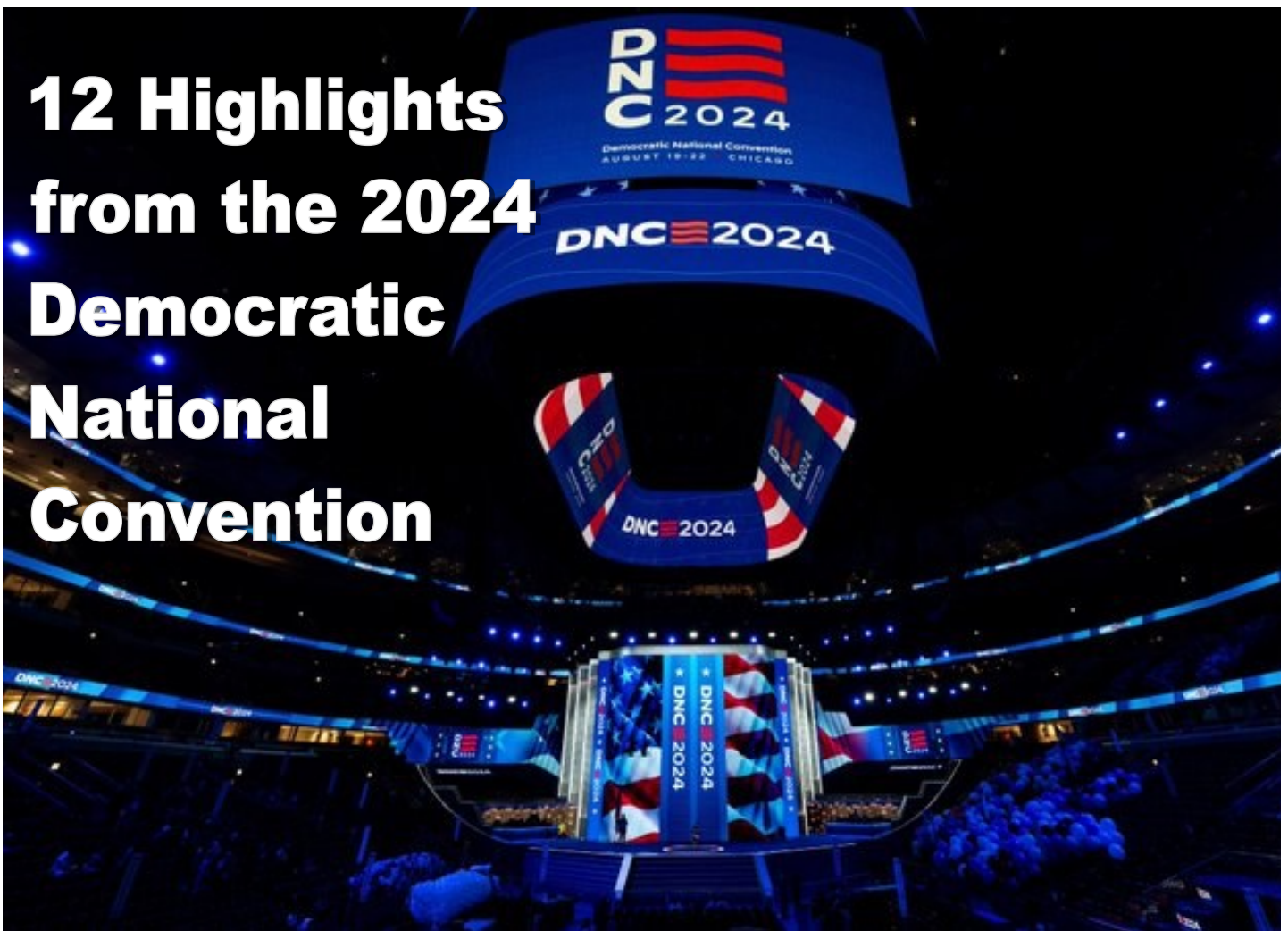


Gus Walz cheered on his father at the DNC: “That’s my father!”



Walz family and two unidentified family members.

12 Highlights from the 2024 Democratic National Convention



A little over a month ago, Democrats were coming to grips with the idea that President Biden might not be the best candidate to represent their party in the race against former President Donald Trump, with many dreading what they thought could be a landslide loss up and down the ballot in November.

What a difference a convention makes.

Democratic delegates and officials gathered in Chicago for the 2024 Democratic National Convention, where they praised Mr. Biden's legacy while enthusiastically embracing Vice President Kamala Harris and the energy she brought to the top of the ticket. Over the course of the week, speakers preached unity and joy as they contrasted her leadership and personality with Trump's.

Here's a look back at some of the top highlights from this year's Democratic convention:

AOC gets a primetime speaking slot

For the first time, Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez of



New York was given a primetime speaking slot on the convention's opening night. In 2020, she got just 90 seconds to speak ahead of Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders.

In her fiery seven-minute speech on Monday, she spoke to the middle class and got thunderous applause as she called former President Donald Trump a "two-bit union buster" who would "sell this country for a dollar if it meant lining his own pockets and greasing the palms of his Wall Street friends."

Biden gets emotional during send-off



Mr. Biden wiped away tears as he took the stage on Monday after an introduction by his daughter, Ashley Biden.

The president embraced his daughter for nearly 30 seconds, pulling a tissue out of his pocket to dry his eyes, before repeatedly thanking the crowd during a lengthy standing ovation.

A month ago, Mr. Biden was set to accept the nomination on the convention's final day. But Democrats who feared he could not beat Trump in November pressured him to end his campaign.

Mr. Biden instead gave a speech on the convention's opening day before he jetted off to California for vacation. The timing of his remarks were pushed late into the night on the East Coast after earlier parts of the program ran long, which some saw as a snub to the president.

"I've made a lot of mistakes in my career, but I gave my best to you," Mr. Biden said.

Democrats add flavor to roll call with musical nod to each state



Democrats emphasized the party in political party during Tuesday's ceremonial roll call as DJ Cassidy spun banger after banger.

Though Harris and her running mate, Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz, were officially nominated in a virtual roll call before the convention itself, delegations reaffirmed their support for the duo in a vote set to a soundtrack that saluted each U.S. state and territory.

Songs ranged from Prince's "1999" to "California Love" by Tupac and "Good Luck, Babe" by Chappell Roan. More on this later!

Michelle Obama tells Trump the presidency might be a "Black job"



"Something wonderfully magical is in the air, isn't it?" former first lady Michelle Obama said in her speech Tuesday. "A familiar feeling that's been buried too deep for too long."

She gave a resounding endorsement of Harris, saying "hope is making a comeback," while excoriating Trump — though mentioning him by name only once.

"For years, Donald Trump did everything in his power to try to make people fear us. His limited, narrow view of the world made him feel threatened by the existence of two hardworking and highly educated, successful people who happen to be Black."

She then quipped, "who's going to tell him that the job he's currently seeking might just be one of those 'Black jobs'?"

It was a reference to Trump, who in the June debate against Mr. Biden claimed that immigrants were taking "Black jobs."

Barack Obama mocks Trump's "weird obsession with crowd sizes"



Former President Barack Obama portrayed Trump as a chaotic leader who has divided Americans as he delivered the keynote address on Tuesday.

But he also mocked Trump's focus on crowd sizes — though Obama's hand gestures during the line suggested he was also referring to the male anatomy.

"There's the childish nicknames, the crazy conspiracy theories, this weird obsession with crowd sizes," he said as the crowd laughed.

Doug Emhoff introduces himself to the nation

Harris won't be the only one making history if she



wins the White House in November. Her husband, Doug Emhoff, would be the first presidential spouse with the title of first gentleman.

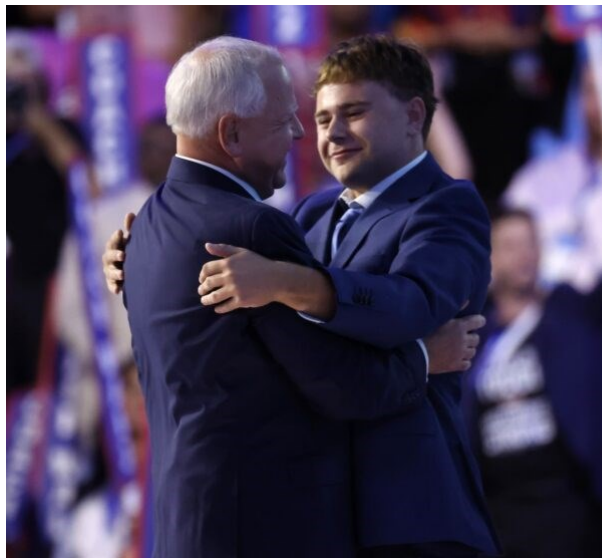
Emhoff, currently the second gentleman, introduced himself to the nation on Day 2 of the convention, recalling that he called Harris and left a rambling voicemail at 8:30 a.m. before their first date. Harris saved the message, and plays it for him on every anniversary, Emhoff said.

"Wherever she's needed, however she's needed, Kamala rises to the occasion. And she did it for me and my family," said Emhoff, who is a former entertainment lawyer with two adult children from his previous marriage.

Emhoff was introduced by his son, Cole Emhoff, in an endearing video about his father's life, their family and his relationship with Harris. Emhoff's first wife, Kerstin Emhoff, helped produce the video and was at the convention supporting her ex-husband



Gus Walz tearfully cheers on his dad



Gus Walz, the 17-year-old son of Tim Walz, was in the front row with his mom and sister during the biggest moment of his father's life.

As the vice presidential nominee talked about his family being his "entire world," Gus Walz was overcome with emotion. He stood up with tears streaming down his face and yelled, "That's my dad!"

The Walz family recently disclosed in an interview with People magazine that the high school senior has a nonverbal learning disorder, ADHD and an anxiety disorder. They called the conditions his "secret power" and said he's "brilliant."

Oprah makes surprise appearance



Oprah Winfrey, who typically prefers to stay out of politics, took several digs at Trump and his running mate, Ohio Sen. JD Vance, during her surprise

speech on Wednesday.

She mentioned "cat ladies," a reference to comments Vance made in 2021 about women who have cats and not children, and condemned Trump's comments about elections.

