



A BID FOR BIDEN?

WHY JOE WON SOUTH CAROLINA

NAME RECOGNITION: Nyasia Scott says that Joe Biden has relied on his connection to Barack Obama to gain minority votes. “The majority of the votes (for Biden) came from the fact that he was Obama’s vice, again pandering for people of color.” Photo by Sachio Goodie

by Sachio Goodie, Tristan Lankford, Daveon Montgomery, Calvin Williams

Former Vice President Joe Biden’s primary win in South Carolina on February 29, 2020 was a larger victory than he or his campaign could have possibly expected. After Biden’s massive delegate win, Pete Buttigieg and Amy Klobuchar dropped out, and both endorsements went to Biden.

Bidens’ poll numbers surged resulting in a victorious Super Tuesday, winning 610 delegates and 11 states compared to Bernie Sanders’ 538 delegates and 5 states. Receiving three in five votes among black voters, Biden’s support is entrenched in older black voters.

Marsha Brown is the founder and owner of “Marsha Marsha Jewelry”, where once a year she gathers jewels from Tucson, Arizona to create necklaces and bracelets for her business. As a Columbia resident, Brown’s political stance is mirrored by her age and race demographic in the polls.

In the exit polls, Biden garnered 77% of support among black voters over 60, while Sanders’ only amassed 8%.

“I think Biden is the most qualified and experienced candidate, and in terms of

someone that could challenge Trump, he’s probably the best person,” said Brown.

Many voters like Brown believe that Biden is a suitable opponent to face-off against President Donald Trump in November.

“Since Trump has been in office, it seems like the country has become more divisive and I think we need someone that is going to bring us back together, said Brown.

In contrast to the support from older black voters, the gap decreases as the age declines. Biden only had 40% of support among black voters aged 17 to 29 and Sanders had 36%.

“The majority of Bidens’ votes came because he was Obama’s vice president,” said University of South Carolina nursing and psychology major Nyasia Scott. “People tend to go off of who they know rather than doing research and making a decision.”

Scott is among the percentage of young black voters who have not hopped on the Biden campaign opposed to their elders. Being born in Newark, New Jersey, environmental issues have played a big role is

Scotts’ life.

“Living in New Jersey is not great. It’s densely populated and the air quality is low due to pollution. There aren’t a lot of trees and you can’t see the stars,” said Scott.

Due to an inability to discuss his own environmental plan, Scott is not sure Biden is the best choice.

“Water levels are rising, Florida is probably going to be below sea level within the next 70 years, and we are fracking in the South. I think that is something we should be talking about,” she said.

“There was a lot of politicking and pandering to minorities in the debates. You don’t have to pander to me. Telling me what you are going to do and how you are going to do it is what’s important to me,” said Scott.

The idea to nominate Biden because he’s better equipped to go to war in the debate room this fall against the current president is a controversial one.

“We need to choose someone best for our country, we’re already taking down Trump. That’s what we have impeachment for,” said

Scott.

Joe Biden's moderate policies attract voters who seek unity among the American people, which gives him an edge over his competition.

"I like Bernie Sanders and his policies as well, but I didn't think he was very realistic for the times we live in," said Brown. "Maybe in the next 10 or 15 years, but I feel like Biden is the best person for the job at this time."

David Washington, a student at Midland Tech, believes both Biden and Sanders would make formidable nominations.

"I feel like Bernie's big issue is his physical health because it's reminiscent of the situation John McCain when he was running. He was just too old," said Washington. "In either case, Democrats cannot go wrong with their nomination," he said.

Although Washington approves of both

candidates, he believes that Bidens standing with the older black population will ultimately lead him to victory.

"I think older people want Biden because he represents Obama and a time before Trump. Young people just aren't into it. With all the corruption and stuff last election, this generation of people don't like to really deal with it," said Washington.

Biden's connection with President Obama and perceived ability to dethrone the president trumps any position or policy that Sanders had. South Carolina's results represented the thoughts of Democrats' "New Hope."

"I don't think that (Biden winning the 2020 presidency) would determine if my business would expand, but I just feel like it would change up the personality of the United States," said Brown.



A NEW HOPE: After coming off a press conference discussing his recent success in the polls, Vice President Biden displayed high emotion. "He has some of the same policies as President Obama, so with Biden I think it will be a continuation of what we have and I was already happy with that," Marsha Brown said. Photo by Frederic J. Brown/AFP via Getty Images.

SOUTH CAROLINA PRIMARY RESULTS

**BIDEN
RECEIVED
77%**
black voters over 60
***Bernie Sanders received 8%**

