

Joe Biden's Relationship With Labor Unions Is Showing Major Cracks Due To His Economic Failures

Joe Biden Counted on his Longtime Union Allies to Win the Presidency

Did you know...?

When Joe Biden announced he would run for president in 2019, **his strong ties to organized labor were considered crucial** to him being able to compete in the Democratic Primary.

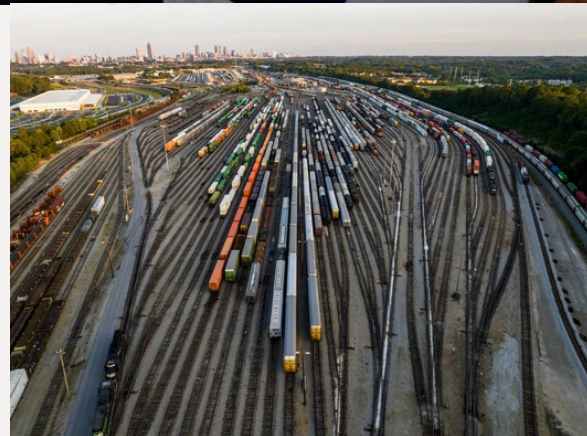
[Read more at Politico →](#)

Joe Biden has subsequently seen his relationship with Big Labor deteriorate, due to labor unrest across the country and economy. **As a result, the modern Labor Union is more skeptical of Biden.**

[Read more at New York Times →](#)

Rank and file union workers have felt let down by Biden as average Americans are being hurt by higher prices. **Voters are still citing inflation as a key issue**, and that they haven't felt the impact of legislation he has passed to address economic concerns.

[Read more at USA Today →](#)



Many voters are not buying Biden's message about the economy. **A poll released In July 2023 showed that only three In 10 Americans feel the country is doing a better job recovering economically** than the rest of the world since the COVID-19 pandemic.

[Learn more on page 8→](#)

BIDEN & UNIONS

BIDEN RAN FOR PRESIDENT WITH THE BACKING OF LABOR

Biden Counted On His Longtime Union Allies To Win The Presidency

In 2020, Biden Used His Longtime Ties To Organized Labor As A Key Part Of His Presidential Campaign

In April 2019 When Biden Announced He Would For President, His Strong Ties To Organized Labor Were Considered Crucial To Him Being Able To Compete In The Democratic Primary. “His political operation is still taking shape. There are concerns about whether he’ll be able to raise enough money to compete. He hasn’t run his own campaign in over a decade. What Joe Biden does have, however, are strong ties to organized labor. And on the eve of his expected entry into a primary where 19 other Democrats have a head start, the former vice president is counting on his longtime union allies for a show of force. It’s a powerful reminder that whatever hurdles lie ahead for Biden on the campaign trail, he enters the race with a reservoir of goodwill from a key Democratic constituency. But it also emphasizes the traditional nature of his candidacy in a diverse and crowded primary where that might not be an asset.” (Natasha Korecki and Marc Caputo, “Unions Crank It Up For Biden Launch,” [Politico](#), 4/24/19)

- **Biden’s First Formal Campaign Event Was A Rally At A Pittsburgh Union Hall.** “After announcing his 2020 bid in a video to be released Thursday, Biden is expected to formally kick off his campaign with a Monday rally at a Pittsburgh union hall. United Steelworkers President Leo Gerard said Biden can count on steelworkers to turn out on Monday, including many ‘wearing their USW gear.’ The same holds true for the International Association of Fire Fighters, according to an IAFF spokesman. For Biden, labor’s heavy presence would serve to underscore an argument central to his case for the Democratic nomination: that he continues to be serve as the party’s best-known emissary to working-class whites, the precise demographic that Donald Trump picked off in key industrial states like Pennsylvania in 2016.” (Natasha Korecki and Marc Caputo, “Unions Crank It Up For Biden Launch,” [Politico](#), 4/24/19)

In May 2022, Biden Noted, “I Said Early On That I Was Going To Be The Most Pro-Labor,-Union President We’ve Ever Had...” “I said early on that I was going to be the most pro-labor, -union President we’ve ever had for a simple reason: You allow — (applause) — you allow workers to maintain their dignity. You allow them to hold their heads up high. I mean it. It’s a lot more than just what you do in terms of their paychecks and their benefits, but it’s about their dignity.” (President Joe Biden, “Remarks By President Biden At The International Brotherhood Of Electrical Workers 40th Annual Conference,” [The White House](#), 5/11/22)

