

<https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/live/2024/may/29/biden-election-trump-politics-latest-updates>

APPROX. 1 HOURS AFTER I POSTED THE ABOVE ARTICLE THE TERRORIST GROUP ATTEMPTS DAMAGE CONTROL AND MENTIONS BOTH SHARON AND/OR JAMES S. BRIDGEWATER “BIRTH CITY” SAGINAW, MICHIGAN(OF ALL PLACES ON THE PLANET EARTH TO MENTION)

Biden campaign accuses Trump of 'anti-Black agenda'

With **Joe Biden** and **Kamala Harris** set to debut their outreach effort to Black voters at a joint rally in Philadelphia today, their re-election campaign accused **Donald Trump** of merely paying lip service to African Americans.

“To no surprise, the Trump campaign has no real outreach or engagement plan to reach Black voters. Unlike our campaign, Trump believes that he does not need to put in any effort to earn the support of Black America,” the Biden-Harris campaign said in a statement that accused Trump of “running on an anti-Black agenda”.

“Trump used his time in the Oval Office to make life worse for Black America, and if reelected, he will go to enormous lengths to undermine and hurt Black communities by repealing Obamacare and ripping away health care from millions of Black Americans, continue to divide the nation by emboldening white supremacists, and support policy that works to widen the racial wealth gap. And even if he did have a positive agenda for Black Americans, he doesn’t have the resources or support to tell it.”

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9m ago 14.15 EDT

Chris Christie has some debate advice for Biden: “Don’t engage”

On an episode of Hacks on Tap, a political podcast, Christie, the former New Jersey governor and GOP presidential candidate, urged Biden to keep quiet while debating [Donald Trump](#).

“I don’t care how angry you get about how absolutely incorrect the stuff he’s saying about your record is, about your family, about you personally. Don’t engage, because you will lose that fight,” he said.

Christie, a former Trump ally, said it was the same advice he gave Trump in 2020 “that he did not follow”.

Biden and Trump will have their [first 2024 presidential debate](#) on 27 June.

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Updated at 14.20 EDT

25m ago 13.59 EDT

In his letter to Democratic senators, Samuel Alito placed the blame on his wife for flying flags connected to rightwing causes, but says he does not think the incidents require him to recuse himself from weighing in on cases related to January 6 or the 2020 election.

He restated that [the upside-down American flag](#) displayed at his Virginia property was put up by his wife **Martha-Ann Alito** after a dispute with their neighbor, and noted that the law did not allow him to do anything about it:

As I have stated publicly, I had nothing whatsoever to do with the flying of that flag. I was not even aware of the upside-down flag until it was called to my attention. As soon as I saw it, I asked my wife to take it down, but for several days, she refused. My wife and I own our Virginia home jointly. She therefore has the legal right to use the property as she sees fit, and there were no additional steps that I could have taken to have the flag taken down more promptly.

According to his version of events, the vibes in his neighborhood were pretty bad:

My wife’s reasons for flying the flag are not relevant for present purposes, but I note that she was greatly distressed at the time due, in large part, to a very nasty neighborhood dispute in which I had no involvement. A house on the street displayed a sign attacking her personally, and a man who was living in the house at the time trailed her all the way down the street and berated her in my presence using foul language, including what I regard as the vilest epithet that can be addressed to a woman.

The [“Appeal to Heaven” flag](#) raised at the Alito’s New Jersey beach house was one of many flags his wife displayed there, Alito wrote:

I recall that my wife did fly that flag for some period of time, but I do not remember how long it flew. And what is most relevant here, I had no involvement in the decision to fly that flag. My wife is fond of flying flags. I am not. My wife was solely responsible for having flagpoles put up at our residence and our vacation home and has flown a wide variety of flags over the years. In addition to the American flag, she has flown other patriotic flags (including a favorite flag thanking veterans), college flags, flags supporting sports teams, state and local flags, flags of nations from which the ancestors of family members came, flags of places we have visited, seasonal flags, and religious flags.

He denies knowing anything about its connections to Donald Trump's lies about the 2020 election:

I was not familiar with the "Appeal to Heaven" flag when my wife flew it. She may have mentioned that it dates back to the American Revolution, and I assumed she was flying it to express a religious and patriotic message. I was not aware of any connection between this historic flag and the "Stop the Steal Movement," and neither was my wife. She did not fly it to associate herself with that or any other group, and the use of an old historic flag by a new group does not necessarily drain that flag of all other meanings.

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Updated at 14.01 EDT

43m ago 13.41 EDT

Alito rejects calls to recuse himself from 2020 election case over controversial flags

Conservative supreme court justice **Samuel Alito** has refused demands from Democrats to recuse himself from cases dealing with the 2020 election after reports emerged of rightwing flag being flown at two of his properties.

"The two incidents you cite do not meet the conditions for recusal ... and I therefore have an obligation to sit," Alito wrote in a letter to Senate judiciary committee chair **Dick Durbin** and senator **Sheldon Whitehouse**, both Democrats.

