



An Ode To Birthday Boy Biden

As Biden Celebrates Another Birthday, His Opponents Have Reasons To Celebrate His Plans For Yet Another White House Run

THIS WEEK, BIDEN'S 2016 AMBITIONS WERE ON FULL DISPLAY IN PANAMA

Yesterday, President Martinelli Of Panama Addressed Biden's 2016 Presidential Ambitions, Suggesting To Him That "You're Going To Be Running Next Time," To Which Biden Replied "Oh, We'll Talk About That." "Vice President Biden was confronted Tuesday on his possible 2016 run for president. On a visit to Panama, Biden greeted the country's president, Ricardo Martinelli, as the two entered his presidential palace. Biden told the Panamanian president he looked good, as people not running for office never do, according to the White House pool report. Martinelli assumed office in 2009, and is limited to a five-year term. 'You're going to be running next time,' Martinelli replied. Biden chuckled, the report said, and appeared somewhat embarrassed. 'Oh, we'll talk about that,' he responded." (Rebecca Shabad, "Panama President Quips That Biden's 'Next' To Run For President," [The Hill's Ballot Box](#), 11/19/13)

- **FLASHBACK: Speaking At An Event To Highlight The Administration's Infrastructure Plan Earlier This Month, Biden Referred To The Panamanian President As "President Martinez."** BIDEN: "Well by, 2015, if they stay on schedule – and I'm heading down to meet with President Martinez in Panama in a couple weeks to go look at the canal and deal with some other things with Panama." (Vice President Joe Biden, [Remarks At CSX Northwest Ohio Intermodal Terminal](#), North Baltimore, OH, 11/6/13)

Martinelli Would Know About Biden's Presidential Ambitions: Biden Cancelled His Earlier Visit To Panama, While Finding Time To Attend A Political Event In Iowa

In September, Biden Canceled A Diplomatic Visit With The Panamanian President. "Vice President Biden canceled a scheduled trip to Panama, a move he hinted earlier this week could be a reaction to the developing situation in Syria. The vice president still plans to visit Savannah, Ga.; Charleston, S.C., and Mexico later this month, the White House said. In Panama, Biden had planned to meet with President Ricardo Martinelli to discuss accelerating regional economic growth. But while visiting the Port of Baltimore on Monday, Biden suggested that he might cancel the trip as the administration lobbied Congress to respond to Syria's alleged chemical weapons use." (Justin Sink, "Biden Scraps Trip To Panama Amid Syria Crisis," [The Hill's Blog Briefing Room](#), 9/12/13)

Yet That Same Week, Biden Attended 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)

BIDEN HAS RECEIVED BETTER BIRTHDAY GIFTS THAN THE RECENT PRESS ABOUT HIS EXPECTED CANDIDACY

New Polling Suggests That “While Biden May Make Everyone Smile, Even Democrats Have A Hard Time Imagining Him As President Of The United States.” “The Internet loves Joe Biden. Tumblr is awash with Biden-inspired sites. A video of Biden swearing in new senators at the start of 2013 has been viewed more than 260,000 times on YouTube. Biden accidentally calling the wrong Marty Walsh went viral last week. But, a new Quinnipiac University poll suggests that while Biden may make everyone smile, even Democrats have a hard time imagining him as president of the United States.” (Chris Cillizza, “The Internet Loves Joe Biden. Here’s Why That’s A Problem,” [The Washington Post’s The Fix](#), 11/13/13)

- **65 Percent Of Registered Voters Say Biden Would Not Make A Good President.** “Just one in four registered voters say they think Biden would make a good president, while 65 percent say he would not. And it’s not just Republicans who are responsible for that low number. A bare majority of Democrats (51 percent) say they think Biden would make a good president, while three in four independents (73 percent) say he would not.” (Chris Cillizza, “The Internet Loves Joe Biden. Here’s Why That’s A Problem,” [The Washington Post’s The Fix](#), 11/13/13)

