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Gareth Evans

President Joe Biden launches 2024 re-election campaign

Президент Джо Байден запускає кампанію з переобрання 2024 року
Президент США Джо Байден оголосив, що балотуватиметься на переобрання у
2024 році, створюючи передумови для потенційного реваншу з Дональдом
Трампом. Очікувалося, що демократ балотуватиметься на другий чотирирічний
термін і у він оголосив про свою кампанію у відео. Він сказав, що це був ключовий
момент, коли свободи та права під загрозою. «Це не час для заспокоєння», - сказав
він. 58-річна віцепрезидентка Камала Гарріс знову стане його напарницею.
<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-65381883>

US President Joe Biden has announced he will run for re-election in 2024, setting the stage for a potential rematch with Donald Trump.

The Democrat had been expected to seek a second four-year term and launched his campaign in a video on Tuesday.

He said it was a pivotal moment with freedoms and rights under threat. "This is not a time to be complacent," he said. "That's why I'm running".

Vice-President Kamala Harris, 58, will once again be his running mate.

Mr Biden, 80, is already the oldest president in US history and is likely to face questions about his age throughout the campaign. He would be 86 after finishing a second full term in 2029.

"It's legitimate for people to raise issues about my age," he said earlier this year. "And the only thing I can say is, watch me."

Within hours of announcing his candidacy, President Biden addressed Union workers in Washington, DC where he was greeted with cheers of "Let's go, Joe" and "four more years!".

Throughout the speech the president underscored what appears to be his slogan for the 2024 campaign: "It's time to finish the job."

He touted his efforts to restore the American economy after the pandemic as well as the bipartisan infrastructure bill, before teasing what he would do with a second term in office.

"We've got a lot more to do," Mr Biden said.

Mr Biden faced off against Mr Trump in 2020, defeating the Republican after promising to "restore the soul of the United States".

"When I ran for president four years ago, I said we are in a battle for the soul of America - and we still are," Mr Biden said in the three-minute announcement video, which shows the president meeting a diverse range of Americans.

It also features images of the 2021 attack on the US Capitol, when supporters of Mr Trump stormed the building in an effort to overturn his loss to Mr Biden.

Mr Trump has already launched his bid for the presidency, raising the prospect that both men will face each other again on 5 November 2024. They are considered favourites to win their nominations although Mr Trump faces competition from the likes of Florida Governor Ron DeSantis.

"You could take the five worst presidents in American history, and put them together, and they would not have done the damage Joe Biden has done," Mr Trump said in a statement on Monday night.

Mr Biden has long signalled that he planned to stand for re-election with the main question being when he would announce. After spending the weekend with aides at Camp David, the presidential retreat in Maryland, he opted to launch his campaign on the fourth anniversary of his 2020 announcement.

Julie Chavez Rodriguez, a senior White House adviser, will serve as his campaign manager.

As yet Mr Biden has no major challengers for the Democratic nomination meaning a smooth path to the candidacy is almost certain.

Senator Bernie Sanders of Vermont, who was Mr Biden's chief rival in the 2020 Democratic presidential primary, said on Tuesday that he will not challenge Mr Biden in 2024.

Instead, he endorsed his re-election bid.

"The last thing this country needs is a Donald Trump or some other right-wing demagogue who is going to try to undermine American democracy or take away a woman's right to choose, or not address the crisis of gun violence, or racism, sexism or homophobia," Mr Sanders said in an interview with the Associated Press. "So, I'm in to do what I can to make sure that the president is re-elected."

But recent polls suggest Mr Biden's decision to run is a divisive one both within the party and nationally. An NBC News poll over the weekend found that 70% of Americans, and just over half of Democrats, believe he should not run again.

A majority of people who said Mr Biden should not run cited his age as a concern. Forty-eight percent said it was a "major concern".

His approval ratings remain negative by a significant margin but Mr Biden's hopes of re-election were boosted late last year when his party performed better than expected in the midterm elections.

He also has a series of legislative achievements to tout on the campaign trail, including a \$1.2tn infrastructure bill and the marshalling of Western support for Ukraine since Russia's invasion.

There are currently two other announced candidates for the Democratic nomination - bestselling self-help author Marianne Williamson and anti-vaccine activist Robert Kennedy Jr.

The lack of any formidable rivals in his party allowed Mr Biden to set the timing of his announcement without significant external pressure.

His advisers have said he sees an advantage in drawing a contrast between his role governing the nation while his potential Republican opponents engage in partisan campaigning or - in Mr Trump's case - deal with criminal investigations.

The Republican Party responded to his announcement by describing Mr Biden as "out-of-touch" for thinking he deserves to be re-elected after "creating crisis after crisis" over the last four years.

The party's national committee chairwoman Ronna McDaniel said her party was united behind beating him in 2024, adding that US citizens were "counting down the days until they can send Biden packing".

As is the new tradition in American presidential politics, Joe Biden announced his White House bid in a pre-recorded, slickly produced video that tightly controls the opening message of the new campaign.

The very first images are of the US Capitol, shrouded in tear gas, under attack by Donald Trump supporters on 6 January 2021. The next is of an abortion rights protester at a rally outside the Supreme Court.

This is not a warm tribute to four years of Mr Biden's presidency - although there will be some of that later - but a stark warning of conflict and danger.

From there, Mr Biden quickly tries to claim the high ground on defending the personal freedoms of Americans - something Republicans frequently claim the president and his fellow Democrats threaten.

He denounces "Maga Republicans" with quick shots of Georgia Congresswoman Marjorie Taylor Green, Donald Trump and Florida Governor Ron DeSantis. While re-election campaigns are typically a referendum on the incumbent, from the get-go the Biden team is painting the coming election as one of contrasts.

There are also warnings of Republican threats to the government-run Social Security retirement programme, book-banning efforts and "telling people who they can love".

The catchphrase that many thought would be the centrepiece of Mr Biden's campaign, "let's finish the job", does not make an appearance until the very end. The message here, instead, seems to be "let's finish Donald Trump and the Republicans".