

Washington, D.C., Elections, Politics

Trump Choice for VP, a ‘Turn to a New Generation,’ Earns Ire of Connecticut’s Delegation

— Juliann Ventura, 7.16.2024



J.D. Vance. Credit: Gage Skidmore, from Surprise, AZ, CC BY-SA 2.0

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Connecticut’s Congressional delegation roundly condemned former President Donald Trump’s choice of Sen. J.D. Vance to join the ticket as candidate for vice president, what others described as a ‘turn to a new generation’ for the Republican Party.

“Over and over again, he has proven that he’s going to line up with the president’s plan to cut taxes for the rich, to deny elections when they don’t turn out well for Republicans and to take away from women the right to a

safe and legal abortion,” Sen. Murphy said in an interview on MSNBC Monday night. “So it just wasn’t surprising to me that J.D. Vance was the pick today.”

Vance, who won his Ohio senate seat in 2022, has quickly turned from a strident critic of Trump to a staunch loyalist and supporter of policies embraced by the former president.

“J.D. Vance is suited to carry forth Trump’s vision of ‘Make America Great Again,’” said Richard Himelfarb, a political science professor at Hofstra University. “He is a symbol. And, from Trump’s perspective, will take forward Trump’s vision of the Republican Party. It really is a signal that this Republican Party is Donald Trump’s Republican Party. It is no longer Ronald Reagan’s Republican Party.”

Himelfarb told CT Examiner that Vance being 39 years old “implicitly sends this message that the Republican party going forward is going to turn to a new generation” that is loyal to Trump.

“I think he [Trump] looks at Vance and he says, ‘Vance is a compelling character.’ He’s got a very interesting **biography**. He is, in many ways, a relatively charismatic, interesting individual,” Himelfarb said.

Like Murphy, Rep. Jim Himes said in a statement that he was not surprised that Trump chose Vance as his running mate, characterizing the senator as “an equal” to the former president and calling Vance’s views on women’s reproductive rights “draconian.”

“This sort of behavior and ideology cannot be allowed to win in November,” Himes said in the statement.

In a **post** on Truth Social yesterday, Trump said that he had “decided that the person best suited to assume the position of Vice President of the United States is Senator J.D. Vance of the Great State of Ohio.”

Vance **supports** the idea of a ban on abortion, even in the cases of rape and incest, but supports the idea of exceptions when the woman’s life is in danger.

Vance also has **said** that he believes the 2020 election was stolen from Trump.

In an **interview** with the New York Times in June, Vance said that he doesn't like the idea of raising taxes for the middle class and, while taxing the wealthy might garner some revenue, it doesn't address underlying structural issues.

"You can get some revenue out of raising taxes on wealthy Americans, but there's no way that you can run an economy at a structural growth rate of around 1 percent with demographics that are getting worse and worse and worse and solve the problem by taxing rich people. You have to fix the underlying issue," Vance said in the interview.

On Tuesday morning, Murphy posted on X about Trump choosing Vance as his running mate.

"JD Vance is Trump's pick for VP because he supports a national abortion ban – even in cases of rape," Murphy **said** in the post. "It's day two at the National Republican Convention, and we cannot let them hide from their plan – it's right there in their platform! – to criminalize abortion if they win."

In the video, he added, "The Republican platform is very clear. The Republican platform that they are adopting and using this week at the Republican National Convention says that they are going to pursue a national abortion ban."

But at the convention on Monday, delegates approved a party **platform** that relies on a leave-it-to-states approach. Trump's own view on abortion has **shifted** many times over the years.

In the interview with MSNBC, Murphy criticized Vance for what he called an ambivalence to democracy and for his approach to Congress.

"I have also seen J.D. Vance act in a way that is really just dismissive of democracy," Murphy said. "He's one of the Republican senators who routinely stops us from being able to approve appointees to the Department of Justice because he does not want the Department of Justice to do its work if the work is investigating Republicans."

Previously, Vance **was** highly critical of Trump, even characterizing himself as a “never Trump guy,” comparing the former president to Hitler.

After launching his senate campaign, however, Vance apologized for his criticisms of Trump, and admitted in an **interview** on Fox News in 2021 that he was wrong.

Himelfarb said that Trump may view this switch from Vance as the legislator “bending the knee” and added that “politicians change their minds all the time.”

“Trump is very wary of people who don’t agree with his general philosophy, people who might want to be in his administration who are from this sort of old Republican establishment, and I think that he views J.D. Vance as somebody who will be an enforcer of the MAGA philosophy in the administration,” Himelfarb said.

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