After her remarks, she told "CBS Mornings" she felt compelled to speak out because "a lot of things are at stake," especially abortion rights.



Republicans speak out against Trump

A handful of Republicans, some who previously worked for Trump, lambasted the former president in speeches throughout the week.

Stephanie Grisham, who was one of Trump's press secretaries and a top aide to Melania Trump, said Harris "has my vote." Grisham said Trump has "no empathy, no morals and no fidelity to the truth." She said Trump calls his supporters "basement dwellers" behind closed doors.

Olivia Troye, who served as an adviser to former Vice President Mike Pence, said Trump wants to sow doubt and division "because it's the only way he wins."

"You're not voting for a Democrat. You're voting for democracy," Troye said. "You're not betraying our party. You're standing up for our country."

Former Georgia Lt. Gov. Geoff Duncan said the Republican Party has become "chaotic and crazy" under Trump.

"The only thing left to do is dump Trump," Duncan said. "These days our party acts more like a cult, a cult worshipping a felonist thug."

Elizabeth Warren emotional as she gets hero's welcome



Sen. Elizabeth Warren became emotional as she took the stage to raucous applause on Thursday.

The Massachusetts Democrat took aim at Trump, saying he "has no plan to lower costs for families."

"He doesn't know how, and basically, he doesn't really care," she said. "When did he ever fill up a gas tank or worry about a grocery bill? The only bills he worries about are from his criminal defense lawyers."

She added that she wouldn't trust Trump or Vance to look out for families on issues including the price of groceries, gas, housing, health care, taxes and abortion.

"Shoot, I wouldn't trust those guys to move my couch," she said, a reference to a joke about Vance that went viral on social media.

Kamala Harris accepts nomination



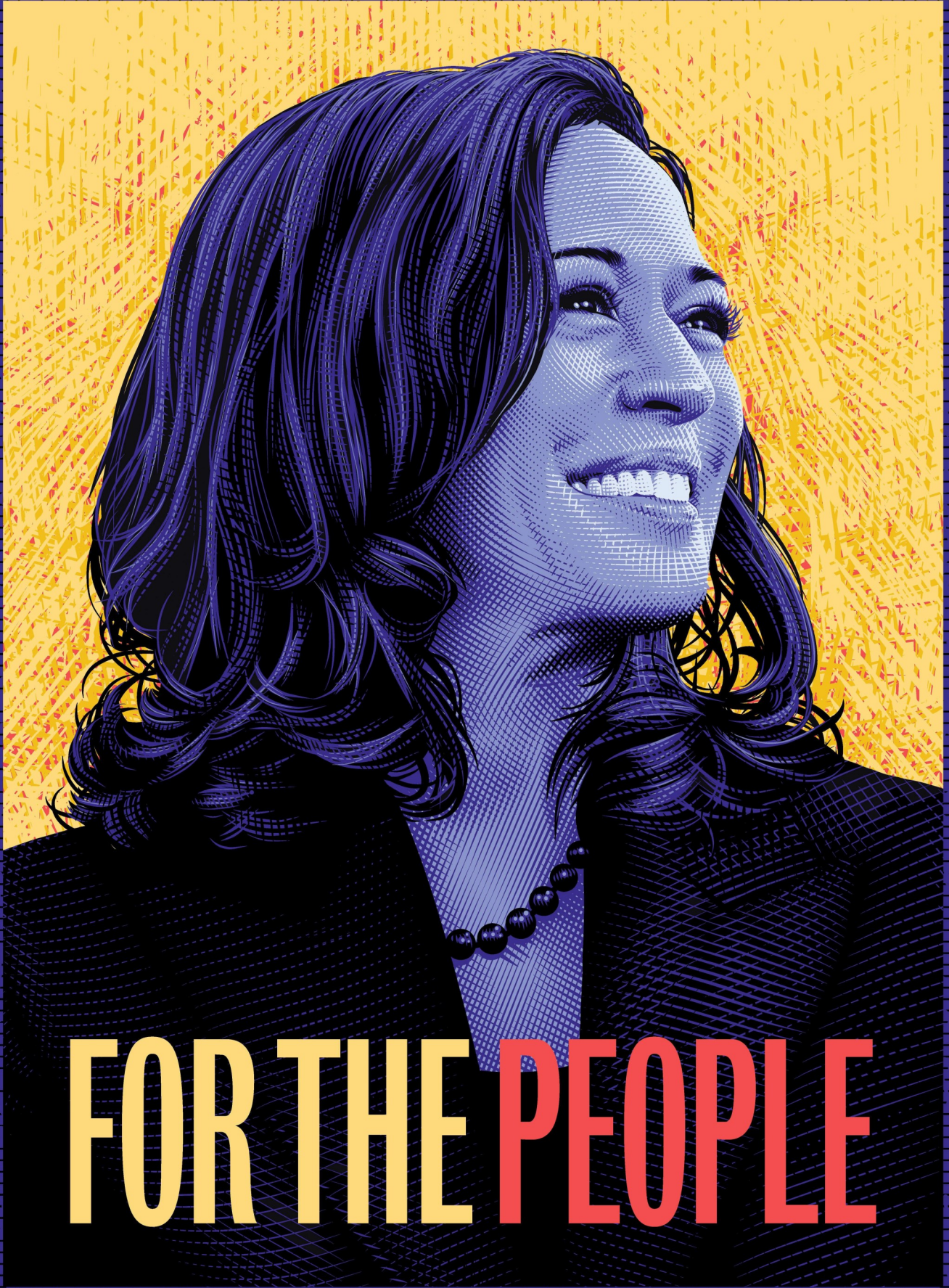
Harris officially accepted the nomination on Thursday night, making history as the first Black woman to lead a major party's presidential ticket.

"My entire career, I've only had one client: the people," she said in her speech. "And so, on behalf of the people, on behalf of every American regardless of party, race, gender or the language your grandmother speaks, on behalf of my mother and everyone who has ever set out on their own unlikely journey, on behalf of Americans like the people I grew up with, people who work hard, chase their dreams, and look out for one another, on behalf of everyone whose story could only be written in the greatest nation on earth, I accept your nomination to be president of the United States of America."

She shared her life story, laid out her agenda and attacked Trump as an "unserious man."

"Just imagine Donald Trump with no guardrails and how he would use the immense powers of the presidency of the United States, not to improve your life, not to strengthen our national security, but to serve the only client he has ever had — himself."

She ended her speech calling on Americans to "write the next great chapter in the most extraordinary story ever told."



FOR THE PEOPLE

PAID FOR BY KAMALA HARRIS FOR THE PEOPLE



The 2024 Democratic National Convention: A Musical Roll Call to Remember



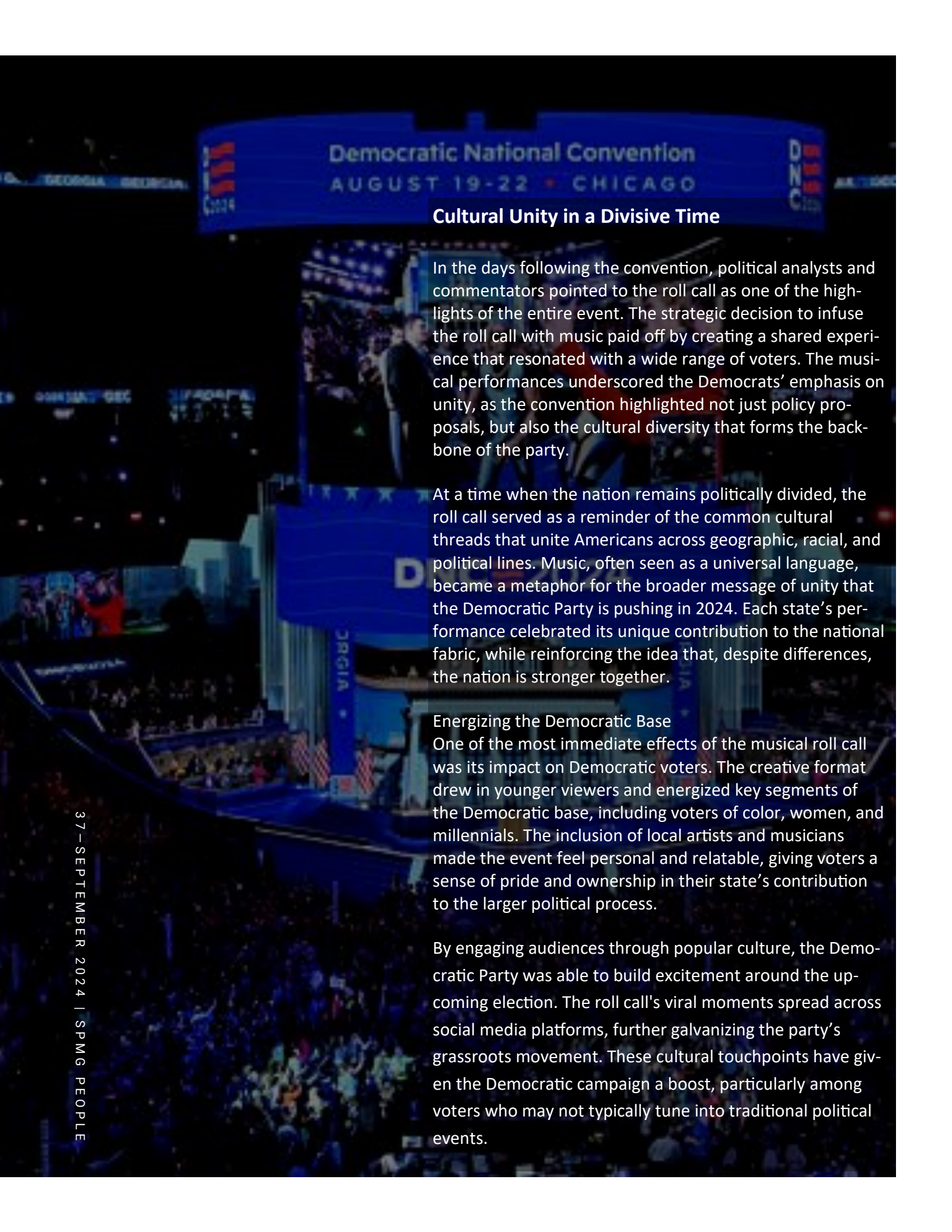
The 2024 Democratic National Convention (DNC) roll call will be remembered not just for the official nomination of the Democratic presidential ticket, but for the electrifying fusion of music, culture, and political messaging that captivated both in-person attendees and millions of viewers at home. The musical roll call, themed "Voices of America," transformed a typically procedural moment into a vibrant celebration of the party's diversity and values. Now, in the aftermath of the convention, the impact of this event is becoming clear—not only did it boost the Democratic ticket's momentum, but it also resonated on a deeper cultural level, energizing voters across the country.

