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BIDEN EXITS RACE



KENT NISHIMURA/GETTY IMAGES/FILE

President Biden, shown at his news conference at the NATO summit in Washington, D.C., earlier this month, becomes the first incumbent in more than five decades not to ultimately pursue a second term. In supporting Kamala Harris to succeed him, Biden hopes to continue the progress he said he made on the economy, equity, and climate change.

It has been the greatest honor of my life to serve as your President. And while it has been my intention to seek reelection, I believe it is in the best interest of my party and the country for me to stand down and to focus solely on fulfilling my duties as President for the remainder of my term.

For now, let me express my deepest gratitude to all those who have worked so hard to see me reelected. I want to thank Vice President Kamala Harris for being an extraordinary partner in all this work. And let me express my heartfelt appreciation to the American people for the faith and trust you have placed in me.

THE NEXT STEPS

A compass through these uncharted political seas

By James Pindell
GLOBE STAFF

For three weeks, Democratic politics has been defined by one question: Will President Biden stay in the race for president?

On Sunday afternoon, we got the final answer: No.

And then immediately came a different question: What happens now? Here is a quick field guide to what happens next.

So is Kamala Harris going to be the Democratic nominee now?

Likely, but it's not a done deal. Minutes after Biden announced he was not running for reelection, he said that Harris has his "full support and endorsement" to be the Democratic nominee.

For many delegates headed to the Democratic National Convention, the news was a relief. But for others, it was a shock. **GUIDE, Page A7**

The Biden legacy

For more than half a century, the president has traversed the thrills and troughs of American politics. **A4.**

Harris economics

The vice president faces the challenge of articulating her vision for the US economy. **D1.**

THE HEIR APPARENT

Vice president holds potent, if uncertain, position

By Michael D. Shear
NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON — Vice President Kamala Harris, who has struggled for nearly four years in President Biden's shadow, was thrust Sunday into the center of a remarkable political drama that could culminate with her becoming the first woman of color at the top of a major-party presidential ticket.

Biden's decision to abandon his reelection bid and endorse Harris to succeed him puts her in a powerful, but not certain, position to become the new face of the Democratic Party, charged with preventing former presi-

dent Donald Trump from returning to the Oval Office for another four years.

"Today I want to offer my full support and endorsement for Kamala to be the nominee of our party this year. Democrats — it's time to come together and beat Trump," Biden wrote in a social media post after he announced his decision to step aside. "Let's do this."

Harris and her team are likely to move swiftly to try to seize that mantle even as uncertainty swirled about whether other Democrats would seek to challenge her for the nomination at the party's convention in Chicago next

HARRIS, Page A6



HANNAH BEIER/BLOOMBERG/FILE

Vice President Kamala Harris, seen in May, was endorsed by President Biden and promised to "earn and win this nomination."

In historic decision, president endorses Harris to face Trump

By Jim Puzzanghera and Tal Kopan
GLOBE STAFF

WASHINGTON — President Biden upended the already turbulent 2024 election by announcing Sunday he was dropping out of the race, a stunning and historic development just 24 days after a disastrous debate performance triggered panic among Democrats that the oldest president ever wasn't capable of preventing Donald Trump from returning to the White House.

Biden, 81, will remain as president but becomes the first incumbent in more than five decades not to stand for a second term. In a tweet shortly after his announcement, Biden threw his support behind Vice President Kamala Harris in hopes of propelling his governing partner to preserve his policies while also

seeking to avoid a divisive fight for his replacement.

"My very first decision as the party nominee in 2020 was to pick Kamala Harris as my Vice President," Biden wrote. "And it's been the best decision I've made. Today I want to offer my full support and endorsement for Kamala to be the nominee of our party this year."

But while Harris, 59, is the heir apparent, other prominent Democrats could vie for the top spot on the ticket in a potentially chaotic party convention set to start on Aug. 19.

A presumptive presidential nominee has never dropped out of the race so close to the convention in modern US politics. The process for selecting an alternative is unclear, particularly if there's no consensus, putting the Democrats in uncharted ter-

BIDEN, Page A7

THE VOTERS

Shock, cautious optimism greet a wrenching reversal

By Niki Griswold and John Hilliard
GLOBE STAFF

Joselyn Rivera's Sunday afternoon was proceeding normally until the 23-year-old waitress from Chelsea got out of the shower and saw a text from her best friend, who had just moved to Texas.

President Biden was dropping out of the presidential race.

"It was a big shock for sure, but it was [also] kind of something you saw coming just because after the debate, everybody had such negative reac-

tions," Rivera said, adding she had still intended to vote for him in November.

As the news of Biden's decision burned up text chains and rocketed across social media, the announcement drew a mix of reactions and emotions from New England residents: Some were shocked and saddened for Biden, while many expressed relief. For other voters, the news left their nerves jangling, the implications of the November election so deeply uncertain.

And while Massachusetts is a

REACTION, Page A5

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Secret Service Director Kimberly Cheatle will face fierce questioning Monday in a Capitol Hill hearing over the failure of agents to stop a gunman from firing at former president Donald Trump. **A2.**

Israeli defense systems shot down a

missile fired from Yemen, the latest salvo between the two nations as the threat of a widening war in the Middle East increases. **A3.**

Electric vehicles have a much lower incidence of catching fire than gas vehicles, studies show, but EV fires

are more difficult to put out. **D1.**

N.H. Governor Chris Sununu signed a bill that bars transgender girls from playing girls' sports in middle and high schools, one of three measures he approved that places limits on LGBTQ+ people. **B1.**

All mixed up

Monday: A bit of sun and clouds. High 76-81, low 67-72.

Tuesday: Some sun, some clouds, some rain.

Weather and comics, **D4-5.**

Obituaries, **C9.**