“The Hail-Fellow-Well-Met-Ness That Makes Him A Sort Of Lovable Rogue — For Many Democrats And Even Some Republicans — Is The Same Trait That Ensures Many Of Those Same People Can’t Take Him Seriously As A President Or Presidential Candidate.” “Here’s the fundamental contradiction that lies at the heart of Joe Biden: The hail-fellow-well-met-ness that makes him a sort of lovable rogue — for many Democrats and even some Republicans — is the same trait that ensures many of those same people can’t take him seriously as a president or presidential candidate.” (Chris Cillizza, “The Internet Loves Joe Biden. Here’s Why That’s A Problem,” [The Washington Post’s The Fix](#), 11/13/13)

“Mr. Biden’s Longtime Political Advisers Grow Easily Exasperated About The Subject And Wonder How A Sitting Vice President Who Was Highly Engaged In The Administration, Especially On Foreign Policy, Can Be So Easily Overlooked In The Presidential Discussion.” “Mr. Biden’s longtime political advisers grow easily exasperated about the subject and wonder how a sitting vice president who was highly engaged in the administration, especially on foreign policy, can be so easily overlooked in the presidential discussion. After all, recent vice presidents, like Al Gore, George Bush and Walter F. Mondale, generally secure their party’s nomination if they seek it. ‘The undercurrent of ‘What about me?’ permeates from the top down in the vice president’s orbit,’ one former administration official said.” (Amy Chozik, “Biden And Clinton: Friends With Awkward Twist,” [The New York Times](#), 9/14/13)

- **Biden’s Camp “Clearly Feels That His Record Is Underappreciated” When Compared To Clinton’s.** “But his camp clearly feels that his record is underappreciated, especially on foreign policy. One person close to the vice president suggested that while Mrs. Clinton elevated important issues surrounding women and girls as secretary of state, Mr. Biden took on tougher questions.” (Amy Chozik, “Biden And Clinton: Friends With Awkward Twist,” [The New York Times](#), 9/14/13)

AND ON ISSUE AFTER ISSUE, BIDEN’S RECORD FOR 2016 WOULD BE ONE OF FAILURE

Biden In 2010: ObamaCare “Is A Big [Expletive] Deal.” “That list included Vice President Biden, who introduced Obama, then leaned toward him amid a storm of applause and slipped into excited profanity.

‘This,’ Biden whispered, louder than he thought, ‘is a big [expletive] deal.’” (Scott Wilson, “Obama Signs Health Care Reform Bill,” [The Washington Post](#), 3/24/10)

- **Biden In 2013: “God Willing” ObamaCare Will Work.** “Vice President Joe Biden is looking to a higher power when it comes to the success of HealthCare.gov. ‘The truth is, we’re going to fix it,’ he said of the website while meeting with volunteers in Houston. ‘God willing,’ he later added.” (Jennifer Epstein, “Biden: ‘God Willing,’ HealthCare.gov Will Work,” [Politico](#) 44, 11/18/13)
- **Due To ObamaCare, Obama Is In The “Middle Of A Credibility Crisis.”** “That’s the natural state of things. President Obama has a particular challenge. He is in a hunkered marathon of damage control. His signature achievement as president is in trouble, polls show Americans trust him less than they ever did, and he’s at that stage in his presidency where his legacy is beginning to be defined. Even the most pure-hearted pilgrim would have to lash himself to the mast to keep from engaging in spin to manage these problems. But when you spin in the middle of a credibility crisis, the garden-variety shadings required by the office can make your problem worse. That’s bad for the president’s standing and for his party, but it’s also bad because it means everything the president says gets a downgrade. If no one listens or believes you, it’s hard to make the case for any good news.” (John Dickerson, Op-Ed, “Obama’s Broken Health Care Promises: Does He Have Any Credibility Left?” [CBS News](#), 11/16/13)