A Historic Roll Call: Mixing Politics with Music

The 2024 DNC roll call was unlike any in recent memory. Building on the virtual format of the 2020 roll call, this year's event took a bold new approach by incorporating live and recorded musical perfor-

mances from all 50 states, Washington, D.C., and U.S. territories. Each delegation paired its official vote announcement with a performance that reflected the local culture and musical heritage of their state. From New Orleans jazz to Nashville country, from California rock to Detroit's Motown sound, the roll call was a celebration of America's musical diversity, symbolizing the Democratic Party's message of inclusivity.

For many, the performances overshadowed the formalities of the vote tally itself. Social media was abuzz with reactions to the various performances, with users praising the creativity and cultural representation that each state brought to the convention floor. The hashtag #VoicesOfAmerica trended on Twitter, and TikTok was flooded with clips of standout moments from the roll call. The visual and auditory spectacle turned what could have been a dry, procedural event into a cultural phenomenon.

A large-scale photograph of the Democratic National Convention stage in Chicago. The stage is illuminated with blue and white lights. At the top, a large blue banner reads "Democratic National Convention" and "AUGUST 19-22 • CHICAGO". Below this, several state name banners are visible, including "GEORGIA" and "CALIFORNIA". The stage is filled with people, and the atmosphere appears to be one of a major political event.

Democratic National Convention AUGUST 19-22 • CHICAGO

Cultural Unity in a Divisive Time

In the days following the convention, political analysts and commentators pointed to the roll call as one of the highlights of the entire event. The strategic decision to infuse the roll call with music paid off by creating a shared experience that resonated with a wide range of voters. The musical performances underscored the Democrats' emphasis on unity, as the convention highlighted not just policy proposals, but also the cultural diversity that forms the backbone of the party.

At a time when the nation remains politically divided, the roll call served as a reminder of the common cultural threads that unite Americans across geographic, racial, and political lines. Music, often seen as a universal language, became a metaphor for the broader message of unity that the Democratic Party is pushing in 2024. Each state's performance celebrated its unique contribution to the national fabric, while reinforcing the idea that, despite differences, the nation is stronger together.

Energizing the Democratic Base

One of the most immediate effects of the musical roll call was its impact on Democratic voters. The creative format drew in younger viewers and energized key segments of the Democratic base, including voters of color, women, and millennials. The inclusion of local artists and musicians made the event feel personal and relatable, giving voters a sense of pride and ownership in their state's contribution to the larger political process.

By engaging audiences through popular culture, the Democratic Party was able to build excitement around the upcoming election. The roll call's viral moments spread across social media platforms, further galvanizing the party's grassroots movement. These cultural touchpoints have given the Democratic campaign a boost, particularly among voters who may not typically tune into traditional political events.

Key Performances that Stood Out

Several performances during the roll call were especially well-received, creating viral moments that continued to reverberate in the days following the convention. New Orleans' delegation, for example, brought the house down with a lively jazz performance that transported viewers to the heart of the French Quarter. Georgia's delegation featured a gospel choir, invoking the spirit of the Civil Rights Movement and the state's pivotal role in recent elections. Meanwhile, Texas paired its roll call announcement with a performance by a mariachi band, representing the state's rich Latino culture.

These performances not only entertained but also reinforced the Democrats' key message: that the party stands for a broad and inclusive coalition. Each performance told a story of the state's unique culture while simultaneously tying that culture into the broader narrative of the Democratic platform, which emphasizes diversity, equity, and unity.

Political Ramifications: A Boost for the Ticket

Beyond the cultural significance, the roll call also had a tangible political impact. The spectacle created by the performances generated significant media attention, helping to frame the Democratic ticket as dynamic, forward-looking, and in touch with the pulse of the nation. The boost in enthusiasm was reflected in immediate polling after the convention, which showed a surge in voter interest and favorability toward the Democratic candidates.

For Kamala Harris, the Democratic nominee, the roll call provided a stage for highlighting the diverse coalition she seeks to represent. Her campaign, which has focused on inclusivity, economic opportunity, and social justice, was amplified by the symbolism of the roll call. As delegates from across the nation announced their votes, the music and culture they brought with them became a powerful reminder that the Democrats' strength

lies in their ability to represent a wide range of Americans.

Tim Walz, Harris' running mate, also benefited from the roll call's success. As a moderate Midwesterner, his appeal to swing states in the heartland was bolstered by the cultural outreach embodied in the roll call. His home state of Minnesota featured a soulful performance by a local indie artist, further cementing his image as a leader who understands and appreciates the cultural diversity of the American people.

Conclusion: A New Standard for Political Events

The 2024 Democratic National Convention roll call will be remembered as a turning point in the way political events engage the public. By blending music and politics, the Democratic Party created a celebration of American culture that transcended traditional partisanship and captivated voters. The roll call wasn't just about tallying votes—it was about showcasing the diverse voices that make up the Democratic coalition and reinforcing the party's message of unity in a time of division.

In the aftermath of the convention, the musical roll call has left a lasting impression. It energized the base, resonated with swing voters, and created a cultural moment that will likely influence the way future political events are structured. As the election season progresses, the Democrats will look to carry this momentum forward, using the unity and diversity on display during the roll call as a cornerstone of their campaign narrative.





Honoring the Service of President Joseph R. Biden Jr.: A Legacy of Resilience, Empathy, and Leadership

As the presidency of Joseph Robinette Biden Jr. comes to a close, it is a fitting time to reflect on the profound impact he has had on the nation. Serving as the 46th president of the United States, Biden's tenure was marked by moments of extraordinary challenge, from navigating the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic to addressing economic and social upheaval. Throughout his career and presidency, Biden's resilience, empathy, and commitment to public service have shaped a legacy that will be remembered for generations.

A Lifetime of Public Service

Joseph R. Biden Jr. was born in Scranton, Pennsylvania, in 1942, and his journey from humble beginnings to the highest office in the land is emblematic of the American dream. His political career began in 1972 when, at the age of 29, he was elected to the U.S. Senate from Delaware, becoming one of the youngest senators in American history. Tragically, just weeks after his election, his wife Neilia and infant daughter Naomi were killed in a car accident, leaving Biden to raise his two surviving sons, Beau and Hunter, alone. This personal loss profoundly shaped Biden's character, instilling in him a sense of empathy

and determination that would become hallmarks of his public life.

Biden spent 36 years in the Senate, where he earned a reputation for his expertise in foreign policy, his work on criminal justice reform, and his ability to build bipartisan coalitions. He served as chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee and later as chair of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, playing a key role in shaping U.S. foreign policy. His leadership in passing the Violence Against Women Act in 1994 is a cornerstone of his legislative legacy, demonstrating his long-standing commitment to protecting the vulnerable.

In 2008, Biden was selected as Barack Obama's running mate, and the pair would go on to serve two terms in the White House. As vice president, Biden was a trusted advisor to Obama and played a pivotal role in the administration's response to the 2008 financial crisis, as well as the passage of the Affordable Care Act. His leadership on issues such as cancer research and foreign policy further cemented his reputation as a statesman deeply invested in the well-being of the nation.



The 2020 Election: A Call to Heal a Divided Nation

Biden's 2020 presidential campaign was driven by a desire to restore the soul of America, a message of unity and healing in response to a nation deeply polarized by political, racial, and economic divides. Facing an unprecedented series of crises—including the COVID-19 pandemic, a reckoning over racial justice, and widespread economic insecurity—Biden's message of empathy and experience resonated with voters who sought stability and leadership.

When he was elected the 46th president of the United States, Biden faced the monumental task of uniting a fractured country. His inauguration on January 20, 2021, marked a turning point in American history, as Biden pledged to be a president for all Americans, not just those who voted for him. His administration immediately focused on tackling the COVID-19 pandemic, launching a nationwide vaccine rollout and passing the American Rescue Plan to provide economic relief to millions of struggling Americans.

A Presidency Defined by Resilience and Leadership

Biden's presidency was defined by his ability to confront challenges head-on, navigating the country through some of its most difficult moments in modern history. The COVID-19 pandemic had already claimed hundreds of thousands of lives when he took office, and his administration's swift actions in expanding vaccine access and providing economic stimulus helped the nation turn a corner.

His leadership on the international stage, including rebuilding alliances and reasserting American leadership in global institutions, was critical in stabilizing relationships with key allies. Biden's decision to withdraw U.S. troops from Afghanistan, while controversial, marked the end of America's longest war and a fulfillment of his commitment to bring American soldiers home.




At home, Biden prioritized rebuilding the middle class and addressing economic inequalities. The passage of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law was a major achievement, providing much-needed investment in the nation's roads, bridges, public transportation, and broadband access. Biden's efforts to combat climate change, including rejoining the Paris Climate Agreement and pursuing ambitious clean energy policies, reflected his commitment to addressing one of the most pressing issues of our time.

Biden also made significant strides on social justice issues. His administration took decisive action to address racial inequality, reform the criminal justice system, and protect voting rights. His nomination and confirmation of Ketanji Brown Jackson, the first Black

woman to serve on the U.S. Supreme Court, was a historic moment in his presidency and a testament to his dedication to diversity and inclusion.

Empathy in Action: The President Who Cared

What set Joe Biden apart as a leader was not just his policy achievements, but the deep empathy he brought to the office. Throughout his presidency, Biden frequently spoke about his own experiences with loss and grief, including the death of his beloved son Beau from brain cancer in 2015. This personal connection to pain allowed him to connect with the American people on a human level, offering comfort to families who had lost loved ones during the pandemic, military service members' families, and those affected by natural disasters.



