



A Walk Down Biden's Memory Lane

Six Years After Biden's Failed 2008 Campaign, A Look Back At Biden's Presidential Misfires

In Early January 2008, Biden Ended His Campaign For President. "The two veteran lawmakers of the Democratic presidential race, Sens. Joseph R. Biden Jr. (Del.) and Christopher J. Dodd (Conn.), abandoned their candidacies after poor showings in last night's Iowa caucuses. Biden, who was elected to the Senate in 1972 and serves as chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, had hoped large crowds in recent weeks would help him earn at least a fourth-place showing. But that support did not materialize, and Biden netted only about 1 percent of delegates, less than half what recent polls had predicted." (Shailagh Murray, "Biden, Dodd Withdraw From Race," [The Washington Post](#), 1/4/08)

BIDEN'S CAMPAIGN WAS PLAGUED FROM THE BEGINNING WITH GAFFES LEADING UP TO AND ON HIS ANNOUNCEMENT DAY

The Day Biden Launched His 2008 Presidential Campaign He Was Forced To Defend Comments He Had Made About His Democratic Rival Barack Obama. "Sen. Joe Biden planned to spend Wednesday focusing on his official announcement that he was running for president, but the Delaware Democrat instead found himself defending remarks he made to the New York Observer about his Democratic opponents. In the article published Wednesday, Biden is quoted evaluating presidential rivals Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton, D-New York, former Sen. John Edwards, D-North Carolina, and Sen. Barack Obama, D-Illinois. His remarks about Obama, the only African-American serving in the Senate, drew the most scrutiny." (Xuan Thai and Ted Barrett, "Biden's Description Of Obama Draws Scrutiny," [CNN](#), 2/9/07)

- **Biden "Spent The Better Part Of The Day Trying To Quell The Furor" And Apologized For The Remark.** "But the talkative Biden spent the better part of the day trying to quell the furor over his remarks. He was peppered with questions from reporters in an afternoon conference call, and late in the day, issued a terse statement, saying: 'I deeply regret any offense my remark in the New York Observer might have caused anyone. That was not my intent and I expressed that to Senator Obama.'" (Sean Alfano, "Biden Apologizes For Obama Blunder," [CBS News](#), 2/1/07)

Controversial Comments From Biden In 2006 Regarding Indian-Americans In Delaware Were Also Brought Up At The Beginning Of His 2008 Campaign. "Biden has made other questionable comments. In a June 2006 appearance in New Hampshire, the senator commented on the growth of the Indian-American population in Delaware by saying, 'You cannot go into a 7-11 or a Dunkin' Donuts unless you have a slight Indian accent. Oh, I'm not joking.'" (Xuan Thai and Ted Barrett, "Biden's Description Of Obama Draws Scrutiny," [CNN](#), 2/9/07)

Leading Up To His Decision To Run, Biden Twice Commented That Delaware's History As A "Slave State" Would Allow Him To Compete Against Southern Candidates. "Two months later, responding to a question in an August interview on Fox News Sunday, Biden was asked how a 'Northeast liberal' could compete against more conservative southern candidates. 'Better than everybody else. You don't know my state. My state was a slave state. My state is a border state. My state is the eighth largest black population in the country. My state is anything from a northeast liberal state,' Biden said. He repeated the comment during a visit to South Carolina in December 2006 at an event before the Columbia Rotary Club, according to a story published in The State newspaper. The State reported that Biden referred to Delaware as a 'slave state that fought beside the North. That's only because we couldn't figure out how to get to the South. There were a couple of states in the way.'" (Xuan Thai and Ted Barrett, "Biden's Description Of Obama Draws Scrutiny," [CNN](#), 2/9/07)

BIDEN'S 2008 CAMPAIGN "NEVER REALLY GOT OFF THE GROUND"

Biden Quit The 2008 Race After "Only About 1 Percent Of Delegates" In Iowa. "Biden, who was elected to the Senate in 1972 and serves as chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, had hoped large crowds in recent weeks would help him earn at least a fourth-place showing. But that support did not materialize, and Biden netted only about 1 percent of delegates, less than half what recent polls had predicted." (Shailagh Murray, "Biden, Dodd Withdraw From Race," [The Washington Post](#), 1/4/08)

The New York Times: "Mr. Biden's Appeal As A National Candidate Is Suspect... His 2008 Campaign Never Really Got Off The Ground." (John M. Broder, "As Running Mate, Biden Offers Foreign Policy Heft But An Insider Image," [The New York Times](#), 8/17/08)

The Hill: "Biden, Whose Presidential Run In 2008 Went Nowhere." (Aaron Blake, "Biden Has Eyes For Presidency," [The Hill's Briefing Room](#), 6/14/13)

The Washington Post's Chris Cillizza: "He [Biden] Was Never Considered Anything More Than A Longshot." (Chris Cillizza, "Obama Picks Biden As V.P.," [The Washington Post's The Fix](#), 8/23/08)