- **Biden Said, “The Only Reason I’m Standing Here As Your President Of The United States Of America Is Because Of The IBEW Came On With Me Early.”** “THE PRESIDENT: Hello, hello, hello! (Applause.) Thank you, thank you, thank you. I want to start off by saying two things. Number one, the only reason I’m standing here as your President of the United States of America is because of the IBEW came on with me early. (Applause.)” (President Joe Biden, “Remarks By President Biden At The International Brotherhood Of Electrical Workers 40th Annual Conference,” [The White House](#), 5/11/22)

Biden Has Used A “Union Joe” Image In His Campaigns And Calls Himself “The Most Pro-Labor Union President” In American History. “Joe Biden likes to call himself the ‘most pro-labor union president’ in American history. He’s deployed a ‘Union Joe’ image in countless campaigns. But behind closed doors, the relationship between Biden world and a corner of Big Labor has been rockier than advertised. And it could soon get worse. Within a matter of months, or even weeks, Biden could find himself dealing with multiple major workers’ strikes that threaten to rock the economy ahead of the presidential election.” (Holly Otterbien and Zack Colman, “‘This Is A Problem’: Biden Faces Looming Strikes That Could Rock Economy,” [Politico](#), 7/23/23)

BIDEN NOW HAS WEAKER RELATIONSHIPS WITH UNIONS

Biden Has Rockier Relationships With Labor As Multiple Strikes Loom

Biden Has Seen His Relationship With Big Labor Deteriorate

In July 2023, Biden Has Seen His Relationship With Big Labor Deteriorate With The Possibility Of Multiple Major Workers' Strikes On The Horizon. “Joe Biden likes to call himself the ‘most pro-labor union president’ in American history. He’s deployed a ‘Union Joe’ image in countless campaigns. But behind closed doors, the relationship between Biden world and a corner of Big Labor has been rockier than advertised. And it could soon get worse. Within a matter of months, or even weeks, Biden could find himself dealing with multiple major workers’ strikes that threaten to rock the economy ahead of the presidential election.” (Holly Otterbien and Zack Colman, “‘This Is A Problem’: Biden Faces Looming Strikes That Could Rock Economy,” [Politico](#), 7/23/23)

Multiple Large Labor Disputes Have Occurred Under Biden

Labor Unrest Across The Country And Economy

322,000 Workers Have Gone On Strike This Year, The Highest Number Since 2019, And Include Nurses, Hotel Workers And University Workers. “Additionally, thousands of nurses, hotel workers and university workers have gone on strike in 2023 across the nation, often seeking higher wages that have not kept up with surging inflation. All together, some 322,000 workers have gone on strike so far this year, according to data compiled by Bloomberg Law. That’s the highest number since 2019, when a half a million workers, including tens of thousands of teachers, went on strike.” (Lauren Kaori Gurley, “UPS And Teamsters Reach Agreement, Averting Aug. 1 Strike,” [The Washington Post](#), 7/25/23)

The Writers And Actors Guilds In Hollywood Are Currently On Strike

The Writers And Actors Guilds In Hollywood Are Currently Striking. “A potential work stoppage by the Teamsters of UPS, which handles a quarter of the country’s parcel shipments, is also looming when their contract ends July 31. And actors and writers are already striking in Hollywood, in what may be the highest-profile union battle of all.” (Holly Otterbien and Zack Colman, “‘This Is A Problem’: Biden Faces Looming Strikes That Could Rock Economy,” [Politico](#), 7/23/23)

- **160,000 actors and 15,000 writers Are Currently On Strike.** “This summer already has been marked by a number of high-profile strikes, including a historic double strike paralyzing Hollywood, with 160,000 actors and 15,000 writers on picket lines.”

The United Auto Workers (UAW) May Strike In The Fall Of 2023 And They Have Endorsed Biden’s Re-Election Campaign

Democrats Are Preparing For A Likely Strike From The United Auto Workers (UAW) When Their Contract Ends In September 2023. “Current and former Biden aides and allies are miffed and perplexed by the non-endorsement, according to several people familiar with their thinking, and Democrats are bracing for a likely strike when the UAW’s contract ends in September.” (Holly Otterbien and Zack Colman, “‘This Is A Problem’: Biden Faces Looming Strikes That Could Rock Economy,” [Politico](#), 7/23/23)

