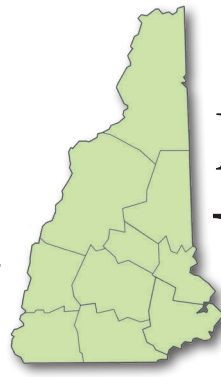


Replacing Biden is risky. Here's how you mitigate it.

THERE ARE serious concerns about the President's health, and whether he can serve as the party's candidate. Party leaders face a crucial decision: do they re-nominate the President and hope for the best, or do they go in a different direction? This was the dilemma faced by the Republican Party in 1884, as President Chester A. Arthur privately contended with Bright's Disease, which claimed his life in 1886. Due to his failing physical fitness and other issues, the delegates at the Republican National Convention ultimately chose to drop Arthur, though the man they chose, James G. Blaine, narrowly lost the election that November.



John Lappie



NEW HAMPSHIRE VOICES

The outcome in 1884 doesn't bode well for Democrats in 2024; dumping an incumbent president from the ticket is risky. Furthermore, replacing President Joe Biden with an alternate nominee is undoubtedly a recipe for chaos. At this late stage, the only way to avoid a chaotic process to replace Biden is to elevate Vice President Kamala Harris. If the Democrats want another option, then they must accept the negative consequences of such a process. However, there is a way to mitigate those negative consequences: a one-term pledge.

The Democrats' conundrum today is much more complicated than for the 1884 Republicans. Back then, it was considered improper for candidates to campaign for themselves. Arthur could cover his condition by staying in the White House, appearing only at carefully managed official events. That is not an option available to

President Biden. And in 1884, it was easy for the Republican Convention to bypass Arthur. Primaries did not exist; delegates could vote for whomever they wanted. In 2024, Biden earned his delegates through the Democratic primaries. They are pledged to vote for him and only he can release them.

And in 2024, the stakes are far higher, with a majority of Americans believing the nation's democracy could be at risk, depending on the outcome of the election.

Selecting Biden's replacement is the tricky part. Elevating Vice President Harris is the least procedurally hazardous option. However, many have doubts about her strengths as a general election candidate. Several options have been suggested. Would the Democrats hold an open convention, letting the delegates decide the nominee, as they did back in 1884? Would polling data be used to narrow the field? Would they have debates, or a mini-primary as Congressman Jim Clyburn (D-S.C.)

has proposed?

Some opponents of replacing Biden have raised concerns that the disunity of the Democratic Party will be on full display during such a process. Moreover, it will invariably be a rushed, ramshackle effort that will look extremely undemocratic compared to proper presidential primaries. It risks fractionalization and alienation within the party, which it can hardly afford when the new candidate needs to pivot to a general election contest against Donald Trump.

Perhaps the 19th century offers a solution. Three 19th-century presidents made one-term pledges: James K. Polk, James Buchanan and Rutherford B. Hayes. These pledges publicly revolved around the idea that they could better serve the public if they weren't tempted to make political deals to secure re-nomination and reelection. They also assured rivals within the party that they would have another chance in four years, not eight. In other words,

one-term pledges could be a powerful tool to maintain party unity heading into a general election. Polk alluded to this when he accepted the Democratic nomination in 1844, stating that in doing so, he had taken "... the most effective means in my power of enabling the Democratic Party to make a free selection of a successor."

The Democratic leadership could make it clear that only those who pledge to serve a single term will be eligible for the nomination. This would mean whoever the Democrats choose would be a lame-duck relatively soon in their administration, but the same would be true of Biden or Trump. And if the rushed, and at best semi-democratic, process used to replace Biden leaves many dissatisfied with the outcome, it will be much easier for the public to swallow if they know it is only for one cycle. Then in 2028, there will be a normal, open, contested primary for the Democratic nomination.

Such a pledge may cause some of the higher-tier candidates to bow out, preferring the chance of two terms later. But perhaps whoever is willing to sacrifice some of their ambition for the good of the party at this moment of crisis is the kind of person who should be the nominee.

The ideal course for concerned Democrats would've been if Biden had chosen not to seek reelection at the outset. There are no easy solutions now. However, requiring a one-term pledge by a substitute candidate could mitigate the risks, and perhaps deliver the kind of person who would be worthy of the office.

John Lappie, Ph.D., is a professor of political science at Plymouth State University. He lives in Plymouth.

Pappas gaslighting us on 'leadership'

LAST MONTH, Rep. Chris Pappas had an op-ed in the Union Leader about leadership and claimed to be a moderate Democrat in search of bipartisan solutions. This is the same song and dance he does every two years before an election.



