

The Delray Democrat

Yes She Can: Kamala Harris¹

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At the close of the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia, Benjamin Franklin was asked, “Well, Doctor, what have we got, a republic or a monarchy?” His iconic response, “a republic, if you can keep it.”

Joe Biden’s remarkable act of putting his country, party, and planet ahead of his ambition further cements his legacy as one of this country’s most extraordinary presidents. See Thank Joe Biden. It very likely will allow us to keep our Republic.

After trailing Trump for much of the year, Biden’s anemic performance in his first (and as it happened, only) debate with Trump dramatically increased calls on him to “pass the torch.” The failed attempt on Trump’s life further increased the pressure on the most effective president of my lifetime as Republicans began the process of deifying a dangerous lunatic.

The media began contrasting the Republican “unity convention” with Democratic disarray and despair. Actually, “Nuremberg Rally” more accurately describes the Republican gathering; all that was missing were goose-stepping Brownshirts and Wagnerian overtures, but Republicans compensated with grinning, ear-bandage-wearing idiots and dumbed-down or stolen [music](#).

President Biden resists standing down because he believes he has a better chance of defeating Trump than Vice President Harris. And the polls supported that assessment . . . until they didn’t.

That was small solace as she too was trailing Trump, and that was before the twin scourges of sexism and racism would have time to kick in. Democrats panicked and Trump celebrated.

The media wasn’t thrilled about Trump 2.0, but, as later-disgraced CBS head Les Moonves said of Trump’s candidacy in 2016, “It may not be good for America, but it’s damn good for CBS. The money is rolling in.” And back then, only a few of us thought Trump could win.

People began calling for an “open convention” to select a new nominee if Biden steps down. They say it will be “exciting, and “democratic,” but it would have been chaotic and returned Trump to the White House, hammering the final nail into the coffin of our democracy.

James Clyburn, the man who saved Biden’s candidacy in 2020, made his views clear, not once, but repeatedly: “If not Biden, then Harris.” Did we really want to spit on African American women, our most faithful supporters?

¹ [The Delray Democrat](#), August 2024, page 1.

Hollywood Ending

As it happened, there was plenty of drama for the media in a Hollywood ending. Nancy Pelosi, the greatest Speaker of the modern era, painfully showed the data to her friend of 50 years. Even if he managed to win, he would be a drag down ballot. Within days, Biden announces he is stepping down and endorses Harris.

Trump cannot control himself (has he ever?) as he realizes it is an entirely new race. He is widely mocked for complaining how unfair that is. He accuses Nancy Pelosi of engineering a coup and then fantasizes that Biden will storm back and reclaim the nomination at the convention.

Weeks later, he's still whining, accusing Harris of having engineered a "vicious, violent overthrow of a president" (but I'm getting ahead of myself). With Harris's surge in the polls, his campaign is starting to circle the toilet, and he denounces the "coronation."

All in the Family

Other than Trump and scattered Democrats who are too clever by half or who have forgotten what happens when we unleash the circular firing squads, denunciations of a coronation get little traction. Kamala has secured the nomination and the media has moved on to the VP pick – there's plenty of clickbait there.

Kamala clears that hurdle beautifully, and Minnesota Gov Tim Walz is a perfect partner. Some question her decision to bypass Pennsylvania Gov. Josh Shapiro, but Walz and Shapiro immediately quash the attempt to start a food fight—at a joint appearance with Kamala, the two "rivals" fall over themselves praising one another to the skies.

And when Trump tries to stir it up by claiming Shapiro was the victim of anti-Semitism, Shapiro smacks him right down: "He is the least credible person when it comes to standing up against hatred and bigotry."

The Democratic convention is a stark contrast to the Republican one held the prior month without a single former leader of their Party. George W. Bush, Mitt Romney, Mike Pence, Dick Cheney, and Dan Quayle declined to come and kiss Trump's ring. Adam Kinzinger chooses to come to Chicago, where he entreats both independents and Republicans to vote for Harris-Walz.

The talent, humanity, and sincerity on display in Chicago is breathtaking, diverse, and inspiring. Can anyone imagine Trump and his wife speaking about each other the way Doug Emhoff and Kamala did? Or the way Michelle and Barack did? These are menschen, real people, not toads and toadies.

Hillary delivers the speech of her life, as do Kamala and Tim Walz. AOC and Bernie are fabulous, as always, and what about Josh Shapiro and Florida's own Maxwell Frost!

No one thinks it will be easy or underestimates the power of the Republican slime machine, but yes she can win, and yes we can keep our Republic if we stick together and work like never before.