His deep understanding of the struggles faced by ordinary Americans informed his policy decisions and was reflected in the tone of his presidency. He consistently emphasized the importance of unity, decency, and kindness in a time when the country seemed more divided than ever.

Legacy: A President for the People

As President Biden prepares to leave office, his legacy as a leader who prioritized unity, empathy, and progress will endure. While his presidency was not without its challenges, Biden's commitment to service and his belief in the potential of America never wavered. He led with compassion, guided by a sense of duty to the American people and a desire to leave the country better than he found it.

His service as president, much like his long career

in public life, will be remembered for the tangible improvements in the lives of millions of Americans—whether through expanded healthcare access, the rebuilding of the economy, or the fight for racial and social justice. Above all, Biden's presidency will be honored for its moral leadership during a time of great uncertainty and division, when the country needed a steady hand and a compassionate heart.

President Joseph R. Biden Jr. leaves behind a legacy of resilience, hope, and determination, qualities that will continue to inspire future generations of leaders. His service to the nation is a reminder that leadership is about more than power—it's about caring for the people and working tirelessly to build a better future for all.

The Donors Behind the Kamala Harris and Tim Walz 2024 Presidential Campaign: A Coalition of New and Established Backers

As Kamala Harris and Tim Walz hit the campaign trail as the 2024 Democratic presidential and vice-presidential candidates, one crucial factor fueling their bid for the White House is the financial backing from a diverse range of donors. The Harris-Walz campaign has attracted contributions from a broad coalition of supporters, including wealthy individuals, grassroots donors, progressive advocacy groups, and corporate interests. This mix of donors reflects the broad base of support they are aiming to cultivate, from party elites to small-dollar contributors.

In a high-stakes election year, with Harris seeking to make history as the first female president and Walz bringing his Midwestern appeal to the ticket, the list of donors offers insights into the financial engine driving the campaign forward.

Grassroots Donors: Small-Dollar Powerhouses

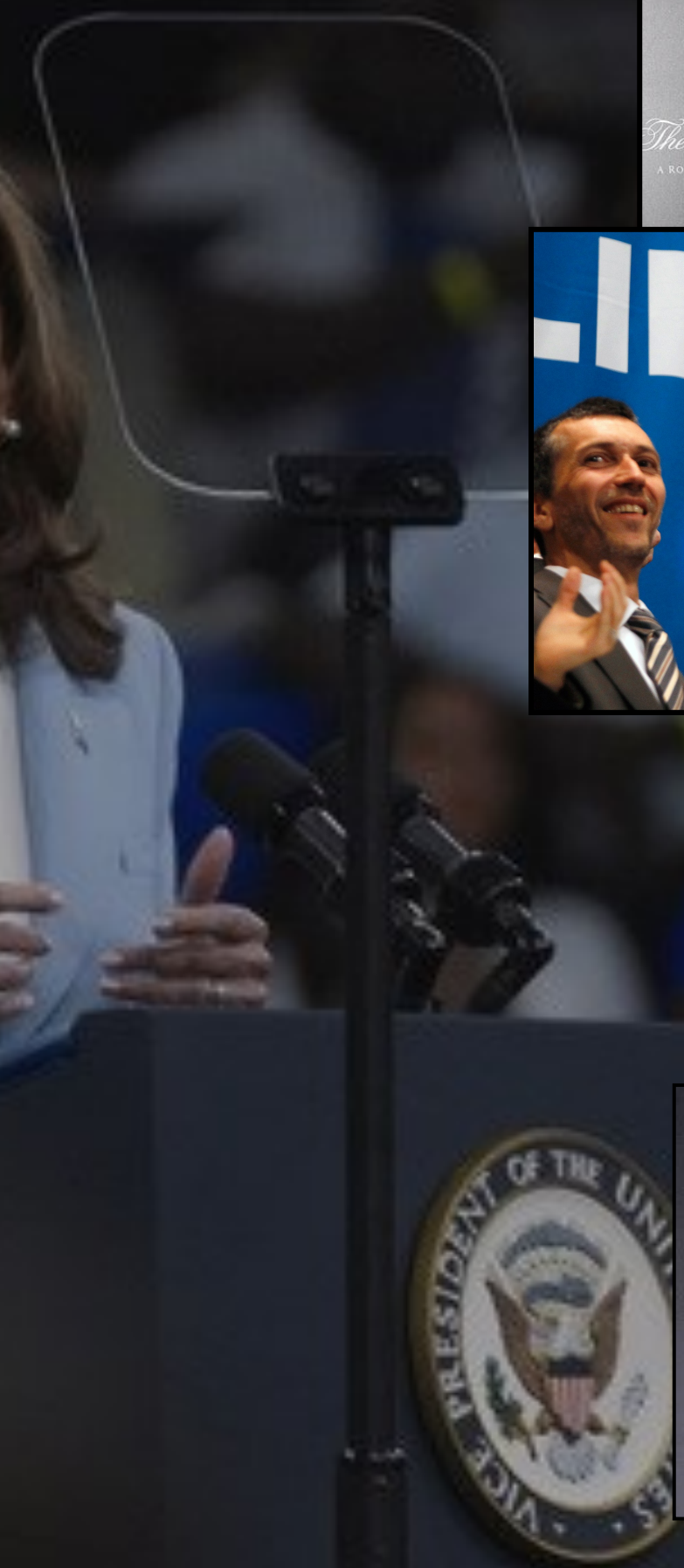
One of the most notable features of the Harris-Walz campaign has been its success in attracting small-dollar donors. The Democratic Party has increasingly

leaned on grassroots contributions in recent years, a strategy pioneered by figures like Bernie Sanders and Elizabeth Warren. Harris and Walz have capitalized on this trend, framing their campaign as a people-powered movement focused on expanding access to healthcare, addressing climate change, and ensuring economic justice.

By the end of the first quarter of 2024, the campaign reported that a significant portion of its fundraising came from small-dollar donations of \$200 or less. These contributions have poured in from across the country, particularly from younger voters, women, and communities of color—key constituencies in the Democratic base.

Organizations like ActBlue, a nonprofit platform that processes donations for Democratic candidates, have helped facilitate this surge in grassroots fundraising. Their platform has made it easier for ordinary citizens to contribute online in small amounts, often through recurring monthly donations. The Harris-Walz campaign has made effective use of online fundraising appeals, social media, and text campaigns to mobilize its grassroots donor base.





Big-Dollar Donors: Party Insiders and Wealthy Individuals

While grassroots donations play a critical role, the Harris-Walz campaign has also received substantial support from big-dollar donors, including Democratic Party insiders, wealthy individuals, and established fundraising networks. Many of these donors have a long history of supporting Democratic candidates and causes.

High-profile donors from the technology, finance, and entertainment industries have contributed to the Harris-Walz ticket. Notably, Harris, hailing from California, has deep connections to Silicon Valley, where major players like LinkedIn co-founder Reid Hoffman, venture capitalist Ron Conway, and Salesforce CEO Marc Benioff have been consistent Democratic donors. Their support is expected to play a significant role in the financial success of the campaign, particularly as Harris emphasizes technology and innovation in her platform.

Hollywood has also remained a vital source of campaign contributions. Actors, producers, and directors have long been key supporters of Democratic candidates, and the Harris-Walz campaign is no exception. High-profile fundraisers hosted by entertainment figures like George Clooney, Shonda Rhimes, and Oprah Winfrey have brought in millions of dollars. These events help not only with raising funds but also with generating media attention and building momentum among elite donor circles.

Biden-era donors, including prominent figures who supported his successful 2020 bid, have also rallied behind Harris and Walz. These include wealthy donors like former New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg and hedge fund manager Donald Sussman.

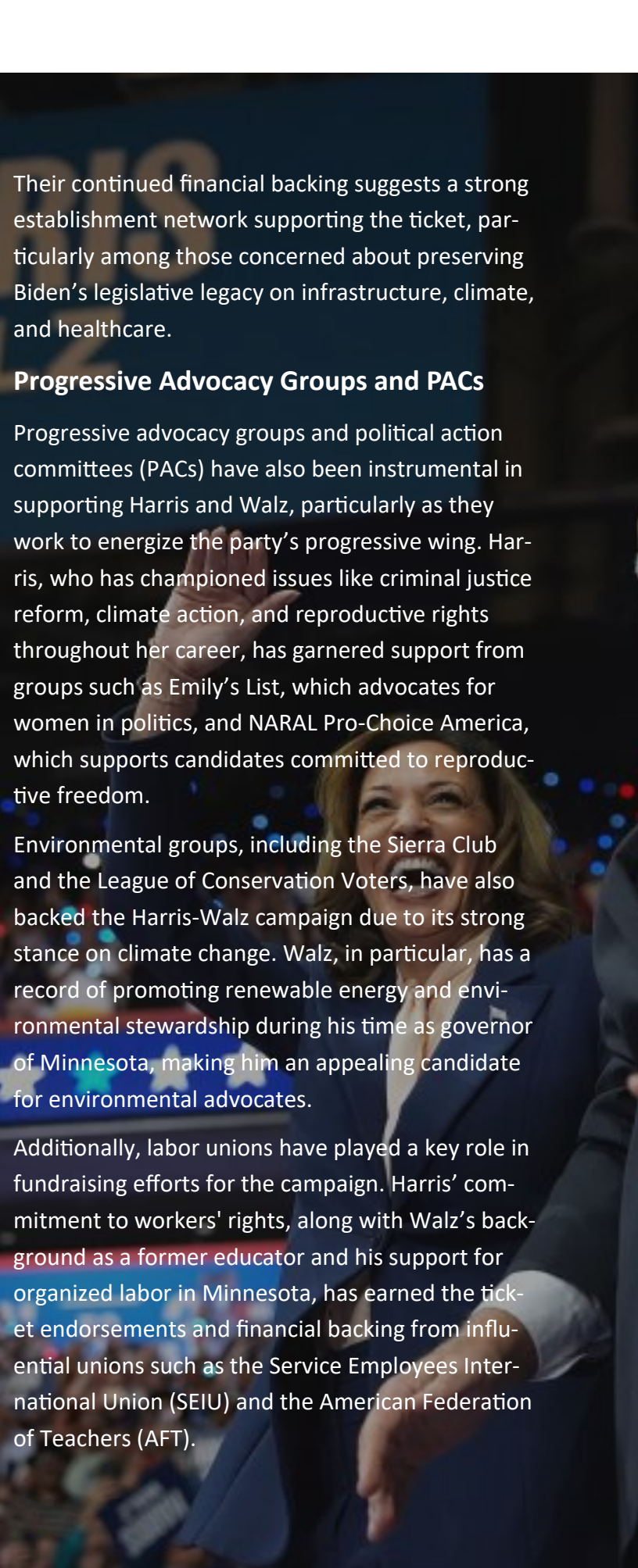
Their continued financial backing suggests a strong establishment network supporting the ticket, particularly among those concerned about preserving Biden's legislative legacy on infrastructure, climate, and healthcare.

