

Harris Vows to 'Earn and Win' Presidential Nomination

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Vice President Kamala Harris, left, and President Joe Biden arrive for an event in the East Room of the White House, May 9, 2024, in Washington. (AP Photo/Evan Vucci, File)

WASHINGTON — Vice President Kamala Harris launched her campaign for the White House Sunday afternoon vowing to “earn and win this nomination” just hours after President Joe Biden withdrew from the 2024 contest.

Harris already has Biden’s endorsement, and that of former President Bill Clinton and former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, and so far appears to be unchallenged for the Democratic presidential nomination, which will be decided at the party’s convention in Chicago next month.

But in something of a surprise, the century’s only other Democratic president, Barack Obama, has so far not thrown his

support behind Harris, a former California attorney general and senator.

In a lengthy statement in which he called Joe Biden “a patriot of the highest order” following the president’s decision to accede to pressure from party leaders and leave the race, Obama didn’t endorse anyone.

Instead, he said, “We will be navigating uncharted waters in the days ahead. But I have extraordinary confidence that the leaders of our party will be able to create a process from which an outstanding nominee emerges.”

As for Harris, she said in a statement that she is honored to have Biden’s endorsement and promised to “do everything in my power to unite the Democratic Party — and unite our nation — to defeat Donald Trump and his extreme Project 2025 agenda.”

But mainly on Sunday she paid tribute to Biden’s “extraordinary leadership,” saying “his remarkable legacy of accomplishment is unmatched in modern American history, surpassing the legacy of many presidents who have served two terms in office.”

“It is a profound honor to serve as his vice president, and I am deeply grateful to the president, Dr. Biden, and the entire Biden family,” Harris continued.

“I first came to know President Biden through his son Beau,” she said. “We were friends from our days working together as attorneys general of our home states. As we worked together, Beau would tell me stories about his dad. The kind of father — and the kind of man — he was.

“The qualities Beau revered in his father are the same qualities, the same values, I have seen every single day in Joe’s leadership as president: His honesty and integrity,” Harris said. “His big

heart and commitment to his faith and his family. And his love of our country and the American people.”

Harris then addressed Biden’s decision to step aside directly, calling it a “selfless and patriotic act.”

In doing so, she said, “President Biden is doing what he has done throughout his life of service: putting the American people and our country above everything else.”

She also had one additional message for members of her party and the Democratic voters alike.

“We have 107 days until Election Day,” she said. “Together, we will fight. And together, we will win.”

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