# Independent Presidential Candidate Robert F. Kennedy Jr. Criticises Trump and Biden's COVID-19 Response at Libertarian National Convention



Independent presidential candidate Robert F. Kennedy Jr. gave a speech at the Libertarian National Convention in Washington, D.C., on Friday, May 24, 2024. Kennedy, who became an independent candidate in October 2023, addressed the crowd an hour later than scheduled, focusing on criticisms of former President Donald Trump's and current President Joe Biden's handling of the COVID-19 pandemic. He argued that the Constitution’s Bill of Rights does not offer a "pandemic exception."

Kennedy criticized Trump’s lockdown measures, which were actually state-level decisions, and condemned both administrations for limiting individual liberties. His remarks about choosing not to wear a mask during the pandemic drew strong reactions from the audience. The loudest cheers came when he praised Julian Assange and Edward Snowden, pledging to pardon Snowden and drop charges against Assange if elected.

The event also saw Kennedy juxtaposed against other non-Libertarian speakers like Trump, slated to address the convention the following day, sparking debate among Libertarians about non-party figures being given such a platform. Observers noted differing levels of support within the audience, with Kennedy receiving mixed reactions.