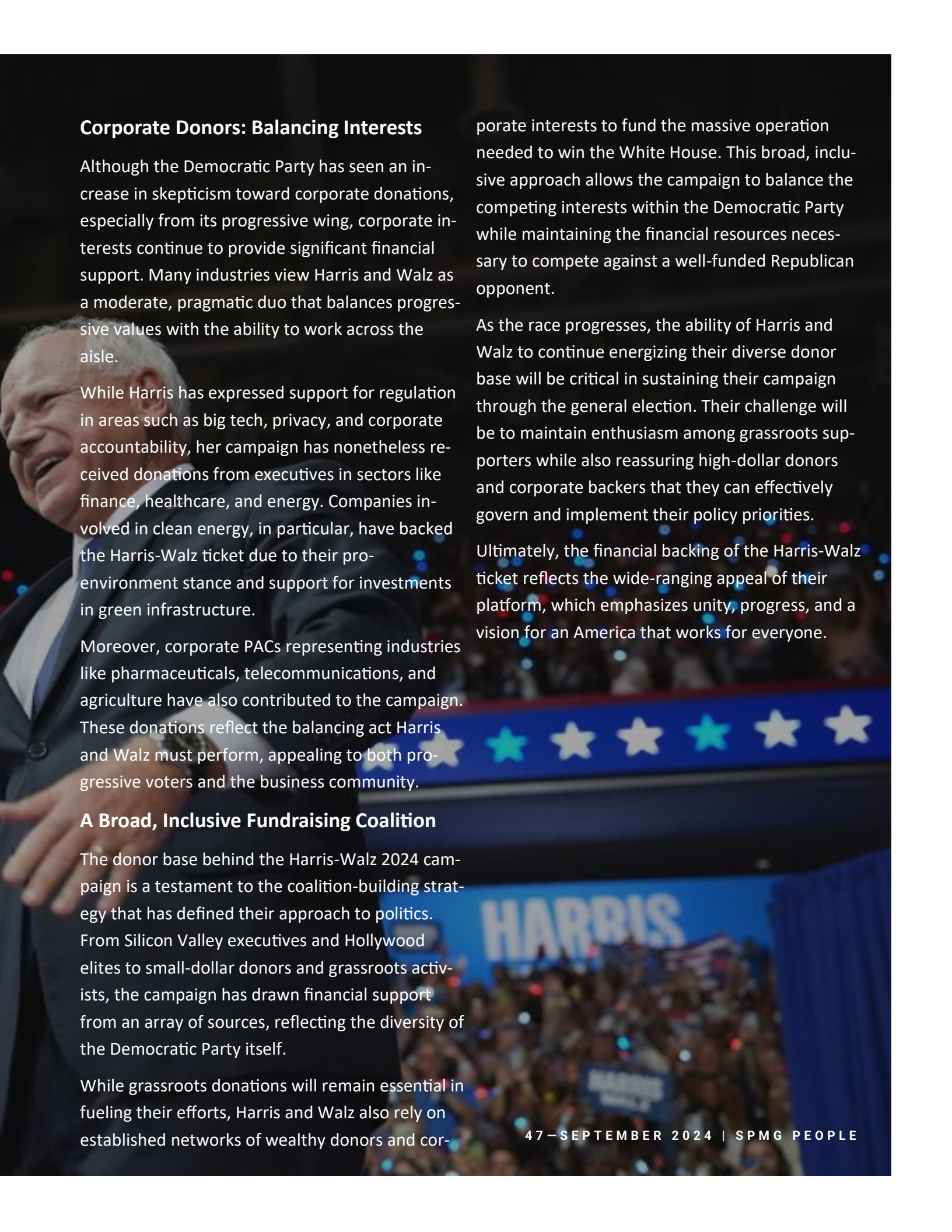
Progressive Advocacy Groups and PACs

Progressive advocacy groups and political action committees (PACs) have also been instrumental in supporting Harris and Walz, particularly as they work to energize the party's progressive wing. Harris, who has championed issues like criminal justice reform, climate action, and reproductive rights throughout her career, has garnered support from groups such as Emily's List, which advocates for women in politics, and NARAL Pro-Choice America, which supports candidates committed to reproductive freedom.

Environmental groups, including the Sierra Club and the League of Conservation Voters, have also backed the Harris-Walz campaign due to its strong stance on climate change. Walz, in particular, has a record of promoting renewable energy and environmental stewardship during his time as governor of Minnesota, making him an appealing candidate for environmental advocates.

Additionally, labor unions have played a key role in fundraising efforts for the campaign. Harris' commitment to workers' rights, along with Walz's background as a former educator and his support for organized labor in Minnesota, has earned the ticket endorsements and financial backing from influential unions such as the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) and the American Federation of Teachers (AFT).



A photograph of Joe Biden speaking at a campaign event. He is wearing a dark suit and a blue tie, and is gesturing with his right hand. In the background, a large blue banner with the word "HARRIS" in white capital letters is visible. Above the banner is a decorative border with a row of white stars on a blue background. The scene is lit with stage lights, creating a vibrant atmosphere.

Corporate Donors: Balancing Interests

Although the Democratic Party has seen an increase in skepticism toward corporate donations, especially from its progressive wing, corporate interests continue to provide significant financial support. Many industries view Harris and Walz as a moderate, pragmatic duo that balances progressive values with the ability to work across the aisle.

While Harris has expressed support for regulation in areas such as big tech, privacy, and corporate accountability, her campaign has nonetheless received donations from executives in sectors like finance, healthcare, and energy. Companies involved in clean energy, in particular, have backed the Harris-Walz ticket due to their pro-environment stance and support for investments in green infrastructure.

Moreover, corporate PACs representing industries like pharmaceuticals, telecommunications, and agriculture have also contributed to the campaign. These donations reflect the balancing act Harris and Walz must perform, appealing to both progressive voters and the business community.

A Broad, Inclusive Fundraising Coalition

The donor base behind the Harris-Walz 2024 campaign is a testament to the coalition-building strategy that has defined their approach to politics. From Silicon Valley executives and Hollywood elites to small-dollar donors and grassroots activists, the campaign has drawn financial support from an array of sources, reflecting the diversity of the Democratic Party itself.


While grassroots donations will remain essential in fueling their efforts, Harris and Walz also rely on established networks of wealthy donors and cor-

porate interests to fund the massive operation needed to win the White House. This broad, inclusive approach allows the campaign to balance the competing interests within the Democratic Party while maintaining the financial resources necessary to compete against a well-funded Republican opponent.

As the race progresses, the ability of Harris and Walz to continue energizing their diverse donor base will be critical in sustaining their campaign through the general election. Their challenge will be to maintain enthusiasm among grassroots supporters while also reassuring high-dollar donors and corporate backers that they can effectively govern and implement their policy priorities.

Ultimately, the financial backing of the Harris-Walz ticket reflects the wide-ranging appeal of their platform, which emphasizes unity, progress, and a vision for an America that works for everyone.

The Divine Nine's Role in Supporting Kamala Harris: A Powerful Alliance in the 2024 Presidential Campaign



As Kamala Harris seeks to make history as the first female president of the United States in 2024, she is receiving strong support from one of the most influential networks in the African American community—the Divine Nine. Comprising nine historically Black Greek letter organizations (BGLOs), the Divine Nine has a long history of promoting leadership, service, and political engagement. Now, as Harris takes center stage as the Democratic nominee for president, the Divine Nine is playing a crucial role in mobilizing voters, providing financial support, and amplifying the message of her campaign.

Harris herself is a proud member of Alpha Kappa Alpha (AKA) Sorority, Inc., the oldest sorority in the Divine Nine. This connection has deepened her ties to the broader African American community and strengthened her ability to galvanize support from one of the most influential and politically active voting blocs in the country.

The Power of the Divine Nine

The Divine Nine, officially known as the National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC), consists of nine historically Black fraternities and sororities: Alpha Kappa Alpha, Delta Sigma Theta, Zeta Phi Beta, Sigma Gamma Rho, Alpha Phi Alpha, Omega Psi Phi, Phi Beta Sigma, Kappa Alpha Psi, and Iota Phi Theta. These organizations, founded at a time when African Americans were excluded from many predominantly white institutions, have become vital engines of leadership, civic engagement, and social activism within Black communities.

The combined membership of the Divine Nine is estimated to be in the millions, with members spanning across the United States and the globe. Their influence extends into the fields of politics, business, education, and civil rights, and they have historically played pivotal roles in major social justice movements, from the Civil Rights Movement to the ongoing fight for racial equality.



During election cycles, the Divine Nine has consistently been at the forefront of efforts to register Black voters, increase voter turnout, and advocate for policies that benefit African American communities. In the 2020 election, these organizations were instrumental in helping to mobilize voters in key swing states like Georgia, Michigan, and Pennsylvania—states that were crucial to the victory of Joe Biden and Kamala Harris.

Kamala Harris and Alpha Kappa Alpha

As a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha, Kamala Harris has a deep and personal connection to the Divine Nine. Harris pledged to AKA while attending Howard University, one of the nation's most prestigious Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs). Her sorority sisters have been a steadfast source of support throughout her political career, rallying behind her during her campaigns for U.S. Senate, vice president, and now, president.

Alpha Kappa Alpha, founded in 1908, has a long history of civic engagement and has produced numerous trailblazing leaders in politics, education, and activism. The sorority has thrown its full support behind Harris, with members organizing voter registration drives, hosting fundraisers, and actively participating in get-out-the-vote efforts across the country. Their commitment to Harris extends beyond simple endorsement—they are on the front lines of grassroots organizing, helping to energize a broad coalition of voters.

