



## COALITIONS COMING OUT IN SUPPORT OF VP HARRIS – THE BENEFIT OF UPLIFTING GOP VOICES

The outpouring of excitement, enthusiasm, energy and level of engagement (from volunteering to donating) witnessed since the decision of President Biden to pass the torch to the next generation literally knows no bounds. The speed, the breadth and the depth of the support are rising ever higher each day and are unprecedented in the annals of electoral politics. From an engagement perspective, there is every coalition imaginable, from lawyers for Biden to Dead Heads for Biden (and there may well be some overlap between the two). My email update this morning lists Progressives for Harris, Business Leaders for Harris, Founders for Harris, VC for Harris, [Women for Harris](#), [Out for Harris](#), [Black Voters for Harris](#), [Latinos for Harris](#), [AANHPIS for Harris](#), [Students for Harris](#), [Seniors for Harris](#), [Educators for Harris](#), [Health Care Providers for Harris](#) and [Veterans and Military Families for Harris](#). And perhaps most heartening: [Republicans for Harris](#).

Republicans for Harris was launched with endorsements of the Vice President from a range of Republican officials and lawmakers, including former Trump White House officials Stephanie Grisham (press secretary) and Olivia Troye (national security adviser to VP Mike Pence); former Secretaries Chuck Hagel (Defense) and Ray LaHood (Transportation); former Governors Jim Edgar, Bill Weld and Christine Todd Whitman; former U.S. House members Rod Chandler, Tom Coleman, Dave Emery, Wayne Gilchrest, Jim Greenwood, Adam Kinzinger, John LeBoutillier, Susan Molinari, Jack Quinn, Denver Riggleman, Claudine Schneider, Christopher Shays, Peter Smith, Alan Steelman, David Trott and Joe Walsh; and former GOP Washington State Chair and State Senator Chris Vance, among others.

This evening it was [reported](#) that a North Carolina chapter of Republicans for Harris had been launched by a US Army veteran, a former Republican justice of the State Supreme Court and a local GOP activist. An Arizona chapter [reportedly](#) has been formed as well.

While there have been anti-Trump efforts in the past, including the Lincoln Project and Republican Voters Against Trump launched by Sarah Longwell, Republicans for Harris add an additional dimension. These Republican voices could be hugely important to validate support for the Vice President among conservative voters who might not otherwise be motivated, such as moderate women concerned about reproductive freedom, to vote for Democratic candidates. Founding supporters of Republicans for Harris have [volunteered](#) that they should not be seen as just one more set of names on a list. They [reportedly](#) intend to function as a campaign within a campaign, focused on activating GOP voices “to speak to their friends and family about the importance of voting for the Vice President.” It means meeting conservatives where they are – in their local communities, colleges and universities, churches and the like.

The potentially persuadable conservative voter has been a demographic that Democrats have tended too often to overlook. Groups such as American Bridge, as far back as 2018,



recognized the benefit of messaging in rural, and heavily conservative, areas, typically by deploying local voices with credibility borne of having voted for Trump in the previous election, not to win, but to lose less badly.

The opportunity is to tap into a new type of single-issue voter. While many may disagree with policies and positions that the Vice President embraces (and not long ago would have found voting for a Democrat hard to imagine) and while there are variations on the theme, they have the chance to coalesce around one single imperative: Trump must be defeated at the ballot box in 2024. Whatever the Vice President may represent, she in no way is an existential threat to fundamental values and ideals of America. For some, as was the case in 2022, the motivation is the protection of reproductive freedoms. For others, it may be fear of four more years of chaos in their lives if Trump unleashes his revenge and retribution agenda. For yet others, January 6<sup>th</sup> represented the final straw. For many veterans inspired by the sacrifice of the men and women with whom they served and who gave their lives to defend the country and the Constitution – simply put, Trump is unfit to serve as Commander-in-Chief because of his total disdain for the military, whom he accused of being “suckers” and “losers.” Veterans may also be inspired by the passage of the PACT Act in 2022.

We should not only welcome the efforts of those Republicans who are publicly associating themselves with the Vice President, as their voices of validation are invaluable, but we should also recognize the journey that they have undertaken to speak out and the courage it takes to do so. They know all too well (perhaps better than the rest of us) that, should Trump win, they could well be targeted for standing up to Trump.

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