# Biden Faces Challenges in Philadelphia: Black Voter Support Wanes



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President Joe Biden is experiencing decreased support among Black voters in Philadelphia, a key demographic and vital component of his 2020 coalition. Despite intensified efforts by Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris to engage Black voters, interviews with nearly two dozen Black residents in Philadelphia revealed waning enthusiasm.

Key concerns among these voters include the cost of living, immigration issues, and a perception that Biden is more focused on international crises than local problems. While eight voters affirmed their commitment to Biden, others indicated they might not vote or are considering supporting his opponent, former President Donald Trump.

Recent polling highlights this erosion of support. A New York Times/Philadelphia Inquirer/Siena College survey showed Biden’s approval among Black voters in Pennsylvania at 69%, down from 79% in June 2020. Biden’s campaign is responding with significant investments in Black media and community outreach, aiming to bridge the gap by Election Day.

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania’s largest city and a historically significant region for Democratic votes, remains crucial for Biden’s re-election efforts. Democratic strategists like Isaiah Thomas are working to mobilize Black voters, recognizing the difficulty in galvanizing support for Biden compared to opposing Trump.

Efforts include distributing resources and policy highlights, alongside public endorsements from influential figures like Representative James E. Clyburn. Despite these measures, the challenge of overcoming voter apathy and opposition persists as Biden aims to reassemble his 2020-winning coalition.