

# BIDEN DROPS OUT

President abandons campaign, endorses Harris as Democratic nominee

Path opens for VP, who would be first Black woman to top the ticket



SUSAN WALSH Associated Press

THE PRESIDENT, shown in 2022, said in endorsing Vice President Harris: “It’s time to come together and beat Trump. Let’s do this.”

## Harris pledges to unite Democrats and the nation

The Californian lands in a position that would have seemed unlikely for most of the last three years.

BY NOAH BIERMAN

WASHINGTON — President Biden’s decision to bow out of the November election leaves a path for Vice President Kamala Harris to replace him that would have seemed unlikely for most of the last three years, when she was seen as a drag on his reelection prospects as her approval numbers in polls lagged behind her boss’.

But Democratic desperation and Harris’ own recent performance as a vigorous administration spokesperson and loyal deputy have changed her fortunes. If she receives the nomination, Harris would be the first woman of color to head a national ticket and, if she wins, the first female president.

Several recent polls show Harris within 1 or 2 percentage points in a head-to-head matchup against former President Trump. Republicans, preparing for a possible Harris candidacy since Biden’s poor debate performance in June, have been resurfacing old clips of her, mocking her sometimes awkward public speaking style, blaming her for “covering up” Biden’s frailty and tying her to the high number of arrests at the southern border that have occurred under Biden’s watch.

“Joe Biden has been the [See Harris, A12]



EVAN VUCCI Associated Press

SEVERAL POLLS show Kamala Harris within 1 or 2 percentage points of former President Trump.

### Trump, Vance hold joint rally

Campaign event in Michigan is the first for GOP presidential nominee since the shooting. **NATION, A8**

### ‘Very high’ levels of coronavirus

Readings of the state’s wastewater exceed last summer’s peak as COVID-19 subvariants spread. **CALIFORNIA, B1**

### Weather

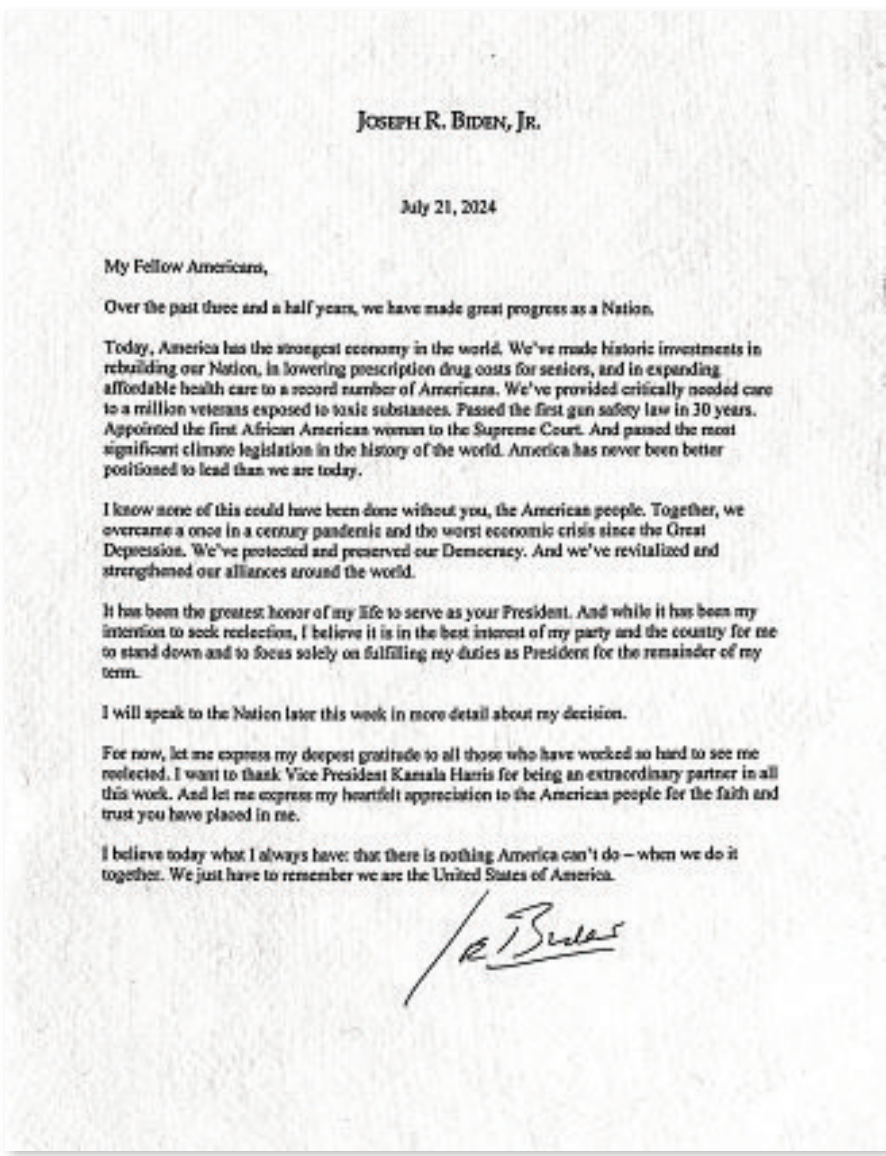
Warm with sunshine. L.A. Basin: 88/66. **B5**

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## Democrats hail Biden as a hero; Republicans call for him to resign

BY MACKENZIE MAYS

President Biden was heralded as a selfless hero by top Democrats on Sunday after stepping down from the 2024 race against former President Trump amid concerns about his age and capacity to run the nation.

Former House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-San Fran-

cisco) — among the most influential politicians who have been nudging Biden to step aside — called the 81-year-old “one of the most consequential presidents in American history” and thanked him for the decision.

“God blessed America with Joe Biden’s greatness and goodness,” Pelosi said in a statement shortly after his

announcement.

Senate Majority Leader Charles E. Schumer (D-N.Y.) also expressed his gratitude for Biden’s decision and praised his presidential record.

“His decision of course was not easy, but he once again put his country, his party, and our future first,” Schumer said in a statement [See Democrats, A5]

## In ‘best interest of my party and the country’

BY FAITH E. PINHO

President Biden withdrew from the presidential race Sunday and threw his support behind Vice President Kamala Harris as the Democratic Party’s new standard-bearer, a decision Democrats hailed as the act of a patriot who put his country over his self-interest.

Biden’s announcement ends weeks of hand-wringing among party leaders who urged him to leave the race after a disastrous debate performance last month left many Democrats fearing he was too old for office and unable to defeat former President Trump.

“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,” Biden said in a statement. He will address the nation later this week, he said.

A Harris-Trump contest would present a stark contrast between Harris — 59, Black, Asian and the first woman to serve as vice president — against the 78-year-

[See Biden, A5]

## Prosecutor vs. convict: Could she beat him?

MARK Z. BARABAK

Suddenly, Kamala Harris is Democrats’ last best hope to prevent a Trump restoration and the complete MAGA takeover of Washington.

It’s a prospect that thrills some fellow Democrats and terrifies others.

As vice president, Harris was always the likeliest political heir to President Biden, whose abandonment Sunday of his uphill reelection campaign advanced her inheritance by several years.

Ceding the Democratic nomination to Harris is the quickest and most expedient move for the party, given the limited time before the Aug. 19 start of its nominating convention and the short window to the Nov. 5 election.

There were also political repercussions to consider had Biden passed over the nation’s first female, Black and Asian American vice president. The snub would have antagonized many among a core constituency at a time former President Trump appears to be making meaningful inroads in

[See Barabak, A12]



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