Politics

CAMPAIGN 2024

Biden: Concerns about his age are 'not right or wrong'

By Ramsey Touchberry
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

President Biden tap-dancedaround questions abouthis age and concerns among even voters in his own party that he is too old to seek reelection to the most important job in the world.

Already the oldest president in U.S. history, 80-year-old Biden would be 86 by the time he leaves office, if reelected, leading many Democratic voters to say he should step aside.

"They're not right or wrong," the president told CNN's Fareed Zakaria in an interview that aired Sunday. "Look, to use the phrase again, I think we're at an inflection point. I think the world is changing. And I think there is one thing that comes with age, if you're — been honest about it your whole life, and that is some wisdom."

His sales pitch touched on another aspect identical to every incumbent president who has sought reelection: "I just want to finish the job," he said.

"I think we're on the cusp of being able to make significant positive changes in the world," Mr. Biden said. "I think we're putting the world together in a way that is going to make things significantly, how can I say it, more secure for people. We're uniting democracies — have the possibility of uniting democracies in a way that hadn't happened ever."

Large swaths of voters — including Democrats — in recent polls have expressed concern about his age and health, in addition to that of a potential Republican challenger who's just three years younger at the age of 77: former President Donald Trump.

Roughly two-thirds of voters said in a recent NBC News poll that they have major or moderate concerns about Mr. Biden's mental and physical health, compared to 55% who felt the same about Mr. Trump.



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"I think we're on the cusp of being able to make significant positive changes in the world," President Biden says about concerns among even Democratic voters regarding his age.

Trump says Biden's issues extend past age during campaign event

By Seth McLaughlin
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Former President Donald Trump said "there is something wrong" with President Biden that goes beyond age, warning that the Democrat might not "make it to the gate."

Mr. Biden's mental lapses and verbal gaffes are warning signs of a bigger problem, Mr. Trump said Friday.

"He is not old, he is off," Mr. Trump said at a campaign event in Council Bluffs, Iowa. "There is a difference because I know people that are 90 years old that are sharp as a tack — in fact, some of them are smarter than they were 20 years before."

Mr. Trump, who is 77, said, "It is not age. There is something wrong."

Mr. Biden and Democrats have played up the idea that they would love Mr. Trump to lead the GOP into the 2024 election. They believe voters will reject his polarizing brand of politics just as they did in 2020.

Concerns about Mr. Biden's health and mental wherewithal, however, have hung over the race and his first term as president. Polls have shown that even a majority of Democrats want someone else to lead the party's ticket next year, with many voters citing Mr. Biden's age.

Mr. Biden became the nation's oldest president after he took the oath of office at age 78 in 2021, stealing the mantle away from Mr. Trump, who was sworn in at age 70 in 2017.

If he wins again, Mr. Biden will take the oath of office at 82 years of age.

The situation has left some Democrats to consider a backup plan, and whether Vice President Kamala Harris or someone such as Gov. Gavin Newsom of California should replace Mr. Biden atop the ticket.

"In my opinion, he is incapable of running." Mr. Trump said Friday. "I hate to say it because I am not sure he is going to make it to the gate, but I guess I would rather have him than somebody who is actually intelligent."

"Although I wouldn't mind running against Kamala," he said, sparking laughter from the audience.

A Special FDI Edition by Mercury Global Reports www.mercuryglobalreports.com

Turks and Caicos: A Sustainable Investment Haven thrives in the Caribbean

With its stunning beaches, vibrant culture, and strategic location, Turks and Caicos (TCI) has emerged as an attractive destination for US tourists and investors alike.



