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## Joe Biden is fighting the good fight. And we need him to. Stop talking about his age

3-minute read

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**Biden addresses the nation after Trump assassination attempt**

President Joe Biden called for unity across the country following the assassination attempt against former President Donald Trump.

Joe Biden is a man with remarkable resolve. In this 81 year old, I see more strength, dedication, tenacity and perseverance than I do in a person half his age. Very few presidents demonstrate the work ethic of Joe Biden.

Last Thursday evening, on NBC News, I saw a man who after two hectic days of round-the-clock meetings with 31-member nations at the NATO Summit in Washington, D.C., stand on his feet for an hour-long press conference after delivering a short speech. His outstanding grasp of facts, his comprehension of world events, and his facility with explaining to the American public the significance of behind-the-scenes trade negotiations and foreign policy decisions were enthralling. Afterward, I was on the phone with colleagues and friends who were enamored of the academic richness and substance conveyed by the president — a truly memorable way to celebrate the 75th Jubilee Anniversary of the formation of NATO.

### Why are we disrespecting an important elder statesman?

This [entire brouhaha](#) surrounding Biden’s mental fitness to serve another four-year term would never have seen the light of day had there already been a designated office set aside for an elderly president who can continue to serve beyond his present term. If our founding fathers had been prescient, they would have intelligently carved out a position called “president emeritus” — a venerated title ascribed to a long-standing public servant with stellar accomplishments. Recognizing the special qualities of an elder statesman — experience, insight, wisdom — Americans would hold such an individual in veneration, and readily welcome their participation in governance on a day-to-day basis. However, at the time of the drafting of the Constitution, medical science had not yet offered the roadmap to extending longevity, nor were there modern conveniences of sanitation, food production, home-heating, air conditioning, and so forth that have understandably added decades to the lifespan of the average American.



President Joe Biden waves on stage during the Vote To Live Property Summit at the College of Southern Nevada in Las Vegas, Nevada, on July 16, 2024. *KENT NISHIMURA, AFP Via Getty Images*

In the absence of an office for “president emeritus,” Biden has found himself on a noticeable collision course. His extraordinary perseverance and vision to serve another four-year term is now at loggerheads with federal lawmakers, donors, celebrities and some voters. The reason might be attributed to the fact that inertia is traditionally a more comfortable state than change. Accepting an octogenarian to serve for another four-year term is unquestionably unprecedented in American presidential politics. It calls for us to rethink the template, the prototype, or the preconceived model we have in mind. That model bespeaks an energetic and telegenic president, who is fast on his feet and free with one-line quips.

However, to rethink a common expectation of what a person should be like inevitably requires a lot of effort on our part. We must reshuffle our views, ideas, concepts — all of which naturally leave us feeling uneasy. So what do we do? We look for a quick and easy solution. We declare: “Replace Biden!” And we delude ourselves into thinking the problem simply goes away. But does it?

### Biden is a candidate with conviction

To begin with, Biden, at this moment in history, is already breaking the glass ceiling as the oldest sitting president, and he is running for reelection for another four-year term. As Delaware’s longest-serving U.S. Senator and as a leader who has served in the executive branch for nearly 12 years, he brings to the table a wealth of knowledge, experience and insight. With a lifetime career in public service, he is not likely to acquiesce to the thunderous pressure, no matter how loud and rancorous it may be, to abandon his goal of being reelected to serve his country for another four-year term. Why? Because he is propelled by his conviction to beat Donald Trump in the presidential election so that he can finish the good work he’s started in his current administration.

Biden, at the intersection of history, politics, and vision shows true conviction to seeing his candidacy succeed. As a man of deep religious faith, he exudes more than just political ambition. He shows principle, certitude, confidence and perseverance. Ambition one can say is a drive to succeed, whereas conviction entails so much more. That is because ambition is limited, whereas conviction is not. When one is ambitious, they can easily refocus their energies on other projects so that if one project fails they can shift gears and find another project to pursue.

Conviction, on the other hand, propels one to stick with just one goal in mind and see it through to its successful completion. This is why the person with convictions will stick to their goals even through the darkest of times, while resisting the strongest form of temptation to identify other goals that would obviously yield greater success. Biden shows conviction in all of his pursuits. Attempting to formulate peace treaties between warring nations, devising domestic policies that revive an ailing economy, and stabilizing geopolitical conflagrations, all require single-mindedness and zeal to succeed. Beating Donald Trump in the election, likewise, requires vision and fortitude and not just ambition.

It is Biden’s conviction that has empowered him to stay the course, successfully resisting the vociferous voices of elite politicians asking him to withdraw from the presidential race after the debate disaster last month. Indeed, in his quest for reelection and in his refusal to cower to pressure to step down, Biden is changing the course of history for every elder person who in the future may seek the presidency. It is natural to see resistance to social change. As a nation we’ve witnessed plenty of opposition in the past, whether it was to ending of slavery, enforcing school integration, or giving women the right to vote. Yet, we overcame. Yes, we lost blood, we lost lives in the process. But we overcame nevertheless.

Biden is fighting the good fight. Facing critics everyday — from the press, from Capitol Hill lawmakers and from Hollywood — Biden is fighting for anyone and everyone who doesn’t fit the mold. He’s truly at the intersection of history, politics, and vision. And the majesty of this moment must not be lost.

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