Rep. Ted Gorski

Every time Pappas is sent to Congress for another term, he votes religiously with the Democrats. In fact, Five-Thirty-Eight did analysis during the 2021-22 legislative session and determined that he voted with President Joe Biden 100% of the time. In the subsequent sessions, he has continued to be a rubber stamp for the Biden administration. That means he was in lockstep with the radical left administration that oversaw the deterioration of security along our nation's borders, led the disastrous withdrawal from Afghanistan, voted against the Safeguard American Voter Eligibility (aka "SAVE" act), and pushed wasteful federal spending that sent inflation soaring. How do you call that independent thinking?

He has also supported Joe Biden publicly in this election, encouraged the primary write-in campaign even as his party slapped New Hampshire in the face, and celebrated Biden's primary victory. All of this was done while Chris Pappas knew what we all know, that Joe Biden is completely incompetent and unfit to lead this country.

After Biden's abysmal debate performance, Pappas has been radio silent on it, and he has refused to take ownership of his part in attempting to deceive New Hampshire voters regarding Biden's cognitive decline. When a reporter tried to ask Pappas about it, he put his head down and walked away. At the end of the day, it is about towing the far left party line for Chris Pappas, not about representing the people of New Hampshire.

Despite that far-left record, Chris Pappas returns

to this state, hat in hand, every two years and tries to tell us that he is "working to bring Republicans, Democrats, and independents together to work with a common purpose." With a voting record like his, there can be no doubt that his claim is completely false, and serves as the textbook definition of gaslighting.

I have nothing against someone advocating for what they believe in. As a state representative, I do that all the time in Concord, and I am thankful for the opportunity to do so. However, I don't gaslight people by misleading them about my record in an attempt to earn their vote. Instead, I take my responsibility seriously as a legislator and am happy to stand behind my votes.

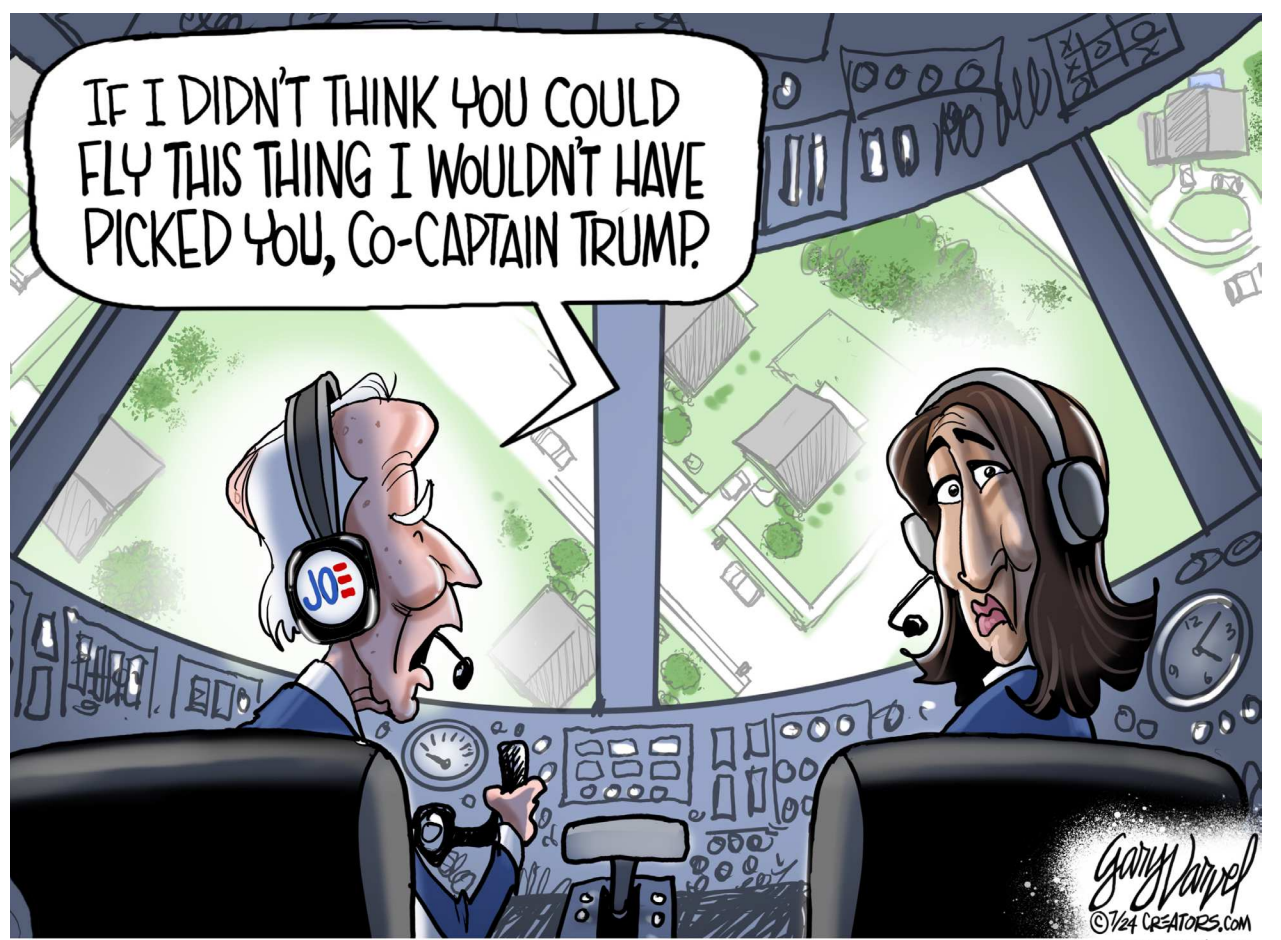
Chris Pappas needs to own his voting record and accept the fact that he is no "moderate" Democrat but he knows the people of New Hampshire wouldn't stand for that, so instead he attempts to gaslight us. Voters here in the Granite State are smarter than that, though, and that is why I think they are ready for a change this November.