- **UAW Is Currently Withholding Their Support From Biden And The Union’s President Has Criticized Biden For Handing Out Billions In Subsidies For Electric Vehicles Without Demanding Higher Wages And Other Protections.** “Already, one labor group is creating difficulties for Biden. The United Auto Workers, a powerful union with a base in the critical battleground state of Michigan, is withholding support from the president for the time being. UAW’s new president — the tough-talking, left-leaning Shawn Fain — has bashed the administration for doling out billions in subsidies for electric vehicles without demanding higher

wages and other protections.” (Holly Otterbien and Zack Colman, “This Is A Problem’: Biden Faces Looming Strikes That Could Rock Economy,” [Politico](#), 7/23/23)

- **The 2024 Election Looms Over The Tensions Between Biden And The Unions, And Trump Is Seeking UAW’s Endorsement.** “Looming over the emerging tensions between labor and the White House is the election. Trump is making a play for the UAW’s endorsement. While the former president doesn’t appear to have a chance of landing it (Fain made clear earlier this year that UAW would not back Trump, calling his potential return to the White House a ‘disaster’ in a memo) he could try to recreate what he pulled off in 2016, when he failed to win the endorsements of unions but wooed many rank-and-file members. Biden is facing pressure from not only the right, but also the left, over his handling of electric cars.” (Holly Otterbien and Zack Colman, “This Is A Problem’: Biden Faces Looming Strikes That Could Rock Economy,” [Politico](#), 7/23/23)

UPS, Which Delivers A Quarter Of The Packages In The U.S. Narrowly Avoided A Strike

On July 25, 2023, UPS and the International Brotherhood of Teamsters Reached A Tentative Five-Year Contract, Averting A Strike By Less Than A Week. “UPS and the International Brotherhood of Teamsters both claimed victory Tuesday on a tentative five-year contract deal that would avert a potentially devastating nationwide strike, offering raises for all UPS employees and installation of air-conditioning units in new delivery vans. But reaction among union employees was decidedly mixed ahead of an Aug. 3 vote.” (Lauren Kaori Gurley, “UPS And Teamsters Reach Agreement, Averting Aug. 1 Strike,” [The Washington Post](#), 7/25/23)

- **Note:** *The deal still needs to be voted on by union employees on August 3, 2023.*
- **Biden Praised The Potential Deal And Said, “Today’s Announcement Moves Us Closer To A Better Deal For Workers That Will Also Add To Our Economic Momentum.”** “The agreement marks a potential victory for the White House. A strike could have endangered the economic progress the administration has been eager to celebrate, but the president has also tried boosting efforts to unionize and is determined to appear pro-worker. ‘Today’s announcement moves us closer to a better deal for workers that will also add to our economic momentum,’ President Biden said in a statement.” (Lauren Kaori Gurley, “UPS And Teamsters Reach Agreement, Averting Aug. 1 Strike,” [The Washington Post](#), 7/25/23)

A Strike By UPS Workers Would Pose A Significant Threat To The Economy; Handles Roughly A Quarter Of Some 59 Million Packages Shipped Nationwide Daily. “A strike at UPS — which had been looming at midnight Monday, when the current contract expires — would pose the most significant threat to the U.S. economy of any labor action in years. UPS handles roughly a quarter of some 59 million packages shipped nationwide daily, according to the Pitney Bowes Parcel Shipping Index.” (Lauren Kaori Gurley, “UPS And Teamsters Reach Agreement, Averting Aug. 1 Strike,” [The Washington Post](#), 7/25/23)

In 2022, Biden Intervened In A Labor Standoff Before To Prevent A Rail Strike

In 2022, Biden Urged Congress To Intervene In A Labor Dispute To Avert A Freight Rail Strike And Faced Backlash From His Labor Allies For Doing So. “President Joe Biden hails unions at almost every turn, often declaring ‘unions built the middle class’ and that his goal is to be ‘the most pro-union president’ in U.S. history. But as he urges Congress to intervene in a labor dispute to avert a freight rail strike before the holidays, the president is facing a backlash from labor allies. Union workers hoped to secure paid sick leave in a final contract, among other assurances, but congressional action pushed by Biden would force some terms they oppose.” (Joey Garrison, “He’s Not Stepping Up’: Union Workers Feel Let Down By ‘Pro-Union’ Joe Biden Amid Rail Dispute,” [USA Today](#), 11/29/22)

- **“Michael Baldwin, President Of The Brotherhood Of Railroad Signalmen, Said Biden Let Down His Members.** “Michael Baldwin, president of the Brotherhood of Railroad Signalmen, said Biden let down his members. ‘We’re trying to address an issue here of sick time. It’s very important,’ he told CNN. ‘This action prevents us from reaching the end of our process.’” (Joey Garrison, “He’s Not Stepping Up’: Union Workers Feel Let Down By ‘Pro-Union’ Joe Biden Amid Rail Dispute,” [USA Today](#), 11/29/22)

