

# The Delray Democrat

## With Democracy Hanging in the Balance Two Davids Desert and One Surprises<sup>1</sup>

*Michael K. Cantwell*

Recently three respected members of the So-Called Liberal Media addressed the question of whether Biden is the Democrats' best candidate in 2024.

David Ignatius, the well-known *Washington Post* columnist, caused quite a stir by [claiming](#) outright that President Biden is too old to run again. Ignatius has enjoyed close access to the White House, so his column was not only a betrayal but feckless to boot. (Is Ignatius so arrogant he thought his column would change Biden's decision?) All he accomplished was to discourage Democrats and increase Trump's chances of winning.

David Axelrod was arguably worse. His relationship with the president goes back to the Obama White House, a time when then-Vice-President Biden was [mocked](#) by members of the Obama administration.

Perhaps it's because Axelrod and other has-beens from Obama's team miss their time in the limelight. Or perhaps because Biden's accomplishments in his first two years make a mockery of their mockery.

In any event, the day after a *New York Times/Siena College* poll showed Trump ahead in five of six battleground states, Axelrod weighed in with a [tweet](#) that was simultaneously smarmy and supercilious. Attempting to shame Biden into stepping aside, he suggested Biden was putting his personal interest above the country's:

What [Biden] needs to decide is whether [staying in the race] is wise; whether it's in HIS best interest or the country's?

That's a question Axelrod might have asked himself before tweeting. Undermining Biden and helping Trump is hardly in the country's best interest nor, it seems, was it in Axelrod's. The next day he clumsily sought to walk back the tweet, [claiming](#) he hadn't "told him to drop out." Right. All he did was imply that a refusal to drop out would be unwise as well as selfish. The only one shamed by the tweet was Axelrod himself.

Ironically, it was David Brooks, the lone Republican among The Three Davids, who emerged as the adult in the room. In a thoughtful and reassuring [column](#), Brooks does what Axelrod and Ignatius should, could, and would have done if they weren't more interested in promoting themselves than in protecting democracy

Unlike Axelrod and Ignatius, who paid lip service to Biden's record, Brooks gives concrete

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<sup>1</sup> [The Delray Democrat](#), November 2023, page 5.

examples:

Household debt is way down. The average family's net worth increased by an inflation-adjusted 37 percent between 2019 and 2022 . . . Income increased almost across the board, benefiting urban and rural people, homeowners and renters, white people and Black people.

Brooks then debunks the poll that caused Axelrod to panic: "Americans increasingly use polls to vent, not to vote." Results, especially a year from an election, are no indication of how people will actually vote, as progressive political strategist Michael Podhorzer explains in a mocking [riposte](#) quoted by Brooks:

Americans know the difference between answering a survey and casting a ballot, even if the polling industrial complex and pundits don't.

Podhorzer also questions the validity of a poll that showed Trump winning in states that voted against MAGA candidates only a year ago. He's not alone.

Even *The Times* second guessed its poll in an [article](#) by its chief political analyst Nate Cohn, who allows "the possibility that the usual poll questions simply failed to reveal the importance of abortion, democracy and perhaps other issues as well." Oops.

Trump's contempt for democracy and embrace of Nazi metaphors will continue to haunt him. There have been a half-dozen [pieces](#) warning of the threat posed by Trump in the last week alone.

The economy can also be turned to an asset, now that inflation has fallen to 3.2% from a high of 9.1% in June 2022. Brooks puts Biden's stewardship of the economy in perspective by quoting Mitch Landrieu, who oversees the rollout of the bipartisan infrastructure act:

When history renders its verdict, this will be comparable to Works Progress Administration, or the Eisenhower highway construction program or rural electrification,

The jobs created by Biden's investments in America also allowed the economy to withstand 11 interest rate increases *without* falling into the recession economists claimed was needed to "tame" inflation.

They underestimated Bidenomics. The SCLM needs to stop underestimating the president behind it.