

## Politics

## Trump focuses on his base

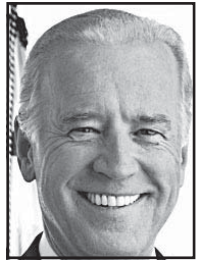
## Biden eyes disaffected Republican supporters

WASHINGTON, July 20, (AP): In the four months since Joe Biden effectively won the Democratic presidential nomination, he has focused on consolidating the party's divergent and often warring factions. As the closing stretch of the campaign nears, that effort will expand to include Republicans disaffected with President Donald Trump.

Former Ohio Gov. John Kasich, a Republican and frequent Trump critic, has been approached and is expected to speak at the Democratic National Convention on Biden's behalf next month, according to a person with direct knowledge of the plans who requested anonymity to discuss strategy. Kasich is among a handful of high-profile Republicans likely to become more active in supporting Biden in the fall.

Trump, meanwhile, is doing virtually nothing to expand his appeal beyond his most loyal supporters. Some GOP operatives believe the suburbs are lost while a contingent of high-profile Republicans are openly questioning the president's reelection message. In an acknowledgment of the mounting challenges, Trump named a new campaign manager last week.

With about 100 days until Election Day, there's time for sudden developments that could shift the trajectory of the campaign. The Friday announcement that Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg's cancer has returned was a reminder of the potential volatility ahead. In 2016 Trump effectively used the prospect of Supreme Court appointments to win over conservatives who otherwise



Biden

found him distasteful.

And in crucial battleground states such as Florida, some Democrats are concerned that Biden's current standing could be a high-water mark. Some polls suggest Biden's strength comes more from voters' displeasure with Trump than excitement over Biden himself, whose regular gaffes, long Washington record, and recent attempts to appease progressives leave him in a tougher spot than some Democrats would like to believe.

Florida Agriculture Commissioner Nikki Fried, the only Democrat elected to statewide office there, praised Biden's message and said he could appeal to rural and middle-class voters. But she says "it's way too early" to predict a victory.

"As we get closer, polls are going to get tighter," Fried said. That happened in 2016 when Trump narrowly won the election after trailing Hillary Clinton in the polls for months. The Democrats' reluctance to enjoy the current moment reflects the sting of that loss, Biden's nagging vulnerabilities and Trump's mountain of campaign cash.

Trump's campaign has reserved \$146 million in television advertising this fall led by a \$36.3 million investment in Florida alone, according to data compiled by Advertising Analytics. That's more than double the next closest state, Ohio, where Trump has reserved \$18.4 million. Biden, so far, hasn't reserved any fall advertising, although he's amassed a fortune in recent months that will allow him to compete, even if he can't match Trump dollar for dollar.

Trump this fall plans to spend big trying to flip at least three states Democrats carried in 2016, according to the advertising reserves, which show he's investing \$14 million in Minnesota, \$6.7 million in New Hampshire and \$6.1 million in Nevada.

While the specific ads have yet to be finalized, Trump's team signaled it was preparing to ramp up attacks on Biden's record and mental competence designed to "redefine" the lifelong politician and scare away tentative supporters.

Underlying the strategy is a risky assumption that the coronavirus and related economic devastation will improve before voting begins.

"A lot of people know Joe Biden. They don't know about Joe Biden's record. Right now, he is this blank canvas," said Nick Trainer, the Trump campaign's director of delegates and party organization. "As they get more and more information about what Joe Biden's done and what he'll do, I'm more and more confident."

With early voting set to begin in several states in just two months, however, there are no signs yet that the strategy is helping Trump expand his support.

Republicans working on congressional races across several battleground states believe the nation's suburbs, where higher-educated white voters have traditionally favored the GOP, are almost completely lost for Trump. These voters, they warn, are more intensely opposed to Trump's reelection than they were during the 2018 midterm elections, when a suburban backlash allowed Democrats to seize the House majority.



President Donald Trump speaks during a campaign rally in Tulsa, Oklahoma, Saturday, June 20, 2020. Trump demoted his campaign manager, high-profile supporters are openly questioning his reelection message, and he risks losing the confidence of voters across the political spectrum because of his erratic leadership during the pandemic. (AP)

## Politics

## Polls show him lagging behind Biden

## Trump refuses to commit to poll results

WASHINGTON, July 20, (AP): President Donald Trump is refusing to publicly commit to accepting the results of the upcoming White House election, recalling a similar threat he made weeks before the 2016 vote, as he scoffs at polls showing him lagging behind Democrat Joe Biden. Trump says it's too early to make such an ironclad guarantee.

