The Delray Democrat

Biden Has Gen Z's Back and They Have His¹

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Perhaps the best response to the pompous pronouncement by David Ignatius that <u>President Biden</u> should not run again in 2024 was the one by a "Poster To Be Named Later":

"I think David Ignatius is TOO OLD TO BE WRITING THIS COLUMN!!!"

That really nails it, not only with respect to describing Ignatius but the other members of the So-Called Liberal Media who are unwittingly kneecapping Joe Biden's reelection with their obsessions about his age. They may be younger than Biden chronologically but they are far older in their imagining of what is possible.

To paraphrase Robert F. Kennedy, they are the men and women "who see things as they are," and say "why." Biden is the one who "dreams of things that never were, and says 'why not." Biden is younger at 81 than he was at 50.

They didn't believe Biden when he said he could work across the aisle, and for the record, neither did I. But Biden signed the following major bipartisan bills:

- The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act is the largest long-term investment in infrastructure and the economy in American history.
- The Bipartisan Safer Communities Act is the first gun safety legislation in nearly three decades.
- The PACT Act is the biggest expansion of veterans' benefits in over three decades and provides medical care for veterans exposed to toxic chemicals.
- The CHIPS Act invests in microchip production to make America more competitive with China and reduce our reliance on foreign sources for a vital component used by the defense industry. The Act has already sparked \$200 billion in private investments in the United States.

Given the monolithic and malevolent opposition of a party that believes climate change is a "Chinese hoax," coupled with an evenly split Senate in which DINOs Krysten Sinema and Joe Manchin each held their own sword of Damocles, no one thought that even a stripped-down "Green New Deal" could pass, but Biden signed the largest investment in Green Energy in the history of the country.

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In the year since its enactment, that bill has added <u>170,600</u> clean energy jobs and is <u>projected</u> to add 9 million jobs in the next decade. That is the art of the possible.

Continuing to Build Back Better

Just this past week Biden announced two initiatives that will better the lives and futures of Gen Z. The first is the American Climate Corps ("ACC"), something that had been stripped from Biden's legislative wish-list after Joe Manchin attacked it as "a waste of money and "pure socialist wish fulfillment."

Modeled on Franklin Delano Roosevelt's famed Civilian Conservation Corps and established by executive action, the ACC will employ and train 20,000 people "for good-paying careers in the clean energy and climate resilience economy."

According to the <u>Bureau of Labor Statistics</u>, the median salary for green-energy jobs ranged between \$63,750 and \$84,030 in 2021, versus \$45,760 across all jobs.

But the ACC is not simply (or even principally) about "good jobs." It represents President Biden's commitment to the generations that will otherwise inherit a planet that is on life support.

Gun violence is another issue that has a wildly disproportionate impact on Gen Z. Since the mass shooting at Columbine High School in 1999, more than 356,000 students have experienced gun violence at schools in 386 school shootings. Cries of "we must do something" were followed by years of doing nothing.

On Friday, September 23, 2023, Biden did something. He announced the formation of the Office of Gun Violence Prevention. The Office will be headed by Vice President Kamala Harris, who pursued gun safety measures when she served as Attorney General of California. It flows from legislation introduced in the House this March by Representative Maxwell Alejandro Frost and co-sponsored by Senators Chris Murphy and Richard Blumenthal.

Representative Frost (FL-D) is the youngest member of Congress and the first from Gen Z. He explained the importance In his comments introducing President Biden, he explained:

As the youngest member of the United States Congress and the first member from Gen Z, I'm often asked what got me involved in this work, and the answer is quite simple. I didn't want to get shot in school."

Gen Z Has Biden's Back

A recent <u>CBS News Poll</u> in which Biden trails Trump by 1 point is being trumpeted by the SCLM as evidence that voters think Biden is too old. It's not the first time the SCLM has attempted to justify its obsession with Biden's age by claiming that it is merely reporting what voters think.

This is disingenuous, for, as the SCLM well knows, it creates as much as it reports on voter attitudes . . . not only about Biden's age but about inflation and even the economy, "<u>It's the Media</u>, Stupid."

In fact, it seems the SCLM cares more about attracting eyeballs and making a horse race of an election that should be a no-brainer than it cares than educating readers or saving our democracy.

Unmentioned by the SCLM with respect to this poll is the fact that the younger the voter, the greater the support for Biden.

	<30	30-44	45-64	65+
Biden	65%	56%	44%	42%
Trump	35%	44%	55%	58%

Perhaps Gen Z and Millennials are less concerned with Biden's age and more impressed with his achievements and priorities than the loudest voices in the SCLM. This cohort came of age under the last three presidents and watched the country lurch from an inspiring intellectual to a malignant moron to a healer with a heart.

The Bottom Line

Joe Biden deserves a second term. He has earned it. He has been the greatest president since Franklin Delano Roosevelt. He has accomplished more with less than any president in this or the last century (including FDR). No Democrat alive today could have done a better job and no Democrat alive today would do a better job of governing over the next four years. In short, Biden deserves to Finish the Job.