



## BlackEconomics.org

### “Why Joe Biden Should Not Be President”

The 2020 US Presidential Elections is behind us. The election results have been certified. Joe Biden is expected to move into the White House on January 20, 2021. However, it should never have been. This essay explains why. It confirms Joe Biden’s political history as one who has supported overt racist policies and has sacrificed the well-being of Black Americans. An objective reading of Biden political history should not have motivated Black Americans to play such a monumental role in pushing him into the presidency. In fact, Black Americans should not even be members of the Democratic Party. Actually, the latter point is a good place to start, so let us begin there before discussing Biden’s political history.

I agree with my **BlackEconomics.org** co-contributor, Dr. Brooks Robinson, who penned [“Why Not a Black Political Power.”](#) In that 2015 essay, he argues eloquently and comprehensively for the establishment of a Black political party. However, I will take a moment to re-emphasize a few practical political economy advantages of having a Black political party.

- A Black political party would generate a large number of moderate- and high-paying jobs.
- Every national political debate would have to include Black party candidates. Participating Black party candidate could ensure that important Black American issues are addressed as part of debates.
- A tremendous volume of Black Party advertisement could be produced by Black marketing firms—thereby producing more jobs for Black Americans.
- Corporate contributions would inure to the Black political party, meaning the party would be a significant source of monetary inflows for Black areas of influence.

What we know is that if we do not get out front on this issue, other ethnic groups will bypass us. Favorably, there has been movement on this front in the last year with at least one important effort to launch a Black political party.<sup>1</sup> However, there is a need for such efforts to gain more traction over the coming years. Clearly, having a party in which 90 percent of Black Americans are affiliated and have control can be a powerful instrument for positive progress in the lives of 99 percent of all Americans.

So, Blacks should not be Democrats or Republicans. They should be a member of a Black political party. But why should Joe Biden not be president?

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<sup>1</sup> In October 2020, Sean “Diddy” Combs launched the “Our Black Party.”

According to reports, Democratic Party leadership forced the selection of Joe Biden as its candidate mainly because they believed that he could motivate White men in Wisconsin, Michigan, Pennsylvania, and Minnesota to usher up a blue vote—relinquishing their red position. No matter how you interpret such a decision, it means that the Democratic Party valued White men more than Black men and women. That alone should cause Black Americans to seriously engage the idea of forming a Black political party.

If White men who did or did not vote for Trump or Clinton in 2016 could be motivated to vote for Biden in 2016, then there must be something about Biden that appeals to White men. What is it? The fact is that a large number of White men (especially non-college graduates) voted for Trump because he gave voice to their fear of being “a minority in their own country.” Also, Trump promised to “Make America Great Again”—meaning that White men would be placed in key positions in the country so that they could promulgate US White Supremacist policies at home and abroad.

Presumably, those White men align with Joe Biden in the same way that Biden aligned with Strom Thurmond, the late Governor and United States Senator from South Carolina. We must be clear that Strom Thurmond was the face of segregation before there was a George Wallace (a late Presidential Candidate and Governor of Alabama) and long before David Duke (a leader of the Ku Klux Klan) or the Proud Boys. In 1948, Strom Thurmond left the Democratic Party and ran for president as the Dixiecrat Party standard bearer. Thurmond later converted to the Republican Party as Barry Goldwater (a late Presidential Candidate and Senator from Arizona) began the transition and transformation of the Republican Party to become the reservoir of racist politics. We only need to recite one comment from Thurmond to tell you where he stood.

**“I want tell you, ladies and gentlemen, that there’s not enough troops in the army to force the Southern people to break down segregation and admit the Negro race into our theaters, into our swimming pools, into our homes, and into our churches.”**

Strom Thurmond, Governor, South Carolina, 1948<sup>2</sup>

Personally, if Strom Thurmond had asked me to deliver a eulogy at his funeral when he passed away in 2003, I would have un-politely declined. But not Joe Biden. Like Thurmond, Joe Biden had opposed busing as a means to integrate American schools publicly.

In addition, Joe Biden worked with Thurmond to produce a crime bill that would have incarcerated many, many Black Americans needlessly and unfairly in 1983. President Ronald Reagan vetoed the bill. As you know, Biden did not quit the fight on crime, but came back to ally with Strom Thurmond in 1994 to pass a different crime bill, which was signed by President Bill Clinton. Yes, that is the crime bill that penalized the illegal possession of crack cocaine at a level of 100:1 to the penalty for the illegal possession of powder cocaine.

