

The Delray Democrat

Get Behind Biden and Kindly STFU¹

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A recent poll [reported](#) that only 25% of Democrats want Joe Biden to run for reelection. Nearly half (44%) would have preferred a different nominee and the remainder had no preference.

This means that 75% of the Democrats polled either don't want or don't know if they want Biden to run. That's damaging and idiotic.

It's damaging because such tepid support for President Biden is exactly what the media that commissioned the polls want to publish. It attracts eyeballs and sets up the poisonous, self-reinforcing message that Biden is just too old (it's a retread of 2016, when the media found Hillary too entitled, and 2000, when it labeled Gore as too boring). It helped turn what should have been a Democratic landslide into a Republican victory.

It's idiotic because it ignores reality: Biden IS running. Get over it. Expressing doubts about Biden's age simply increases the likelihood of a repeat of 1980, 2000, and 2016.

Those elections allowed Republicans to appoint 10 of the last 15 Supreme Court justices, who in turn

- gutted the Civil Rights Act, opening the floodgates to a decade of voter suppression bills;
- declared that corporations have the same rights as real people, polluting our elections with billions of dollars of dark money;
- Intentionally and egregiously misread the text of the Second Amendment to conjure up an *individual* right to bear arms out of thin air; and
- ignored a half century of precedent to deny women the right to control their own bodies, returning them to back-alley abortionists.

It's idiotic because even as respondents were expressing disappointment with Biden's decision to seek a second term, they were effectively conceding that there is no viable alternative. Asked who they would support if Biden stepped aside, less than half (49%) could even name an alternative, and only Kamala Harris (13%) reached double digits. Bernie Sanders and Pete Buttigieg were next (tied at 6%), followed by Elizabeth Warren (4%).

Perhaps, they – or Biden himself – recognized that the search for an alternative would throw away the advantages of incumbency while widening intraparty fissures. James Clyburn, the man who rescued Biden's campaign in 2020 by delivering South Carolina, has already made *his* opinion

¹ *The Delray Democrat*, May 2023, page 5.

perfectly clear: “if not Biden, then Harris.”

As the current vice-president, Harris would have the strongest claim to replace Biden if he stepped aside. To reject our first Black, Asian, female vice president would not only anger Clyburn but once again tell our most faithful voters that they are taken for granted. And Harris’s poll ratings are even lower than Biden’s, due in large part to the sexism and racism that is so pervasive in America.

So we come back to Biden, who not only won in 2020 because he was the consensus candidate but whose achievements in office, managed with a razor-thin majority, are unmatched since the days of LBJ. He remains the best able to wield the wooden stake that will remove the MAGA Republican Party from our body politic forever.

Only two things that can stop him: (1) our failure to fall in line behind him; and (2) the So-Called Liberal Media. We need to focus on what Biden is at 80, and ignore the SCLM obsession with what he may be at 86. Biden at 80 is mentally sharper than Reagan at 70 and healthier than FDR at 60.

We need to stick together and come out as we did in even greater numbers than we did in Florida in 2020. We must never forget and never stop reminding people that Biden has had the best first two years of any president since FDR:

In just over two *years*, he’s added nearly as many jobs as Reagan and more than Obama during two *terms* and unemployment is at a 54-year low. He signed the greatest investment in green energy in American history, the first gun safety legislation in three decades, the biggest expansion of veterans’ benefits in over three decades, and an investment in microchip production that is creating more jobs.

As for the SCLM, we need to call them out if they reprise their craven and clueless performance from 2016. The threat to our freedoms, our democracy, and planet from the MAGA Republican Party is even greater than it was in 2020.