

ELECTION 2024 SNAPSHOT

BIDEN OUT, HARRIS IN. WHAT'S NEXT?

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President Biden's withdrawal from his re-election campaign launches a very interesting couple of weeks. We will see moves to cement Vice President Kamala Harris as the Democratic presidential nominee, or the August 19-22 Democratic National Convention in Chicago will become an open free-for-all.

Immediately, President Biden endorsed Ms. Harris as his successor, which carries some weight. Other prominent Democrats such as former President Barack Obama, and House Speaker Emeritus Nancy Pelosi (D-CA), and current House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries (D-NY), while praising President Biden upon his exit, were silent about endorsing a successor.

Conversely, former President Bill Clinton, former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, and at least 21 Democratic US Senators, 79 Democratic US House members, and all 50 Democratic Party state chairs are unified in support of the Vice President.

There are three key points as to why it makes sense for the Democrats to turn to Ms. Harris.

First, as mentioned, President Biden has already endorsed her, which clearly bolsters her credibility. Had he not made clear his support for her Ms. Harris would probably have been stalled at the proverbial opening gate.

Second, one of the main points the President made in favor of staying on the ticket was citing that 14+ million people voted for him throughout the primary voting process. Vice President Harris is the only person who can claim with some legitimacy that the people voting for Biden were also approving her position on the national ticket.



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Third, and perhaps most importantly, the money transfer is a critical factor in the transition to a new nominee. The current Biden campaign treasury, some \$91.5 million according to the June 30th Federal Election Commission campaign disclosure report, can only be transferred to Vice President Harris. For any other candidate, the Biden money would have to be refunded to donors and then re-contributed to the new nominee. Such a process would invariably mean losing some of the money since not all donors would be willing to support Harris, and certainly valuable time would be consumed with the process. With such a short general election schedule for a new nominee, every day is of critical importance.

Ms. Harris will also need to choose a running mate to replace herself on the ticket. Since she will be considering some individuals who could be her rivals for the nomination, it is likely that she will quickly begin the vetting process. The four names that have immediately risen to the surface are Sen. Mark Kelly (D-AZ), and Governors Andy Beshear (KY), Roy Cooper (NC), and Josh Shapiro (PA). From this group, only Gov. Shapiro announced his support for Ms. Harris yesterday.

Turning to process, the Democratic National Committee leadership will have to determine if they attempt to nominate Ms. Harris in a virtual delegate roll call vote, a procedure that had been discussed as a way to renominate President Biden and was tentatively scheduled to be completed on August 7th. Otherwise, the nomination will be awarded at the Democratic National Convention, as originally scheduled.

Waiting, however, increases the chances of seeing an open convention where the 3,949 delegates will be free to vote as they choose. Additionally, there are 747 PLEO delegates (Party Leader Elected Official, better known as “Super Delegates”) who are not allowed to vote on the first ballot. It is possible, however, the party could change the rules to allow their votes if the convention opens.

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As a founding partner, Executive Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Husch Blackwell Strategies, Andy has helped build a trusted national brand for federal and state lobbying with revenues and a client base to match. While Andy is leading the firm with its remarkable growth trajectory, clients continue to turn to him for help managing a crisis, polishing a brand, and understanding how government works and how to make it work for them.

Andy's political success has earned him a national reputation as a trusted strategist. He has served as an advisor to two Presidential campaigns, managed multiple winning statewide campaigns, as well as several state House and Senate campaigns. Andy also maintains an active ownership role with the polling firm American Viewpoint.

Andy advises top executives in boardrooms across the country and political candidates and elected leaders at all levels of government. He is a trusted advisor nationally whose extensive network of personal relationships is built on his lifelong immersion in politics and public policy.

A tireless advocate, Andy has helped companies of all sizes successfully navigate complex legislative and regulatory environments and is consistently recognized as one of Washington's "Top Lobbyists" by national media. Andy earlier served as Chief Operating Officer of HBS and established one of the largest networks of state lobbyists in the country from the ground up – effectively opening new policy fronts and opportunities for the firm's clients in each of its offices in nine state capitals.

Andy and HBS COO Gregg Hartley founded the firm in 2018 with Bloomberg recognizing their success as it named HBS its Top New Startup. Nationwide, the firm employs more than seventy government affairs professionals today who represent over 300 clients.

Andy is a Missouri native and earned a Juris Doctor from the University of Missouri – Columbia and dual-bachelors from Southwest Baptist University in Bolivar, Missouri.



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