Biden’s “Shorthand” For Why He And Obama’s First Term Was A Success Was “Osama Bin Laden Is Dead And General Motors Is Alive.” “Vice President Joe Biden today told a crowd of re-election campaign donors in Ft. Worth, Texas, that the best way to sum up President Obama’s first term in ‘shorthand’ is with nine succinct words: ‘Osama bin Laden is dead and General Motors is alive.’” (Devin Dwyer, “Biden’s ‘Shorthand’ For First Term: ‘Osama Bin Laden Dead, General Motors Alive,’” [ABC News](#), 1/31/12)

- **Biden Was Against Obama’s Afghanistan Surge As Well As The Raid To Kill Osama Bin Laden.** “Mr. Biden has not always agreed with his president — he was skeptical of the 2009 troop buildup in Afghanistan and the raid to go after Osama bin Laden in 2011 — but he has become Mr. Obama’s go-to player on issues like gun control and fiscal negotiations, sometimes succeeding where the president could not.” (Peter Baker, “Early Line For 2016: A Vice President Who’s An Underdog,” [The New York Times](#), 4/18/13)
- **According To The Most Recent Treasury Department Report On TARP, Taxpayers Have Realized Losses Of \$9.7 Billion From The GM Bailout.** (“Quarterly Report To Congress,” [Office Of The Special Inspector General For The Troubled Asset Relief Program](#), 11/19/13)

Recently, “Former Secretary Of State Hillary Clinton On Tuesday Took Some Indirect Swipes At Vice President Joe Biden At An Off-The-Record Gathering.” “Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton on Tuesday took some indirect swipes at Vice President Joe Biden at an off-the-record gathering, a state representative in attendance told the Atlanta Journal-Constitution.” (Katie Glueck, “Hillary Clinton: I Backed Osama Bin Laden Raid, Joe Biden Didn’t,” [Politico](#), 10/15/13)

- **At The Speech, Clinton Frequently Reminded The Audience That Biden Opposed The Raid To Kill Osama Bin Laden While She Was Among The Action’s “Most Fiercest Advocates.”** “No ears reported any mention of whatever 2016 ambitions Clinton might have. But state Rep. Tom Taylor, R-Dunwoody, said the former first lady dropped a huge hint. ‘I know she’s running for president now, because toward the end, she was asked about the Osama bin Laden raid. She took 25 minutes to answer,’ Taylor said. ‘Without turning the knife too deeply, she put it to [Vice President Joe] Biden.’ Time and time again, Taylor said, Clinton mentioned the vice president’s opposition to the raid, while characterizing herself and Leon Panetta, then director of the Central

Intelligence Agency, as the action's most fierce advocates." (Greg Bluestein and Jim Galloway, "Hearsay From Hillary Clinton: On Joe Biden And The Osama Bin Laden Raid," [The Atlanta-Journal Constitution](#), 10/15/13)

In 2011, Obama Named Biden "Point Man" on Budget Negotiations. "Yet Democrats argue that Biden has called members of Congress every day, reviewed budget proposals that have surfaced between the two sides and has been waiting for staff-level meetings to finish up before he brings the leaders of the debate together to finish the deal. A Democrat familiar with the process told POLITICO that since Obama named Biden as the budget point man on March 2, the vice president has been weighing in if things aren't 'on track.' The leaders of the budget negotiations, like Boehner, don't want to meet with Biden until the debate looks as if it's coming to an end, said the Democrat, who would speak only under the condition of anonymity." (Matt Negrin, "Joe Biden Plays Waiting Game On Budget," [Politico](#), 3/28/11)