Harris' rise to political prominence has also served as a source of pride and inspiration for members of the Divine Nine, particularly women of color. Her success is seen as a validation of the values of leadership, service, and sisterhood that are at the core of AKA and the broader Divine Nine community.



Mobilizing Voters in Key States

The support of the Divine Nine could be a game-changer for the Harris-Walz ticket, particularly in key battleground states with significant African American populations. In states like Georgia, Michigan, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin, Black voters are poised to play a decisive role in the outcome of the 2024 election. The Divine Nine's ability to mobilize voters in these states will be critical to Harris' chances of winning the presidency.

In Georgia, where Black voter turnout surged in the 2020 election, the Divine Nine is once again mobilizing their members to ensure high participation in 2024. Organizations like AKA, Delta Sigma Theta, and

Alpha Phi Alpha have already been working on voter outreach initiatives, particularly in communities that have been historically underrepresented at the polls. By leveraging their extensive networks and organizing capabilities, the Divine Nine is helping to ensure that African American voices are heard in this crucial election.

Michigan and Pennsylvania, both of which were pivotal in securing Biden's victory in 2020, are also seeing significant voter engagement efforts led by Divine Nine members. With an emphasis on addressing voter suppression, these organizations are providing resources and information to help voters navigate challenges like restrictive voting laws and limited access to polling places.



Financial Support and Fundraising Power

In addition to mobilizing voters, the Divine Nine is also contributing to Harris’ campaign financially. Members of the Divine Nine are organizing fundraising events and leveraging their networks to raise millions of dollars for the Harris-Walz ticket. These efforts are particularly important given the rising cost of modern presidential campaigns, where candidates need substantial financial resources to fund advertising, staffing, and get-out-the-vote efforts.

The ability of the Divine Nine to bring together high-powered donors from a variety of professional fields—ranging from business and law to education and healthcare—has bolstered Harris’ campaign. Many members of these organizations hold influential positions in corporate America, academia, and government, and they are using their platforms to raise awareness and financial support for Harris.

Prominent figures from the Divine Nine, such as Stacey Abrams (a member of Delta Sigma Theta)

and U.S. Representative James Clyburn (a member of Omega Psi Phi), have played visible roles in Democratic politics and continue to lend their support to Harris through fundraising and advocacy.

Amplifying Harris’ Message: A Focus on Social Justice

The Divine Nine’s commitment to civic engagement aligns closely with Harris’ own policy priorities, particularly on issues of racial justice, economic equity, and voting rights. Harris has consistently championed policies that seek to address systemic racism, promote economic opportunities for marginalized communities, and protect the right to vote—issues that are central to the mission of the Divine Nine.





The Divine Nine’s support for Harris goes beyond personal connections—it reflects a shared commitment to advancing these values on a national level. The organizations have been vocal in advocating for criminal justice reform, increased access to healthcare, and investments in education, particularly for HBCUs. Harris’ platform resonates with these priorities, and her campaign has actively engaged with Divine Nine organizations on these issues.

As part of the campaign’s outreach to Black voters, Harris has made appearances at Divine Nine events and HBCU functions, speaking directly to the concerns of African American communities. Her candidacy represents a continuation of the Divine Nine’s longstanding advocacy for policies that uplift Black Americans, and her personal connection to these organizations gives her campaign an authenticity that resonates with voters.

A Powerful and Historic Alliance

As Kamala Harris embarks on her journey to the White House, the support of the Divine Nine is proving to be one of the most significant assets to her campaign. From grassroots organizing to financial backing, the Divine Nine is playing a pivotal role in helping Harris connect with African American voters, mobilize key constituencies, and amplify her message of justice, equality, and opportunity for all Americans.

The partnership between Harris and the Divine Nine is not just about electoral politics—it’s about continuing a legacy of leadership, service, and social change. With their help, Harris is not only making a bid for the presidency, but she is also advancing the causes and values that have defined the Divine Nine for more than a century. Together, they are shaping the future of American democracy.



White Women Rally Behind Kamala Harris, Raising Over \$2 Million in Two Hours

In a powerful show of political and financial support, a group of prominent white women donors and activists rallied for Kamala Harris's 2024 presidential campaign, raising an astonishing \$2 million in just two hours. The fundraising event, organized by a network of women leaders from various industries, underscores the deepening connection between Harris and a key demographic that could play a pivotal role in the upcoming election: white women voters.

The event, which featured virtual and in-person components, drew participation from women in politics, business, and philanthropy. Harris, who has consistently emphasized the need for diverse coalitions to achieve progress, has seen her popularity rise among white women—many of whom see her

candidacy as an opportunity to support policies on gender equality, reproductive rights, healthcare access, and social justice.

The Event: A Lightning-Fast Fundraising Success

The \$2 million haul, achieved in just two hours, reflects not only the enthusiasm for Harris but also the organizational power of the women's networks supporting her. The event was spearheaded by high-profile figures such as actress and activist Reese Witherspoon, fashion designer Tory Burch, and venture capitalist Kara Swisher, all of whom have publicly backed Harris.



Held both virtually and at a private venue in Los Angeles, the event included appearances by Harris herself, as well as speakers from the worlds of politics and advocacy. Participants shared personal stories about how the issues championed by Harris, such as healthcare, women's rights, and education, have affected their lives. The speakers also stressed the importance of electing a woman president for the first time in U.S. history.

Harris, in her remarks, thanked the women for their support, emphasizing that her campaign is about building an inclusive future for all Americans. "This is about more than breaking glass ceilings," she said. "It's about creating a country where everyone—regardless of gender, race, or background—has a fair shot at success."

White Women as a Key Voting Bloc

White women have long been a crucial voting bloc

in U.S. elections. Although this demographic has historically leaned conservative in presidential elections, Harris's campaign is seeking to shift this dynamic by appealing to the growing number of college-educated and suburban white women who have been moving toward the Democratic Party in recent years.

In the 2020 election, white suburban women played a key role in President Joe Biden's victory, particularly in swing states like Michigan, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin. Harris's platform, which emphasizes gender equality, reproductive rights, climate action, and healthcare, resonates with many of these voters, who have grown increasingly concerned about the direction of the country under Republican leadership.

The rollback of reproductive rights, especially following the 2022 Supreme Court decision to overturn *Roe v. Wade*, has been a galvanizing issue for many women. Harris has been a vocal advocate for protecting abortion rights, and her strong stance on the issue has drawn the support of women who feel their rights are under attack.

Many of the attendees at the fundraising event expressed frustration with the current state of women's rights and saw Harris's candidacy as a way to reverse setbacks. "We need a leader who understands what's at stake for women right now," one attendee said. "Kamala Harris is that leader."

Building a Financial War Chest

The success of this fundraising event highlights the financial muscle Harris can mobilize from influential women donors. Many of the women who participated in the event come from industries like tech, media, and finance—sectors that have long been dominated by men but are increasingly seeing women rise to positions of power.

Women-led fundraisers like this one are crucial to Harris's ability to compete against the likely well-funded Republican candidate. Presidential campaigns are extraordinarily expensive, with advertising, staffing, and voter outreach efforts costing millions of dollars. Harris's ability to quickly raise significant sums from women supporters gives her a critical edge.

Tory Burch, a fashion designer and philanthropist, emphasized the importance of women using their financial power to influence politics. "Women have a huge role to play in this election, not just as voters but as donors," Burch said during the event. "We're putting our money where our values are."

A Symbol of Progress

For many of the women rallying behind Harris, her candidacy represents more than just a political campaign—it is a symbol of progress for women everywhere. Harris has long been a champion for gender equity, from her early days as a prosecutor to her time as vice president, where she has advocated for issues such as paid family

leave, equal pay, and workplace protections for women.

Reese Witherspoon, one of the event's co-hosts, said Harris's trailblazing career and commitment to women's issues inspired her to get involved. "We need more women in leadership, and Kamala Harris is paving the way for the next generation," Witherspoon said. "This is about creating a future where our daughters and granddaughters have the same opportunities as anyone else."

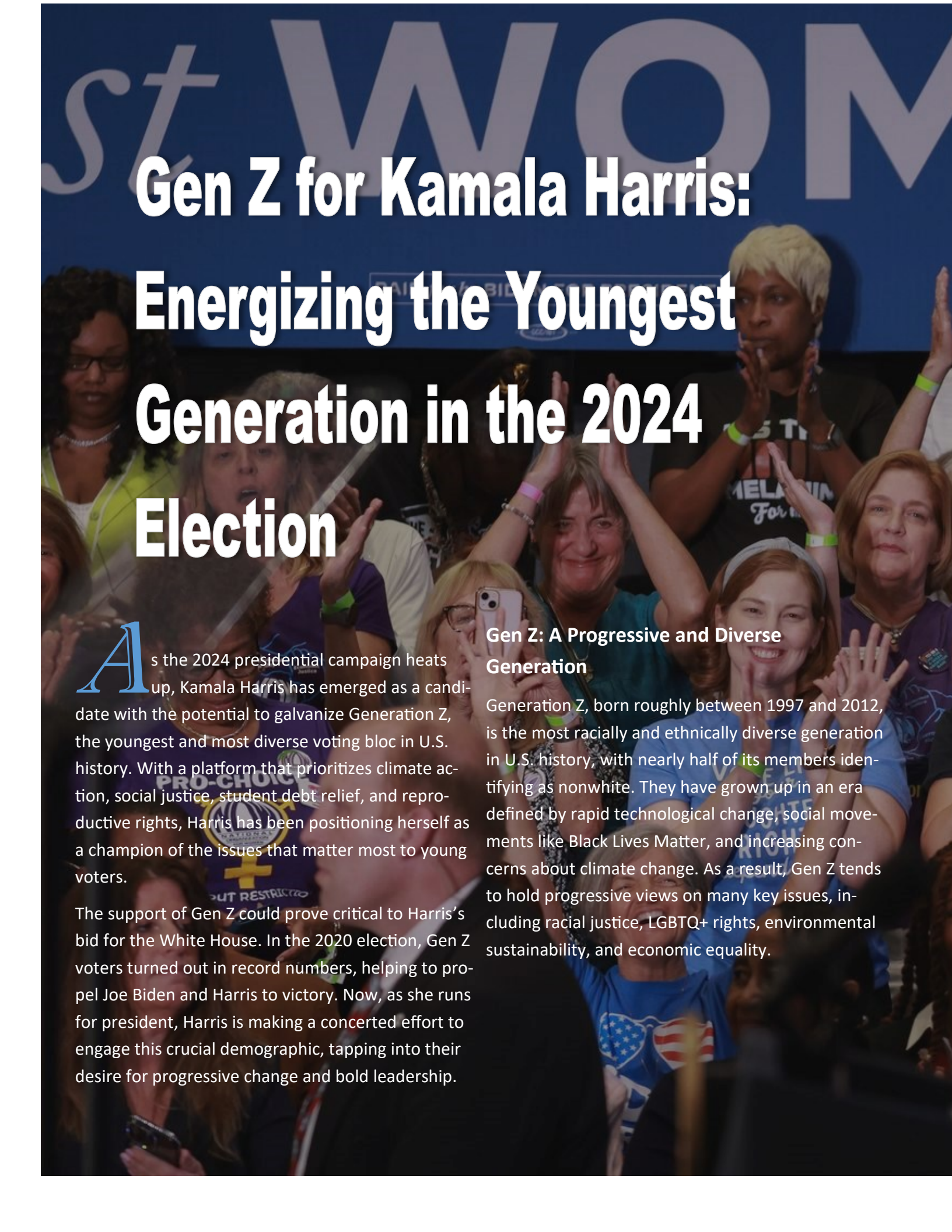
The event's success has energized the Harris campaign, and the candidate is expected to continue leveraging the support of women donors and voters as she builds momentum in the lead-up to the 2024 election. Harris's ability to bring together women from diverse backgrounds—from Hollywood to the suburbs to Wall Street—demonstrates the broad appeal of her message.