Raising A Total \$11.4 Million, Biden Raised The Sixth Most Amount Of Money Among The Seven Democrat Primary Contenders. (CNN Election Center 2008 [Website](#), Accessed 1/2/14)

- **Biden Fell \$6.8 Million Short Of His \$20 Million Fundraising Goal For The Early Primary States.** "By traditional standards, the \$11.3 million that Biden raised in 2007 was respectable, but his fund-raising fell short of the \$20 million he originally said he'd need to compete in the early primary states." (Center for Responsive Politics [Website](#), Accessed 1/2/14)

Biden Was Fined \$219,000 For Accepting Contributions Over The Legal Limit, Failure To Pay For A Private Jet Ride, And Issuing Checks That Were Never Cashed. "A day after the Federal Elections Commission slapped Joe Biden with a \$219,000 fine for spending violations during his failed presidential bid, a spokeswoman for the vice president is calling the ruling 'commonplace.'" (Alexander Mooney, "FEC Fines Biden More Than \$200,000 For Violations," [CNN](#), 7/17/10)

FLASHBACK: BIDEN'S SECOND PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN ENDED MUCH LIKE HIS FIRST: A FAILURE

In September 1987, Senator Biden Withdrew From The Democratic Presidential Nomination After Accusations Of Plagiarism And Concerns Over His Academic Record Were Raised. "Senator Joseph R. Biden Jr., declaring that his candidacy had been overwhelmed by 'the exaggerated shadow' of his mistakes, dropped out of the race for the Democratic Presidential nomination today... 'I made some mistakes,' said Mr. Biden, who has faced 10 days of news reports on his lifting of sections from the

speeches of others and on his record in college and law school.” (E.J. Dionne Jr., “Biden Withdraws Bid For President In Wake Of Furor,” [The New York Times](#), 9/24/87)

Biden’s Campaign Was Seen As Lacking National Recognition And Only Had 10 Percent Support In The Key Primary State Of Iowa. “Mr. Biden stood at about 10 percent in public opinion polls in Iowa, where the first key nomination test will take place. According to a survey by The Des Moines Register, Mr. Biden's supporters were likely to disperse widely among the remaining Democratic Presidential candidates.” (E.J. Dionne Jr., “Biden Withdraws Bid For President In Wake Of Furor,” [The New York Times](#), 9/24/87)

Biden Was Accused Of Plagiarizing A Speech Originally Given By A British Political Leader On At Least Two Occasions. “Biden was criticized in recent days for failing to credit Kinnock during a speech at a presidential debate at the Iowa State Fair on Aug. 23... Biden has defended his unattributed use of the Kinnock passages and has insisted that he neglected to credit Kinnock only once, during the Democratic debate at the Iowa State Fair Yet three days later, in an Aug. 26 interview taped by the National Education Assn., Biden again failed to credit Kinnock.” (James Risen and Robert Shogan, “Differing Versions Cited On Source Of Passages: Biden Facing New Flap Over Speeches,” [Los Angeles Times](#), 9/16/87)

The Biden Campaign Admitted To Copying Sections Of A Robert F. Kennedy Speech Biden Delivered During A California Campaign Stop. “Meanwhile, Biden campaign officials acknowledged Tuesday that during a California campaign stop earlier this year, Biden also copied sections of old speeches made by Robert F. Kennedy without publicly crediting Kennedy. They confirmed a report in the San Jose Mercury News on Tuesday that, in addressing the state convention of the California Democratic Party in February, Biden quoted or closely paraphrased speeches Kennedy made in the 1960s without crediting Kennedy.” (James Risen and Robert Shogan, “Differing Versions Cited On Source Of Passages: Biden Facing New Flap Over Speeches,” [Los Angeles Times](#), 9/16/87)

Facing Accusations, Biden Admitted To Plagiarizing A Law Review Article During His First Year Of Law School. “Senator Joseph R. Biden Jr., fighting to salvage his Presidential campaign, today acknowledged ‘a mistake’ in his youth, when he plagiarized a law review article for a paper he wrote in his first year at law school... The file distributed by the Senator included a law school faculty report, dated Dec. 1, 1965, that concluded that Mr. Biden had ‘used five pages from a published law review article without quotation or attribution’ and that he ought to be failed in the legal methods course for which he had submitted the 15-page paper.” (E. J. Dionne Jr., “Biden Admits Plagiarism In School But Says It Was Not ‘Malevolent,’” [The New York Times](#), 9/18/87)