I am proud to be supporting Hollie Noveletsky in this race for the 1st Congressional District. I have gotten to know her during the campaign, and she tells it like it is. You might not agree with her on every issue, but you know what you're getting instead of being gaslit by dishonest career politicians like Chris Pappas.

Hollie has spent her career in the real world as a business leader, nurse, and veteran. Those are credentials that we could use in Washington, and in each case, she has lived out the importance of giving someone a straight answer and being honest.

I encourage you to check Hollie out and join me in supporting her as she brings a true outsider perspective to Congress!

Rep. Ted Gorski (R-Bedford) represents Hillsborough — District 2.



Letters

Ayotte's been clear on abortion, unlike ambiguous detractors

To the Editor: As New Hampshire voters consider the issue of abortion, we deserve better than constant demonization and ambiguity coming from desperate Democrat candidates Joyce Craig and Cinde Warmington. Instead of clarifying their own positions, both attack Kelly Ayotte by falsely representing her clear-cut policy.

Ayotte has repeatedly committed to protecting our state's commonsense abortion law as it stands, pledging to veto any attempts to change that law. Period.

A majority of Granite Staters agree with our current law, which protects a woman's freedom to obtain an abortion for any reason up to six months of pregnancy. After that, if something horrible happens like a medical emergency or a fatal fetal anomaly, the law provides exceptions for those cases.

Our law represents a consensus in our state — one that Kelly Ayotte has been forthright in defending and has continued to unequivocally say she will support. Meanwhile, these Democrats' only plan is to try to scare New Hampshire women into voting for them by lying about Ayotte's position. That's why we voters must refuse to be frightened or intimidated.

This is a sensitive and personal

issue for so many women, and it's disgusting that these two Democrat candidates continue lying to serve their own personal interests. Kelly Ayotte has the integrity to stand by the will of New Hampshire residents and to protect the consensus we've reached in our state. That's who we need and deserve in the corner office.

JEANENE COOPER
Newmarket

Groping the flag doesn't change an insurrectionist into a patriot

To the Editor: I've wanted to respond to two op-eds and have been remiss for not doing so. But in the interim James Fiest more than adequately responded (June 24, 2024) to Di Lothrop's most recent (June 14, 2024) pile of you know what regarding Donald Trump. Accordingly, I'll direct my comments solely in response to Robbin MacVittie's op-ed of June 15, 2024.

First off, MacVettie claims that "most - if not all" of those carrying the "Appeal To Heaven" flag were not armed. In fact, nobody knows how many of Trump's goons were armed on January 6th, but even if just one, that's one too many.

Trump's goons were calling for a revolution and intended to overturn a fair, free and valid election at Trump's request. (An election Trump knew he had lost.) They

wanted to hang the vice president! The additional video footage does nothing to change the facts and what we saw.

Second, MacVettie is correct that on occasion in the past there have been challenges to counting of electoral votes by both parties. However, those past challenges were raised by a handful or less of lawmakers. In this instance, the refusal to certify was raised by eight Republican senators and 139 House Republicans. They did this even after Trump's supporters had attacked the Capitol.

Trump supporters are always trying to rewrite history or make excuses for Trump's criminality and immorality. Trump claims to be a patriot but his groping the flag is not how patriotism should be

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New Hampshire Voices

New Hampshire Voices is a regular feature, replacing our editorial page with Granite State viewpoints and letters.

Letters should be sent to Letters@UnionLeader.com. Opinion pieces may be sent to Opinion@UnionLeader.com. Letters must be within the body of the email. Attachments won't be opened. Due to volume, submissions cannot be acknowledged.

"There Is Nothing So Powerful As Truth" — Daniel Webster

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"Where the Spirit of the Lord Is, There Is Liberty" — II Corinthians 3:17

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MALLARD FILLMORE

By Bruce Tinsley