"I have to see. Look ... I have to see," Trump told moderator Chris Wallace during a wide-ranging interview on "Fox News Sunday." "No, I'm not going to just say yes.

I'm not going to say no, and I didn't last time either."

The Biden campaign responded: "The American people will decide this election. And the United States government is perfectly capable of escorting trespassers out of the White House."

Trump also hammered the Pentagon brass for favoring renaming bases that honor Confederate military leaders — a drive for change spurred by the national debate about race after George Floyd's death. "I don't care what the military says," the commander in chief said.

The president described the nation's top infectious diseases expert, Dr. Anthony Fauci, as a "a little bit of an alarmist" about the coronavirus pandemic, and Trump stuck to what he had said back in February — that the virus is "going to disappear." On Fox, he said, "I'll be right eventually." The United States tops the global death toll list with over 140,000 and confirmed infections, with 3.7 million.

It is remarkable that a sitting president would express less than complete confidence in the American democracy's electoral process.

But for Trump, it comes from his insurgent playbook of four years ago, when in the closing stages of his race against Hillary Clinton, he said he would not commit to honoring the election results if the Democrat won.

Pressed during an October 2016 debate about whether he would abide by the voters' will, Trump responded that he would "keep you in suspense." The president's remarks to Fox are certain to fuel conversation on Capitol Hill, where lawmakers had already been airing concerns in private about a scenario in which Trump disputes the election results.

Trump has seen his presidential popularity erode over his handling of the coronavirus pandemic and in the aftermath of nationwide protests centered on racial injustice that erupted after Floyd's death in Minneapolis nearly two months.



Seattle Police officers hold weapons as they stand guard outside the East Precinct Building, Sunday, July 19, 2020 in Seattle. Protesters broke windows at the building earlier in the afternoon. (AP)

## America

**Kanye West criticizes Tubman:** Rapper Kanye West, in his first event since declaring himself a presidential candidate, ranted against historical figure Harriet Tubman on Sunday, saying the Underground Railroad conductor "never actually freed the slaves, she just had them work for other white people," comments that drew shouts of opposition from some in the crowd.

West delivered a lengthy monologue, touching on topics from abortion and religion to international trade and licensing deals, before a crowd in North Charleston, South Carolina. Whether he is actually

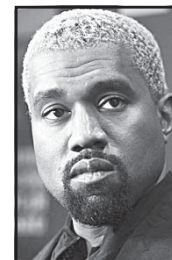
seeking the nation's highest office remains a question.

Tubman is one of the most respected figures of 19th century America. An African American who escaped slavery, she helped enslaved Black men and women travel north to freedom and fought for the Union during the Civil War. She later became a supporter of women's suffrage. (AP)

100 apply to replace Lewis: A select



Lewis



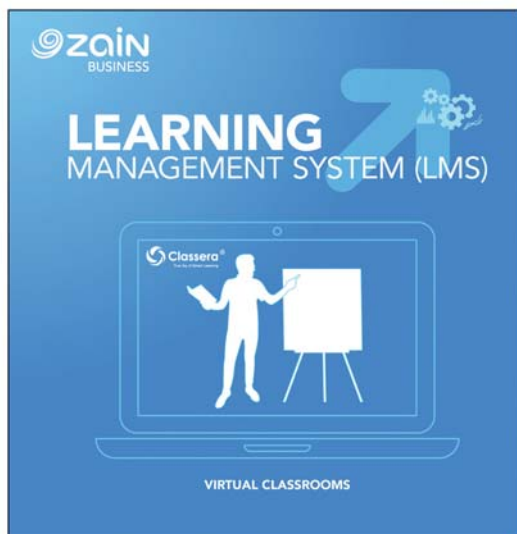
Kanye

group of Georgia Democrats will sift through more than 100 applications Monday to decide who will replace Rep. John Lewis on the November ballot, after the longtime congressman's death last week.

