# Democrats Rally Behind Biden Despite Shaky Debate Performance



On June 28, 2024, Democratic leaders expressed support for President Joe Biden despite his shaky performance in the first presidential debate. Key figures, including former House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries, and Representative Ro Khanna, downplayed concerns about Biden's performance and dismissed suggestions for him to step aside. Pelosi emphasized Biden’s values over the performance, and Khanna vouched for the party's policies rather than the president alone.

Concerns were voiced regarding the impact on the party's prospects in the upcoming elections, including both the White House and Congress. Representative James E. Clyburn compared the situation to a baseball game, saying Biden might have had his first strike but is encouraged to stay the course. Other representatives, like Jasmin Crockett and Adriano Espaillat, avoided commenting on the debate.

While Republicans highlighted Biden's age, Democrats redirected criticism towards Trump's policies and rhetoric. Representative Pramila Jayapal and Senator John Fetterman defended Biden, focusing on the implications of a Trump presidency.

Nonetheless, supporters are urging the White House to better articulate Biden's re-election message. Biden, 81, trails Trump, 78, in various swing state polls, intensifying concern as the election approaches.