When Questioned On His Academic Career, Biden Claimed He Graduated In The Top Half Of His Class, Earned Three Degrees, And Received A Full Scholarship To Law School, All Of Which Were Admitted Or Proved False. “Most of Mr. Biden's statement was in response to a report in this week's issue of Newsweek magazine on a tape recording made by the C-SPAN network of an appearance by Mr. Biden at a home in Claremont, N.H., on April 3. ... He then went on to say that he ‘went to law school on a full academic scholarship - the only one in my class to have a full academic scholarship,’ Mr. Biden said. He also said that he ‘ended up in the top half’ of his class and won a prize in an international moot court competition. In college, Mr. Biden said in the appearance, he was ‘the outstanding student in the political science department’ and ‘graduated with three degrees from college.’ In his statement today, Mr. Biden, who attended the Syracuse College of Law and graduated 76th in a class of 85... Mr. Biden received a single B.A. in history and political science... Newsweek said Mr. Biden had gone to Syracuse ‘on half scholarship based on financial need.’” (E. J. Dionne Jr., “Biden Admits Errors And Criticizes Latest Report,” [The New York Times](#), 9/22/87)

- **When Asked About His Academic Career, Biden Charged That He Had A Higher IQ Than The Questioner.** BIDEN: “I think I probably have a much higher IQ than you do, I suspect. I went to law school on a full academic scholarship... and in fact ended up in the top half of my class... I

graduated with three degrees... I'd be delighted to sit down and compare my IQ to yours." (Sen. Joe Biden, [Remarks At A Campaign Speech](#), Claremont, NH, 4/3/87)

DESPITE HIS PAST FAILED ATTEMPTS, BIDEN IS GEARING UP FOR A THIRD RUN AT THE WHITE HOUSE

A Full 26 Years After Ending His First Presidential Run With "I'll Be Back," Biden Is "Intoxicated" By The Thought Of Running In 2016. "Biden, according to a number of advisers and Democrats who have spoken to him in recent months, wants to run, or at least be well positioned to run, if and when he decides to pull the trigger. Biden has expressed a clear sense of urgency, convinced the Democratic field will be defined quickly — and that it might very well come down to a private chat with Hillary Clinton about who should finish what Barack Obama started. 'He's intoxicated by the idea, and it's impossible not to be intoxicated by the idea,' said a Democrat close to the White House. And the intoxication is hardly new." (Mike Allen, Jonathan Martin, and Jim Vandehei, "Joe Biden 'Intoxicated' By 2016 Run," [Politico's Behind The Curtain](#), 1/23/13)

In September, Biden Was At Sen. Tom Harkin's Annual Fundraiser, Which "Has A Long History Of Attracting Presidential Hopefuls." "U.S. Secret Service agents are already staking out the Iowa Cubs' ballpark in Des Moines. Vice President Joe Biden will be a guest at an invitation-only gathering with U.S. Sen. Tom Harkin on the mezzanine at Principal Park Sunday morning. The private event, a fundraiser for Harkin's political action committee, is scheduled to take place before the big steak fry half an hour south in Indianola later Sunday. The 36-year-old steak fry is one of the signature political events of the year in Iowa and has a long history of attracting presidential hopefuls." (Jennifer Jacobs, "In Iowa Sunday, Biden Will Hit A Ballpark Reception Before Steak Fry," [Des Moines Register](#), 9/11/13)

- **Sen. Harkin's Steak Fry Is A "Marquee Event On The Iowa Democratic Calendar And A Magnet For White House Hopefuls Looking To Curry Favor With Donors And Party Bigwigs In Iowa, Which Kicks Off The Primary Calendar With Its First-In-The-Nation Caucuses."** "Iowa Sen. Tom Harkin's annual steak fry, to be held this year in Indianola in mid-September, is a marquee event on the Iowa Democratic calendar and a magnet for White House hopefuls looking to curry favor with donors and party bigwigs in Iowa, which kicks off the primary calendar with its first-in-the-nation caucuses." (Josh Lederman, "Biden Keeps His Name In The Game For 2016," [The Associated Press](#), 8/12/13)
- **"The Iowa Swing Is The Latest In A String Of Biden Appearances That Further His Ties To Key Primary States."** "Biden's office sought to play down the trip, telling reporters that Biden had committed previously to attending Harkin's event, but couldn't attend in 2012 and took a rain check. But the Iowa swing is the latest in a string of Biden appearances that further his ties to key primary states - starting in Washington on the weekend Obama was inaugurated for his second term." (Josh Lederman, "Biden Keeps His Name In The Game For 2016," [The Associated Press](#), 8/12/13)

"That Biden, 70, Is Still Interested In The Top Job Is Far From A Secret, And In His Current Office, The Writing Is On The Wall." "But Democratic activists and donors say the signals are all too clear when a two-time presidential candidate who is openly entertaining a third run makes the trek to early primary states. 'He's doing the smart thing. He's moving around. He's going to the early states. He's letting folks know he's interested,' said Dick Harpootlian, who chaired the South Carolina Democratic Party until earlier this year. He described the stops as a chance to 'meet all the major players in the Democratic primary process, in one room, in one night.' That Biden, 70, is still interested in the top job is far from a secret, and in his current office, the writing is on the wall." (Josh Lederman, "Biden Keeps His Name In The Game For 2016," [The Associated Press](#), 8/12/13)