If you are a champion of improving the lives of Black Americans, then you cannot accept Biden’s alignment with Strom Thurmond to pass the 1994 crime bill. While we cannot say whether Biden

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<sup>2</sup> See History.com Editors. (2003) “Former US Senator Strom Thurmond Dies.” <https://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/former-u-s-senator-strom-thurmond-dies>; retrieved on December 11, 2020.

believed truly that the crime bill would reduce crime, what we know is that he supported the crime bill for political reasons. After the “Willie Horton” saga, Democrats like Biden believed that they had to show that they were not soft on crime.<sup>3</sup> They had to take the crime issue away from the Republicans. Biden was willing then—and if he was willing then, then he must be willing now—to sacrifice Black men for political advantage.

Also, remember Biden’s eulogy at Strom Thurmond’s funeral. Biden eulogized a man who had a Black daughter who was not acknowledged publicly until she was a teenager.<sup>4</sup> Thurmond was Governor of South Carolina before his US Senate tenure and, although he is reported to have paid for her college education, his daughter was unable to attend probably the best college in the state—the University of South Carolina—because Thurmond would not support her admission. In fact, the entire Thurmond family denied, or was mute about, the existence of Thurmond’s Black daughter. Maybe because the daughter’s mother (a maid in the household of Thurmond’s father) was 15 at conception and 16 when she delivered. Thurmond was 22 at the time. Even in South Carolina that was statutory rape. Here was Biden eulogizing a man he worked with to pass a crime bill that he knew would severely penalize Black men and their families, and he did so with a man who apparently committed a crime when he fathered a Black daughter under statutory rape circumstances.

The entire 1994 crime bill, which created enormous harm to Black men and families, became the law of this country based on political dynamics shaping governmental policy. It is one of the clearest examples of how the binary (Democrat or Republic) political system corrupts public policy implemented in this country often to the detriment of Americans in general and, more often than not, to the extreme detriment of Black Americans.

It seems that, given Joe Biden’s record, there is no way that he should have been selected by President Barack Obama to be vice president. Whether Barack Obama or citizen, there should be no way that Blacks should have voted for a Joe Biden presidency. To have done so means resignation to second-class citizenship for Black Americans. I will never again vote for a racist. I would rather withhold my vote and live with a racist in office than vote for a racist.

By his words, Biden’s shows himself to be a racist. He talks about how he is good at race relations and how he supports civil rights. He has never acknowledged, though, that America operates as a racist system or that the enemy of Black people is the American system of racism, which is executed with government approval. Importantly, emphasizing his ability to “work across the aisle” is evidence that he is willing to compromise with a political party that is more devoted to racism than to democracy.

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<sup>3</sup> Willie Horton was a Black man convicted of murder who committed rape and assault while on a weekend furlough from prison. His story was publicized in a political advertisement by 1988 Presidential Candidate George Bush and the Republican Party to engender fear among the voting public and to convince them that the Republic Party was tough on crime and would stop at nothing to prevent criminals like Horton from being anywhere but in prison.

<sup>4</sup> See Mary C. Curtis. (2013) “Strom Thurmond’s Black Daughter: A Symbol of America’s Complicated Racial History.” *The Washington Post*. February 5<sup>th</sup>. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/she-the-people/wp/2013/02/05/strom-thurmonds-black-daughter-a-flesh-and-blood-symbol-of-americas-complicated-racial-history/>; retrieved on December 11, 2020.

As an act of redemption, Biden should appoint more Black Americans to cabinet level positions than Trump (one) and more than Barack Obama (four). In fact, at this writing, the incoming Biden Administration has nominated four Black Americans to cabinet-level positions. But this is not a fool proof strategy that will prevent him from promulgating poor socioeconomic policies, which will affect millions of Americans adversely, Black Americans in particular. However, Black Americans can ensure that Biden pursues policies—especially economic policies—that are in the best interest of Black Americans and are not driven by binary politics. That is, Black Americans in the aggregate must inform Biden that we understand how he abused us in the past for political advantage and that we are not impressed by his willingness to show up at a Black church on a Sunday morning. After all, how can we forget that he showed up for Strom Thurmond’s but not George Floyd’s funeral—and there were three opportunities.

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