

# [***Manchin Won t Commit To Backing Biden Amid Rumors Of Independent Presidential Run***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:69MT-MG81-DXVP-53TR-00000-00&context=1516831)

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**Byline:** Ana Faguy, Forbes Staff

**Highlight:** Sen. Joe Manchin (D-W.Va.) said he would not vote for former President Donald Trump in the upcoming election, in his first TV interview since announcing his retirement from the Senate.

**Body**

**Topline**

Sen. Joe Manchin (D-W.Va.) said Tuesday he would not commit to throwing his support behind President Joe Biden in 2024 when asked about the presidential race during his first TV interview sinceannouncinghe was not running for reelection, fueling speculation that the moderate Democrat might have higher political aspirations.

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Sen. Joe Manchin (D-W.Va.) said he would not vote for former President Donald Trump in the upcoming election, in his first TV interview since announcing his retirement from the Senate.

Win McNamee/Getty

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**Key Facts**

During a clip of the CBS interview, Norah O DonnellaskedManchin if it comes down to it would he vote for former President Donald Trump or Biden to which Manchin called her question a hypothetical since it s unknown who we re going to have as the candidates.

Manchin thensaidhe would not vote for Trump, adding he would want President Biden if changes would come.

Whenaskedif he was considering leaving the Democratic Party, Manchin did not directly answer and said he wasn t sure the party thought he was part of them anyway.

**What To Watch For**

Manchin s answers are from a half-minute clip of a CBSinterviewthat will air Tuesday night.

**Key Background**

Last week, Manchinannouncedhe would not seek reelection for his Senate seat in 2024. Instead of running, hesaidhe planned to travel the country and see if there was interest in a movement to mobilize the middle and bring Americans together. In the more than four-minute-long video announcing his retirement from the Senate, ManchincriticizedWashington policies, saying every incentive is to make our ***politics*** extreme. That video led to widespread speculation that he might throw his hat into the upcoming presidential race. Manchin, who has served as senator since 2010, is considered the most conservative Democrat in the upper chamber. He s frustrated many Democrats after siding with Republicans on key votes including voting to confirm Supreme Court Justice Brett Kavanaugh.

**Tangent**

Manchin s announcement that he will not run for reelection all but guarantees Republicans will pick up another seat in the Senate as the state is deeply conservative Trump won it in 2020 with nearly 69% of the vote. His announcement also throws further doubt on Democrats ability to retain control of the Senate in 2024 given their thin 51-49 majority over the GOP in the chamber, including the three independents who caucus with Democrats.

**Further Reading**

West Virginia Sen. Joe Manchin Says He Won t Seek Reelection(**Forbes**)

**Load-Date:** May 9, 2024

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