



# AN OPEN LETTER

## TO DEMOCRATS IN THE HOUSE AND SENATE

### EVASION IS NO SOLUTION

The Republican Party's escalating threats to democracy require clarity and candor from prominent Democrats. In addition to your legislative work that includes countering the extremism across the aisle, you have influence over the Democratic Party's approach to the 2024 election. And **no choice now pending is more consequential than whether President Biden will seek a second term.**

Recent CNN and CNBC polls found that nearly 60 percent of Democratic voters do not want Biden to run for re-election. Yet we are hearing something very different from Democrats in Congress. Such distance from the party's base can be hazardous.

There's another unhealthy gap for congressional Democrats: Many of your colleagues, and maybe you, are expressing public enthusiasm for another Biden presidential campaign in on-the-record quotes to journalists – while privately voicing trepidation. This widespread gap ill serves the party or the nation.

There are ample indications that **having Joe Biden at the top of ballots across the country in autumn 2024 would bring enormous political vulnerabilities for the ticket and for down-ballot races.** No amount of spin can change key realities, such as:

- Unlike in 2020, when Trump represented the status quo, Biden in 2024 would represent the status quo. That would be far from auspicious, with huge majorities of voters telling pollsters our country is “on the wrong track.”
- A stunning 94% of Democratic voters under the age of 30 told pollsters for the *New York Times* last summer that they did not want the 2024 nominee to be Biden.
- Even though GOP demagogues have falsely equated Trump's egregious document recklessness with Biden's mishandling, the reality remains that recent developments have further undermined the assumption that Biden would be well-positioned to defeat Trump or another Republican next year.
- *The Hill* reported in mid-January that the new special counsel “gives Republicans a gift” and quoted a “Clinton campaign veteran” commenting on Biden: “Everyone can say what they want but this weakens him, full stop. This is just one of those things that will stick around and won't go away.”
- **A Biden '24 campaign would unnecessarily put the Democratic standard-bearer – along with the entire party and its candidates – on the defensive.**

Conformity and fear of a White House rebuke have never served Democrats or the nation well. It is time to stop muffling genuine concerns and start being honest about the pivotal downsides of a prospective Biden '24 candidacy. The future of the Democratic Party — and the country — is at stake.



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