The Democratic Party of Georgia said it received 131 applications by its Sunday evening deadline, as the group works to quickly fill the ballot spot for the 5th Congressional District, which includes parts of Atlanta, per state law. (AP)

Complete set of e-learning services to meet education sector's needs

## Zain offers distance learning solutions in partnership with Classera



Zain, the leading digital service provider in Kuwait, announced the offering of distance learning services and solutions to corporate customers in partnership with Classera, a global leader in e-learning platforms. Through this partnership, Zain offers a complete set of e-learning services to meet the needs of the education sector during the COVID-19 pandemic over Zain's superfast network.

Zain's offering of these solutions comes in line with the company's belief in the importance of continuing the education process amid the exceptional circumstances the country is currently undergoing. As a leading Kuwaiti private sector organization, Zain is extremely keen on making its tech capabilities available to serve the needs of Kuwait's public and private education organizations as per the highest international standards by offering world-class distance learning solutions.

Zain now offers a complete set of e-learning services in partnership with Classera, an internationally renowned online platform with several e-learning and digital transformation awards. Classera, which serves over 3 million users in more than 14 countries around the world, offers virtual school solutions that are in line with the digital transformation goals of public and private schools in Kuwait. The solutions comprehensively serve Kuwait's schools' needs, especially urgent ones due to the current COVID-19 pandemic. Classera's solutions are bundled with Zain's superfast Internet via a variety of flexible plans to guarantee the best operational efficiency.

Classera's services and solutions, offered by Zain, include a wide range of unique features, such as Learning Management System, Student Information System, Student Behavior Management System, Advanced Student Attendance Management, social learning, adaptive learning (Smart Mate), virtual classrooms, Bursar System, Assessment System, surveys and evaluations, Gradebook System, Messaging System, student calling, System Intelligence & BI, e-certificates, training management, announcements, instant notifications, and much more.

Zain strongly believes in the crucial role played by private sector organizations in supporting social and economic sustainability projects, especially during crises. Springing from its growing commitment towards practicing its social responsibility, the company is committed to printing a positive print through all its activities. This has led Zain to embrace the most crucial issues in the community, including the support of the country's education process by making its tech capabilities available.

The First of Its Kind Service in Kuwait

## Burgan Bank Introduces "Tijarati" to Support Local Businesses



Raed A. Al Haqhaq

In line with its support to Corporate businesses, particularly small and medium-sized enterprises (SME's), Burgan Bank is pleased to announce a first-of-its-kind service in Kuwait named "Tijarati". Designed exclusively for the business community, the mobile application, "Tijarati" provides real-time data feed and information to business owners and entrepreneurs of their cash flow through the point of sale machines /payment gateways provided by Burgan Bank across all the outlets.

Driven by a customer-centric approach, the launch of the new application comes as part of Burgan Bank's dynamic digital strategy to understand and address the current needs of its diverse customers and gaps that exist in the market presently.

Presently, business owners had to wait for the next working day to ascertain the funds which would be credited to the account along with the details

of the transactions." Tijarati" provides real-time dashboards, reports and aids in any service request and tracking of the same and is accessible from computers, tablets and mobile devices while being visually appealing and user-friendly.

"With the launch of "Tijarati", we are building on providing our customers with market-leading solutions to meet their growing expectations and also make them self-reliant. This application, which is the first of its kind service in Kuwait, will enable all customers to manage their fund flow on a real time basis and provide a single view over multiple locations, thereby delivering Burgan Bank corporate customers with the option to do just about everything that can be done in our branches, but online and at their own convenience," stated Mr. Raed A. Al Haqhaq Deputy Group CEO & Chief Executive Officer-Kuwait. "We at the bank have been focusing on enhancing our technological services to make banking experiences better for all our clients. With this new offering, we are providing our clients with a convenient and hassle-free option of interacting with the bank for all their financial needs. While developing the platform, the bank was constantly engaged with clients to understand their needs and expectations in order to develop a platform that will respond to their present-day needs. Future planned releases will enable us to provide more personalization based on the client's relationship with us."

To know more about Burgan Bank's latest offers, or any of its products and services, customers can visit any of the bank's branches or Burgan Banks Instagram page on @BurganBankKuwait or contact the call center on 1804080, or contact us via WhatsApp number 1804080.