- **In 2012, "When President Barack Obama Laid Out His Strategy For The Current Debt-Limit Fight In A Private Meeting With Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid This Past Summer, Reid Stipulated One Condition: No Joe Biden."** "When President Barack Obama laid out his strategy for the current debt-limit fight in a private meeting with Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid this past summer, Reid stipulated one condition: No Joe Biden. And while Biden attended the White House dog-and-pony show meeting last week with congressional leaders, Reid has effectively barred him from the backrooms, according to sources familiar with the situation." (Jonathan Allen and Carrie Budoff Brown, "Power Play: Harry Reid Sidelines Joe Biden," [Politico](#), 10/8/13)
- **Biden Remained "Almost Entirely Out Of The Picture" During The Budget Impasse.** "Biden has been almost entirely out of the picture. While touring flood damage a couple of weeks ago, he told Coloradans that Washington's budget talks were 'probably going to scare the living devil out of you,' but sought to assure his audience that federal emergency efforts would continue regardless." (Jonathan Allen and Carrie Budoff Brown, "Power Play: Harry Reid Sidelines Joe Biden," [Politico](#), 10/8/13)

In 2012, Obama Named Biden To Lead The Administration's Effort Towards Gun Control.

"President Obama is launching an administration-wide effort to curb gun violence, underscoring the growing political consensus over tightening gun restrictions following the horrific massacre at a Connecticut elementary school. Sources confirm to CBS News correspondent Major Garrett that Mr. Obama is tasking Vice President Joe Biden, a longtime gun control advocate, with spearheading the effort." ("Obama Tapping Biden To Lead Multi-Agency Gun Violence Policy Review," [CBS News](#), 12/19/12)

- **October 2013: *Politico* Headline: "Joe Biden On Sidelines In Gun Control Talks."** (Reid J. Epstein, "Joe Biden On Sidelines In Gun Control Talks," [Politico](#), 10/28/13)
- **"Obama's Behind-The-Scenes Plans For Gun Control Go On But Without Vice President Joe Biden."** "President Barack Obama's behind-the-scenes plans for gun control go on but without Vice President Joe Biden. Biden, the White House's public face of and private force behind the push for new gun control laws, and his chief of staff, Bruce Reed, are no longer involved in the long-term planning between the White House and major gun violence prevention groups, officials from several organizations tell POLITICO." (Reid J. Epstein, "Joe Biden On Sidelines In Gun Control Talks," [Politico](#), 10/28/13)

Obama's Own Team Looked Into Replacing Biden With Hillary Clinton Late Last Year

Obama's Top Aides Secretly Considered Replacing Vice President Joseph R. Biden Jr. With Hillary Rodham Clinton On The 2012 Ticket...In Late 2011 When Mr. Obama's Re-Election Outlook Appeared Uncertain. "President Obama's top aides secretly considered replacing Vice President Joseph R. Biden Jr. with Hillary Rodham Clinton on the 2012 ticket, undertaking extensive focus-group sessions and polling in late 2011 when Mr. Obama's re-election outlook appeared uncertain." (Jonathan Martin, "Book Details Obama Aides' Talks About Replacing Biden On 2012 Ticket," [The New York Times](#), 10/31/13)

- **“Mr. Biden, Who May Run For President In 2016, Is Viewed Warily By Mr. Obama’s Circle Not Only For Being A Gaffe-Prone ‘Uncle Joe,’ But Also For, In Their Minds, Being Overly Consumed With His Own Political Future.”** (Jonathan Martin, “Book Details Obama Aides’ Talks About Replacing Biden On 2012 Ticket,” [The New York Times](#), 10/31/13)

“Daley Himself Had Been The Most Vocal Exponent Of Looking Into The Merits Of The Idea” Of Replacing Biden With Hillary On The 2012 Ticket. “But that was the least of what Daley was keeping from Biden . The more explosive details— nuclear, actually— were that the top echelon of Obamaworld had in fact been discussing the wisdom of replacing Biden with Hillary; that, more than discussing it, they had been exploring it, furtively and obliquely, in the campaign’s polling and focus groups; and that Daley himself had been the most vocal exponent of looking into the merits of the idea.” (John Heilemann and Mark Halperin, *Double Down: Game Change 2012, 2013*)