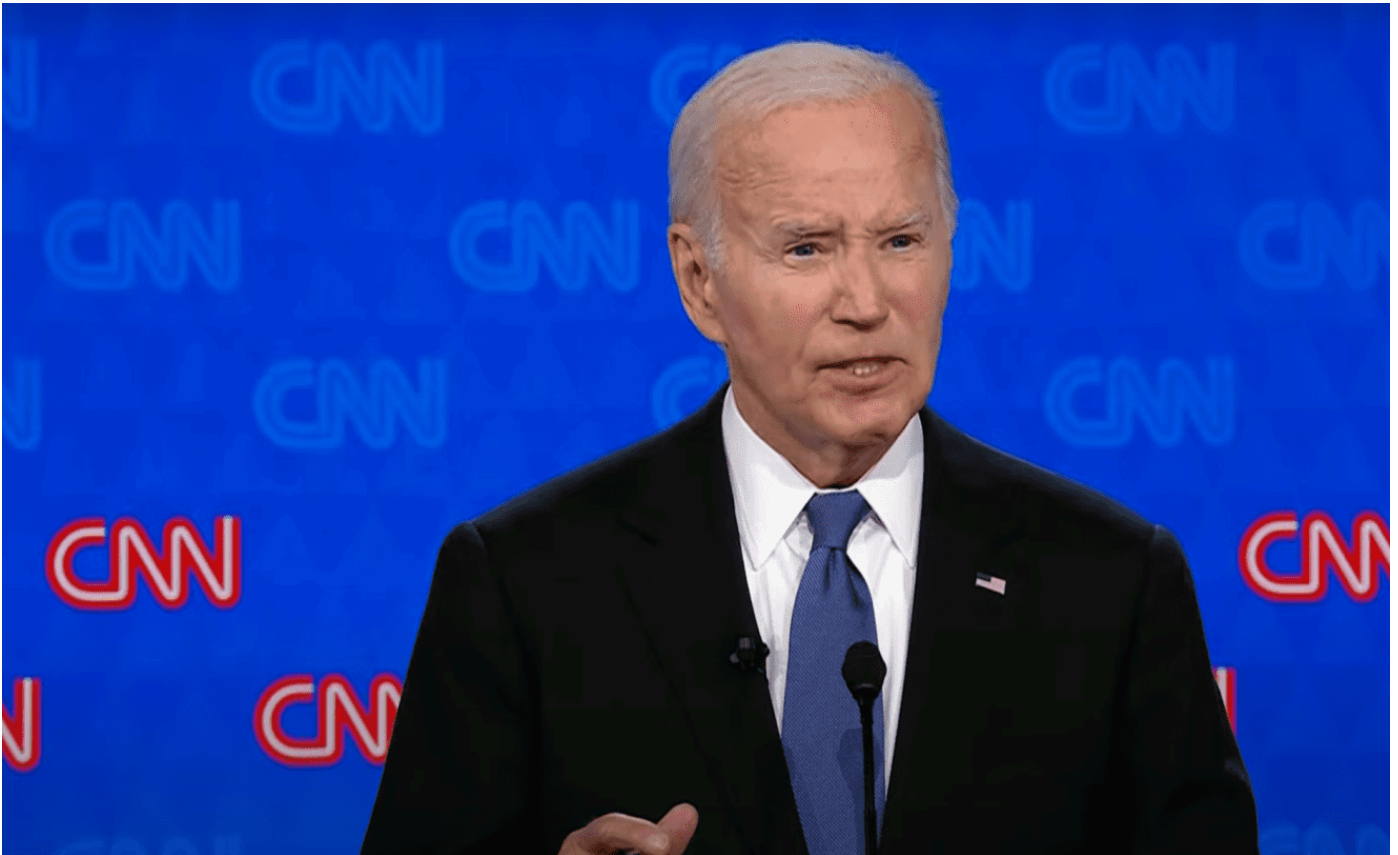


Washington, D.C., Elections

## Biden Drops Out — Murphy, Blumenthal and Others Respond (UPDATED)

— Juliann Ventura, 7.21.2024



President Joe Biden at Thursday's presidential debate (Credit: CNN)

*This story was updated Monday evening to include more information for Reps. Himes, Larson and Hayes.*

WASHINGTON, D.C. — President Biden announced that he was dropping out of the 2024 presidential race and endorsing Vice President Kamala Harris after coming under intense pressure to step aside from some of his closest allies over the last several weeks. The move catapults the Democratic Party into further chaos as Democrats decide whether to support Harris or rally around a different nominee.