Moving Forward: Harnessing the Power of Women

The \$2 million raised in just two hours is likely just the beginning of the financial and grassroots support Harris will receive from women's groups as the campaign progresses. Women-led organizing efforts will play a critical role in voter mobilization, particularly in key battleground states where turnout among suburban women could determine the outcome of the election.

Moreover, the enthusiasm from white women donors highlights the increasing political influence women have in shaping the future of the country. As women continue to make gains in business, media, and politics, their collective financial power will become an even more potent force in U.S. elections.

For Kamala Harris, this surge of support from white women signifies a vital alliance in her quest for the White House. By rallying behind her candidacy, these women are not only backing a historic first—they are investing in a future where women's rights and opportunities are at the forefront of national policy. With their help, Harris's campaign is poised to make a significant impact in 2024.



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Gen Z for Kamala Harris: Energizing the Youngest Generation in the 2024 Election

As the 2024 presidential campaign heats up, Kamala Harris has emerged as a candidate with the potential to galvanize Generation Z, the youngest and most diverse voting bloc in U.S. history. With a platform that prioritizes climate action, social justice, student debt relief, and reproductive rights, Harris has been positioning herself as a champion of the issues that matter most to young voters.

The support of Gen Z could prove critical to Harris's bid for the White House. In the 2020 election, Gen Z voters turned out in record numbers, helping to propel Joe Biden and Harris to victory. Now, as she runs for president, Harris is making a concerted effort to engage this crucial demographic, tapping into their desire for progressive change and bold leadership.

Gen Z: A Progressive and Diverse Generation

Generation Z, born roughly between 1997 and 2012, is the most racially and ethnically diverse generation in U.S. history, with nearly half of its members identifying as nonwhite. They have grown up in an era defined by rapid technological change, social movements like Black Lives Matter, and increasing concerns about climate change. As a result, Gen Z tends to hold progressive views on many key issues, including racial justice, LGBTQ+ rights, environmental sustainability, and economic equality.



Polling data shows that young voters are more likely to support bold government action on climate change, healthcare, and gun control, and they are also concerned about issues like affordable education and income inequality. Many in Gen Z view the political system as broken or unresponsive to their needs, which has driven a significant portion of the generation toward candidates who promise systemic reform.

Kamala Harris has leaned into this progressive energy, aligning her platform with many of the priorities that matter to Gen Z voters. Her positions on climate change, student debt relief, criminal justice reform, and voting rights resonate strongly with a generation eager for change. Harris's ability to connect with young people could be a key factor in turning out the youth vote in 2024.

Climate Change: A Defining Issue for Gen Z

For many in Gen Z, climate change is not just a policy issue—it is an existential crisis. This generation has grown up witnessing the increasing severity of wildfires, hurricanes, floods, and other climate-related disasters. They are acutely aware of the scientific consensus that urgent action is needed to mitigate the worst impacts of global warming.

Harris has made climate change a central part of her campaign, promising to build on the Biden administration's accomplishments by pushing for stronger environmental protections and a transition to a clean energy economy. She has pledged to make major investments in green infrastructure, renewable energy, and environmental justice, with a focus on creating jobs in the clean energy sector.

During campaign events and social media outreach, Harris has frequently spoken about the need to address climate change with the urgency it requires. Her emphasis on climate action resonates with Gen Z, many of whom view the climate crisis as the most

pressing issue facing their generation. Harris's commitment to environmental justice, particularly in low-income and marginalized communities, aligns with the values of young voters who see climate change as intertwined with issues of racial and economic inequality.

Student Debt and Education Reform

Student debt is another issue that looms large for Gen Z. Many members of this generation are either currently in college or recently graduated, and they are acutely aware of the burdensome costs of higher education. The average student loan debt in the U.S. has reached staggering levels, and many young voters feel that the current system is unsustainable.

Harris has made addressing student debt and reforming higher education a key component of her platform. She supports canceling a significant portion of federal student loan debt and has called for making community college free and increasing funding for HBCUs and other minority-serving institutions. Her plan also includes efforts to crack down on predatory for-profit colleges and expand access to financial aid for low- and middle-income students.

Gen Z's frustrations with the cost of education and the difficulty of entering the job market with significant debt make Harris's proposals particularly appealing. By advocating for student debt relief and expanded access to affordable education, Harris is speaking directly to the economic anxieties of young voters who feel the system has left them behind.



Reproductive Rights and Social Justice

Reproductive rights have become a major issue for Gen Z, particularly in the wake of the Supreme Court's decision to overturn *Roe v. Wade* in 2022. This generation has grown up with the expectation that access to abortion is a fundamental right, and the rollback of reproductive freedoms has sparked widespread activism among young people.

Harris has been a fierce advocate for reproductive rights throughout her career, and as president, she has promised to protect access to abortion and fight against restrictive laws passed by Republican-led states. Her focus on reproductive rights, gender equity, and bodily autonomy aligns with the values of Gen Z voters, many of whom have become politically active in response to attacks on reproductive freedom.

In addition to reproductive rights, Harris's commitment to criminal justice reform and racial equity resonates with Gen Z voters. The generation has been at the forefront of social justice movements, from Black Lives Matter to the push for police reform.

Harris's experience as a former prosecutor has been a subject of debate within progressive circles, but she has worked to position herself as a champion of criminal justice reform, advocating for changes like ending cash bail, decriminalizing marijuana, and reducing mass incarceration.

Social Media Savvy and Digital Outreach

Gen Z's political engagement is shaped heavily by social media, where platforms like TikTok, Instagram, and Twitter play a central role in shaping opinions and mobilizing activism. Harris's campaign has made effective use of these platforms, using digital outreach to engage young voters and amplify her message.

Harris has leaned into social media's power to connect directly with voters, sharing personal stories, policy positions, and behind-the-scenes campaign moments. Her team has also partnered with influencers and activists popular with Gen Z to spread the word about her campaign and mobilize young voters.



By meeting Gen Z where they are—online and on social media—Harris is able to foster a sense of connection and engagement that is crucial for mobilizing young voters. The campaign’s focus on digital outreach reflects an understanding of how this generation consumes information and participates in the political process.

Mobilizing Gen Z for 2024

The 2024 election could see Gen Z play a decisive role, especially in swing states where young voters are a growing demographic. Harris’s campaign has recognized this potential, launching initiatives aimed at registering young voters and encouraging them to turn out in record numbers.

Campus outreach, partnerships with progressive student organizations, and targeted messaging on key issues like climate change, education, and social justice are all part of Harris’s strategy to engage Gen Z. The campaign has also placed a strong emphasis on combating voter suppression, a concern for many

young voters who face barriers to casting their ballots.

A Candidate for the Future

Kamala Harris’s ability to connect with Gen Z could be a major asset in her 2024 presidential bid. With a platform that speaks to the issues that matter most to young voters—climate change, student debt relief, reproductive rights, and social justice—Harris is well-positioned to energize this progressive and diverse generation.



2024 National Polls - Getting to the Magic 270

What are the latest national polls influencing the forecast?

We adjust polls for house effects, mode, partisanship, voter likelihood and third parties and weight them based on their firm's [538 pollster rating](#) and how often it polls.