Shore club, Long Bay, TCI

Recently, Turks and Caicos Islands have set their sights on diversifying and expanding their tourism offerings to include niche segments that can withstand demand fluctuations. With a strong focus on conservation, sustainability, and innovative technologies, TCI aims to attract luxury travelers and investors seeking promising opportunities. "TCI is actively targeting niche segments, including eco-tourism, heritage and cultural tourism, event tourism, and marine tourism. The promotion of these niche segments aims to tap into the growing market of travelers who prioritize conservation and sustainability in their travel choices" stated Angela Musgrove, the CEO of Invest Turks and Caicos. "Eco-tourism, in particular, offers significant opportunities as travelers put conservation and sustainability at the core of promotions and travel choices" she added.

In addition to tourism, TCI is also looking to enhance its agricultural sector through the adoption of Agricultural Technology (Agritech). By leveraging technologies designed to maximize output and efficiency while minimizing resource inputs, TCI aims to increase food production in limited space. This strategy presents lucrative investment opportunities in the Agritech sector. The CEO emphasized the potential of Agritech, stating, "The use of technologies to grow more food in less space and with fewer inputs is an area ripe with investment opportunities. With the global demand for sustainable and efficient agriculture, TCI is well-positioned to attract investors interested in this growing sector."

TCI recognizes the potential of the Blue Economy, aiming to capitalize on ocean-related activities beyond traditional sectors such as fisheries, tourism, and transportation. The CEO highlighted aquaculture, biotechnology, renewable energy, and seabed mineral extraction as areas of interest. "Already, the exportation of conch and lobster to the USA has generated substantial revenue, reaching over US$2 million in 2020." TCI also envisions leveraging Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion (OTEC) technology to harness renewable energy from ocean currents, wave motion, and offshore wind. This ambitious approach further demonstrates TCI's commitment to sustainability and innovation.



Arial view of Blue Haven Marina

Beyond tourism and agriculture, TCI boasts a wide range of financial services that cater to the international business community. The country offers banking, insurance, trusts, mutual funds, investment dealing companies, and partnerships. This sector is experiencing steady growth and is increasingly attracting investment interest.

The Strong Bond: TCI's Economic Partnership with the USA

The economic development of TCI is intricately tied to its close relationship with the North American markets, particularly the United States. The USA not only serves as the country's largest import market but has also been a significant source of foreign direct investment (FDI) over the years. The geographical proximity between TCI and the USA, coupled with the shared use of the US dollar as the national currency, has further strengthened their economic ties.

"The North American markets, particularly the USA and Canada, continue to play a vital role in our economic development. However, it is the USA that stands out as the country's most crucial partner, accounting for a significant portion of trade and investment", the CEO emphasized. The USA's proximity to the TCI provides logistical advantages, making trade between the two countries seamless. With a short 90-minute flight from Miami, TCI has easy access to one of the largest consumer markets in the world. Additionally, the use of the US dollar simplifies financial transactions and facilitates smoother trade processes.



Angela Musgrove, CEO of Invest Turks and Caicos

Highlighting the importance of the USA to TCI's trade, Mrs. Musgrove revealed key statistics: "In 2021, imports from the USA totaled US$412 million, representing nearly 85% of the country's total imports. Similarly, in 2020, imports from the USA accounted for approximately 86% of total imports, totaling US$301 million." These figures underscore the dominant role that the USA plays in meeting the country's import needs."

TCI's primary exports of conch and lobster find a receptive market in the United States, which consumes almost one hundred percent of TCI's primary exports of conch and lobster.

The Future of TCI-US Economic Ties:

As TCI looks towards the future, the strong economic bond with the USA is expected to remain a cornerstone of its development strategy. The geographic proximity, combined with the economic advantages of trade and investment, will continue to foster growth opportunities for both parties.

The CEO looks forward to welcoming long-term investors whose primary goal is the economic development and the socio-economic health of TCI. "We want investors who are in it for the long term. We are not looking for investors who are solely looking for short-term gains and paying attention only to their bottom line; we are looking to welcome investors whose interests are not tunnel-visioned on the economic benefits of their investment, but whose vision is extended to the impact of their investment on the development of the surrounding communities and the socio-economic health of the Turks and Caicos Islands as a country" Angela Musgrove concluded.

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