

It's Okay to be Unsure

Tom Fish

In the past two Democratic primaries, it was easy for me to make a decision. In both, I quickly decided that Hillary Clinton was the best option. However, with the current field of candidates I am having a hard time deciding who to back. My heart says the anti-corruption platform of Elizabeth Warren or the millennial moderate Pete Buttigieg. On the other hand, my head says that someone extremely electable and experienced such as Joe Biden or Amy Klobuchar is the best options.

I truly believe that if Warren got to run her campaign in a vacuum, away from the weird twitter distractions and *Jacobin* tantrums, she would be running on a platform of fairness and anti-corruption. You can see this in her stump speeches: her first priority would be to reform perennial Beltway problems such as lobbying and conflicts of interest. America desperately needs these reforms. Unfortunately, she is also proposing a number of poor trade policies and unilateral actions that turn me off.

I am tired of Baby Boomers running for president; if I can help it, I don't want to vote for someone who is old enough to collect Social Security. With the election of Barack Obama (a Gen-Xer by the most generous definition), I was hopeful that the torch had passed from people who remember Vietnam to new generations with their unique post-cold war perspectives. Unfortunately, Donald Trump's election reversed that trend. At this point, there are only two viable non-Boomer options in the Democratic Primary: Buttigieg (millennial) and Klobuchar (Gen-X by the most generous definition). Both are moderates with fresh Midwestern perspectives. Unfortunately, Pete has an [experience problem](#) and Klobuchar has a [likability problem](#).

If I was fully committed to electing the most electable candidate, then Joe Biden should be the top of my list. He has the perfect mixture of working-class background and moderate policies. You can't visit a town in Delaware (or really on the whole DelMarVa peninsula) without meeting people who have personally interacted with Biden and feel connected with him. He has a personality that just attracts people. However, he has the Baby Boomer problem I outlined above turned up to eleven. In the September debate, Biden suggested that in 2019 people should "[leave the record player on at night](#)" to help their children's education. Bernie is older than Biden but comes across as a much younger man. Reflecting his age, Biden's views on marijuana are [out of step](#) with the majority of Americans. Finally, Biden has a history of being [handsy and creepy to women](#).

I think it is okay to be unsure. There are many options this primary and they all have policies that are positive (even Bernie). They also all have policies that are unfortunate. It is impossible to find a candidate that agrees with you on every issue. It takes time and energy to weigh all of the options and in the end, you are picking the best candidate not the perfect candidate. Because no candidate is perfect, it's perfectly natural to feel uncertain and to be unsure.