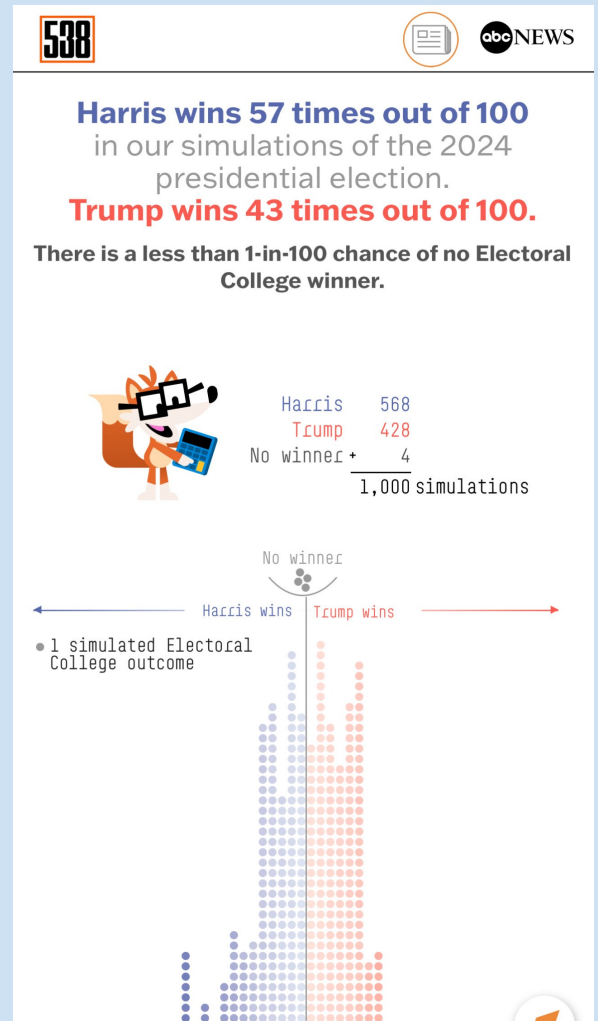
DATES	POLLSTER SPONSOR	538 POLLSTER RATING	RESULT
Sept. 25-Oct. 2	ActiVote	NO RATING	NET RESULT 51% 49% Harris +2
Sept. 29-Oct. 1	Emerson College	2.9 ★★★★★	50% 49% Harris +1
Sept. 29-Oct. 1	YouGov The Economist	2.9 ★★★★★	49% 46% Harris +3
Sept. 23-Oct. 1	Susquehanna Polling & Research	2.3 ★★★★★☆	49% 44% Harris +5

In the 2024 election, Democrats are focusing on several swing states with significant opportunities for potential gains, particularly in Senate and gubernatorial races, which could help counterbalance a challenging presidential race.

Arizona: Democratic Representative Ruben Gallego is leading in the Senate race, where he competes against Republican Kari Lake. Gallego has shown strength in this traditionally swing state by appealing to independent voters, critical for securing Arizona's Senate seat for Democrats. The state is also important in the presidential race, with polls showing tight margins that could go either way, depending on turnout and issue-based campaigns around healthcare and immigration.

Nevada: Incumbent Senator Jacky Rosen holds a solid lead in her Senate race against Republican Sam Brown. Nevada's diverse electorate, including a significant Hispanic population, offers Democrats an edge, especially in urban areas like Las Vegas. Economic issues, such as job recovery and healthcare, resonate with voters here and are central to the Democrats' strategy.

Michigan: Democratic efforts are intensifying as they work to maintain control, particularly in Senate and House seats, which have shown narrow Democratic leads. The state's manufacturing and working-class voters make it a critical battleground, and Democrats are emphasizing economic revitalization and social justice to appeal to a diverse voter base.

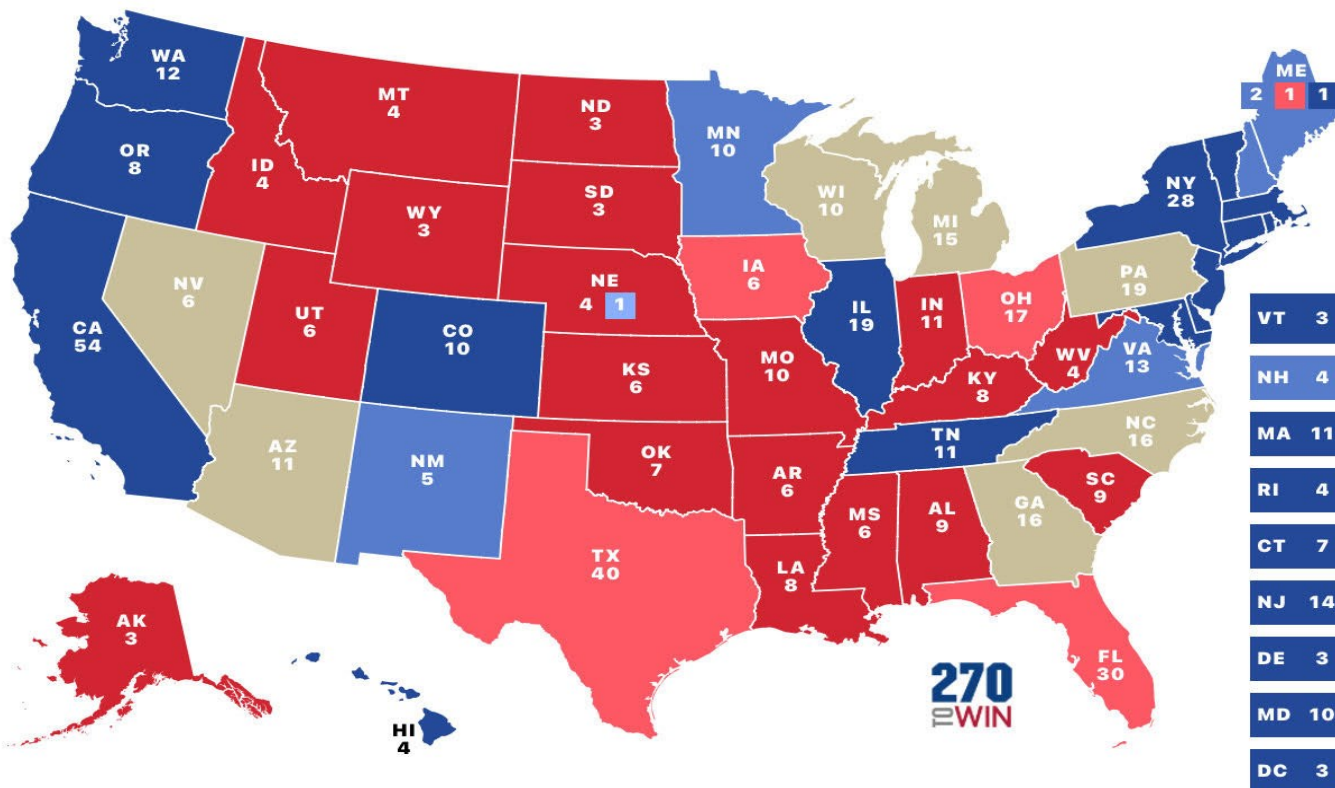


Democrats ▾

237

Republicans ▾

208



North Carolina: While the state lacks a Senate race, it features a critical gubernatorial race with Democratic Attorney General Josh Stein currently leading. Democrats are aiming to capitalize on North Carolina’s growing urban and suburban populations, which tend to lean Democratic, by focusing on healthcare, education, and economic development to sway undecided voters.

Pennsylvania: This pivotal state is a focus for both presidential and Senate races. Incumbent Senator Bob Casey has a narrow lead, with Democrats targeting Pennsylvania’s mix of urban and rural voters through messaging that appeals to

working-class values and policies on economic stability and social issues.

By leveraging these opportunities in swing states, Democrats aim to strengthen their position in the Senate and House and secure key governorships, building a stronghold on critical issues such as healthcare, economic recovery, and social justice to mobilize diverse voter groups across these battlegrounds. This approach reflects targeted outreach tailored to each state’s unique demographics and economic concerns, crucial for 2024 electoral success.

The Dangers

Project 2025

PRESIDENTIAL TRANSITION PROJECT



Project 2025 is an initiative spearheaded by the Heritage Foundation, a conservative think tank, aiming to reshape the federal government if a Republican wins the U.S. presidency in 2025. The initiative involves over 350 conservative organizations and more than 900 policy proposals, aiming to reform federal agencies, reduce government regulations, and institute conservative policies across a range of issues.

Here's a breakdown of the potential dangers critics see in Project 2025:

1. Erosion of Agency Independence

Plan to Control Federal Agencies: Project 2025 proposes significant restructuring of federal agencies to align with conservative agendas. Critics argue this could undermine the independence of agencies that serve the public interest, such as the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the De-

partment of Justice (DOJ).

“Schedule F” Employment: The plan would make it easier to dismiss federal employees, possibly replacing them with individuals who align with the administration's agenda, which critics worry could lead to politically driven staffing rather than a merit-based system.

2. Environmental Rollbacks

Climate Change Policies: Project 2025 seeks to roll back environmental regulations, which proponents say are burdensome to businesses. However, critics worry that these rollbacks could undermine efforts to combat climate change, leading to more pollution, weaker protections for natural resources, and potential harm to public health.

3. Restricting Social Programs and Healthcare Access

Medicare and Medicaid Cuts: Project 2025 includes proposals to reduce funding for social programs, potentially affecting healthcare for millions of low-income and elderly Americans.

Healthcare Access and Women's Rights: The plan could limit access to reproductive healthcare, which would impact women's rights and healthcare options across the country, particularly in already under-resourced areas.

4. Targeting LGBTQ+ Rights

Gender-Affirming Care and LGBTQ+ Protections: Project 2025 includes proposals to limit access to gender-affirming healthcare and scale back federal protections for LGBTQ+ individuals. Critics argue these policies would violate civil rights and leave LGBTQ+ people vulnerable to discrimination.

5. Challenges to Voting Rights and Civil Liberties

Voter Suppression Concerns: The project's voting policies focus on tightening election security, which critics argue could translate to voter suppression, particularly affecting marginalized communities.

Focus on "Law and Order": Increased funding for border security, policing, and a crackdown on protest activities could raise concerns over civil liberties, especially as it could target protests and political dissent.

6. Potential Economic Impact

Reducing Regulatory Oversight on Corporations: Project 2025 aims to significantly reduce regulatory oversight on corporations, especially in the fi-

nancial and energy sectors. Critics argue this could lead to corporate abuse, reduced consumer protections, and possible financial instability.

7. Foreign Policy and National Security Concerns

Isolationist Stance: The project emphasizes a more isolationist approach to foreign policy, which could strain international alliances and potentially impact global stability and security.

Reduced Immigration Protections: The project would tighten immigration policies, which critics warn could harm the U.S. economy by limiting the workforce and innovation that immigrants contribute.

Project 2025's conservative restructuring ambitions raise concerns for critics over the potential erosion of federal agencies' neutrality, reduced environmental and social protections, and increased restrictions on personal rights.

Trump released a 10 point education proposal calling for abolishing the Department of Education, sending all education back to the states, and implementing other policies that could undermine public education and educator job security.

Despite Trump's denial that he knows "nothing" about Project 2025 and his campaign's previous attempt to distance their Agenda 47 policies from outside, Trump's education proposal description links to the Heritage Foundation.

Harris/Walz 2024