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

Biden added that he will be addressing the nation about his decision later this week. In a following post, he endorsed Vice President Harris, saying in a **post** on X, “I want to offer my full support and endorsement for Kamala to be the nominee of our party this year.”

In her first **statement** since Biden announced his decision, Harris accepted the endorsement.

“On behalf of the American people, I thank Joe Biden for his extraordinary leadership as President of the United States and for his decades of service to our country,” Harris said. “I am honored to have the President’s endorsement and my intention is to earn and win this nomination.”

Biden’s decision comes as nearly 40 Democrats on Capitol Hill urged the president to drop out. While Rep. Jim Himes was the only Connecticut lawmaker to openly call on Biden to leave the race, as matters started to unravel Sens. Richard Blumenthal and Chris Murphy both expressed **concern** and skepticism about the president’s chances for reelection.

Himes endorsed Harris Monday morning in a statement that said, “As a prosecutor, a senator, and our Vice President, Kamala Harris has demonstrated the leadership, competence, and grace needed to defeat Donald Trump and lead our nation. I will do everything possible to see her elected in November.”

Murphy, who didn’t openly break with Biden but urged the president to prove himself to skeptics over the last couple weeks, released a statement applauding the president for his achievements.

“Joe Biden has always put his country first. He knows the risk Donald Trump poses to our democracy, mandating that our number one priority must be defeating Trump this fall,” Murphy said. “I know this decision was agonizing for him, but once again, his love of country shines through. A nation turns its

grateful eyes to Joe Biden for his world changing service and his constant selflessness.”

In a following **post** on X, Murphy called Harris “the antidote to Trump.”

“I will be enthusiastically supporting my friend, Vice President Harris, to be our Democratic nominee for President. She has the perfect combination of experience, accomplishment, and deep love of country to lead our great nation,” Murphy **said**.

Calling Biden “one of the greatest, most consequential presidents in American history,” Blumenthal never openly urged the president to step down.

“Joe is a smart, strategic fighter who always – always – looks out for the little guy,” Blumenthal said in a statement. “I am incredibly grateful for his lifetime of service and his unwavering, steadfast commitment to the future of our nation.” Blumenthal didn’t endorse Harris in his original statement on Sunday, but did so on Monday.

Courtney also emphasized the president’s achievements over the last four years.

“President Biden’s decision today—like all his public service for many decades—was motivated by his patriotism and deep love for America and its democracy,” Courtney said.

“During the last three and a half years, he’s had a great partner in Vice President Kamala Harris who I strongly support to lead the Democratic Party to build on their record of success with a new agenda focused on our future,” Courtney added.

In a statement, DeLauro said that Biden’s administration “is the most successful Democratic administration since that of Franklin Delano Roosevelt,” calling him “a champion of the middle class.”

“He spent a lifetime fighting for everyday Americans. He leaves a rich legacy that Democrats will defend in this upcoming election,” DeLauro said.

“I join President Biden in saying we should come together to support Vice President Kamala Harris.”

Himes, who called on Biden to step aside less than two weeks ago, applauded the president for his legacy, but made no mention of Harris in his statement.

“Putting our nation before his personal interest has now secured that legacy to the ages,” Himes said. “It is now up to us to work as never before to defeat the dark authoritarian vision of Donald Trump.”

Rep. John Larson released a statement praising Biden’s character by “putting country above self and unity above division, as he always does.” He did not endorse Harris in his statement.

“I look forward to continuing to work alongside him through the remainder of his term – the most productive and consequential Presidency of the last five decades,” Larson said. “Make no mistake about it – the American people know Donald Trump’s character and extreme agenda, and together, we will soundly reject him at the ballot box this November.”

Rep. Jahana Hayes also released a statement that endorsed Harris. “There is no one better to continue Joe Biden’s legacy than Vice President Harris,” she said.

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