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Updated at 13.49 EDT

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Remind me in July



55m ago 13.30 EDT

The day so far

We are expecting **Joe Biden** and **Kamala Harris** to, in a few minutes, hold [a joint rally in Philadelphia](#) to debut their effort to mobilize Black voters behind their re-election campaign. The group was crucial to their 2020 election victory, and will undoubtedly play that role again in the November rematch against **Donald Trump**, whom the Biden campaign today [accused of pursuing](#) an “anti-Black agenda”. Speaking of Trump, the former president may soon be a convicted felon – or not. The New York city jury that has spent weeks hearing arguments from both sides over whether he is guilty of committing business fraud has [begun their deliberations](#), and a verdict could come at any time.

Here's what else has happened today, so far:

- **The New York Times** [found holes](#) in conservative supreme court justice **Samuel Alito**'s explanation of the controversial flag found flying outside his house.
- **Jill Biden** [predicted](#) her husband's poll numbers would improve as the election draws nearer.
- **Abandon Biden**, which is encouraging voters to deny the president a second term over his support for Israel's war in Gaza, [plans to protest](#) his rally in Philadelphia.

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1h ago 13.16 EDT

As the jury heard closing arguments in Donald Trump's business fraud trial yesterday, Michael Fanone, a former Washington DC police officer who defended the US Capitol on January 6, appeared at Biden-campaign organized press conference outside the courthouse to denounce the ex-president. Hours later, the Virginia home of Fanone's mother was targeted in a “swatting” attack, the Guardian's [Erum Salam](#) reports:

The home of the mother of Michael Fanone, a [Washington DC](#) police officer who nearly died in the 6 January 2021 attack on the US Capitol, was “swatted” on Tuesday night.

An unnamed person who had written a manifesto seen by NBC falsely claimed they had killed Fanone's mother and would go to Fanone's old high school on Wednesday and shoot people. The manifesto listed Fanone's mother's address in [Virginia](#).

Fanone's father was also targeted in the manifesto but was out of the country at the time. He called swatting calls like the one aimed at his parents "incredibly fucking dangerous".

Fanone [told NBC News](#): "How dangerous is it to send law enforcement to an address in which you essentially are describing an active shooter, in which the only person present is a 78-year-old fucking woman."

Fanone spoke of how horrified his mother was that night to open the door and be met with Swat team officers while in her nightgown.

Fairfax county police assisted in an investigation into the swatting call.

Fanone said the swatting incident likely happened as a "direct result" of the public appearances he makes speaking out against [Donald Trump](#).

[Virginia home of mother of January 6 police officer swatted](#)

[Read more](#)

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1h ago 13.01 EDT

Millions and millions of Americans will, in November, cast ballots for Joe Biden and [Donald Trump](#).

But it will be a small group of voters in an even smaller number of politically divided states whose votes will be decisive to the outcome, thanks to America's electoral college system. The Guardian's [Adam Gabbatt](#) explains how the controversial arrangement works in this edition of his newsletter The Stakes, which you can sign up for [here](#):

[How a small number of Americans will decide the election](#)

[Read more](#)

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2h ago 12.36 EDT

In an interview on ABC's daytime talkshow staple The View, first lady Jill Biden was asked about her husband's persistently low approval ratings.

Here's what she had to say:

Joe Biden is meanwhile on his way to Philadelphia, for a rally alongside **Kamala Harris** to announced a new campaign effort to mobilize Black voters. The president departed the White House, without taking questions from reporters assembled to see him off.

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Updated at 12.37 EDT

2h ago 12.16 EDT

For all the media attention on Donald Trump's trial in New York city, the Guardian's Tom Perkins reports that voters in swing state Michigan are focused on the impacts inflation has had on their lives – and who is to blame for it. Here's more of his reporting from Saginaw, a city that has oscillated between Trump and Biden in recent elections:

Joe Biden should be worried about Janel Turner, owner of Kreole Qweenz, a gumbo shop in downtown Saginaw, [Michigan](#).

Turner represents the intersection of the kind of residents with whom the president is struggling: millennial and Black, with doubts about Biden. Turner said she voted independent last time around, and with a laugh, added she won't say for sure who she'll support in November.

But her small business, retirement and social security are a worry, and Donald Trump "may just be a better fit with the economy", Turner added. "A lot of people I know are in the same boat."

Whoever wins November's election will almost certainly pull significant support from Saginaw, Michigan. Saginaw, which is 46% African American, is a must-win swing county in a must-win swing state. Those who know the region's electorate say it historically leans Democratic, but is increasingly independent. The former president won in 2016, Biden won 2020 – both by razor-thin margins.

Top of mind for Turner and many like her is the economy. Though broad level, national economic data is generally positive and should be propelling Biden's re-election campaign, polling shows there's [discontent and doubt](#), and that comes through when talking with voters here.

Economically discontented young people in Michigan may play an outsized role in determining the next president, according to pollsters and economists. April polling found 19% of 18-34 years olds were most concerned about the economy, more than three times the rate of the oldest age bracket.

['Bidenomics' is not convincing Michigan's must-win swing county. Will voters turn back to Trump?](#)