- **Ross Grooters, A Railroad Engineer From Des Moines, Iowa, And Co-Chair Of The Advocacy Group Railroad Workers United, Said Biden Was Not “Stepping Up For Workers In The Way That He Should Be.”** “The actions speak for themselves. Don’t tell me what you are. Show me what you are,’ said Ross Grooters, a railroad engineer from Des Moines, Iowa, and co-chair of the advocacy group Railroad Workers United. ‘He’s not stepping up for workers in the way that he should be.’” (Joey Garrison, “He’s Not Stepping Up: Union Workers Feel Let Down By ‘Pro-Union’ Joe Biden Amid Rail Dispute,” [USA Today](#), 11/29/22)

Labor Leaders Don’t Want Biden To Get Involved

Despite His History Of Being Pro-Union, Labor Leaders Don’t Want Biden Involved

Labor Leaders Are Urging Biden To Avoid Getting Involved In Any Potential Strikes, But Administration Officials Have Not Ruled Out The Possibility Of Biden Getting Involved. “Biden has few tools available to fix the problem. Labor leaders and top Democrats are urging Biden to stay out, and Teamsters president Sean O’Brien has repeatedly told the White House to not intervene if the union strikes. In interviews with POLITICO, senior Biden administration officials did not rule out the possibility of the president getting involved, but they also pointed to his pro-labor bona fides to suggest that he likely wouldn’t unless both sides asked him to.” (Holly Otterbien and Zack Colman, “This Is A Problem: Biden Faces Looming Strikes That Could Rock Economy,” [Politico](#), 7/23/23)

Biden’s Former Secretary Of Labor Marty Walsh Thought Biden Would Only Get Involved If Asked And Said, “He’s Been Hands-Off Up To This Point.” “Marty Walsh, Biden’s former secretary of Labor, likewise said he only sees Biden getting involved if he is asked. ‘If you have a general president or a company that doesn’t want your intervention, then your best bet’s not to be involved in it and just ... monitor the situation and see what happens,’ said Walsh. ‘He’s been hands-off up to this point.’” (Holly Otterbien and Zack Colman, “This Is A Problem: Biden Faces Looming Strikes That Could Rock Economy,” [Politico](#), 7/23/23)

Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-N.Y.) Said, “Sometimes The Best Thing That They Can Do Is Stay Out Of It.” “‘Sometimes the best thing that they can do is stay out of it,’ Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-N.Y.) said in an interview. Ocasio-Cortez recently met with Fain and O’Brien and said ‘their big ask was for the White House to stay out of it and to not intervene. That was their message. Sometimes the workers are just asking not even for help, but to not put your thumb on the scale.’” (Holly Otterbien and Zack Colman, “This Is A Problem: Biden Faces Looming Strikes That Could Rock Economy,” [Politico](#), 7/23/23)

The Modern Labor Union Is More Skeptical Of Biden

The Modern Labor Movement, Which Has More Women, Diversity, And Youth, Is More Skeptical Of Biden’s Historical Friendliness With Labor. “The public image of President Biden’s “Union Joe” persona rests largely on his longtime affiliations with labor unions representing police officers, firefighters and building-trade workers. But the modern labor movement that gathered on Saturday in Philadelphia to endorse Mr. Biden’s 2024 re-election campaign is younger and more diverse, and has far more women than the union stereotype Mr. Biden has embraced during the decades he has spent building his political identity. ‘You think about it as the dude with a cigar, and it’s just not that,’ said Randi Weingarten, the president of the American Federation of Teachers. ‘I’m sure there’s still dudes with cigars, but there’s lots and lots and lots of other people in a multigenerational, multiracial cacophony of people that are unified by a zealous fight for a better life.’ While today’s labor movement is demographically more in line with the Democratic Party, increasing the share of young people and people of color means that union members may be less familiar with — and more skeptical about — Mr. Biden’s record.” (Reid J. Epstein, “Biden Again Has Union Support. But The Unions Look Different This Time.,” [The New York Times](#), 6/17/23)

In June 2023, Liz Shuler, The President Of The A.F.L.-C.I.O, Said, “There Is A Disconnect Between All The Biden-Harris Accomplishments And What Information Is Landing On The Ground In Communities.” “‘There is a disconnect between all the Biden-Harris accomplishments and what information is landing on the ground in communities,’ said Liz Shuler, the president of the A.F.L.-C.I.O. ‘It is such an inside-the-Beltway thing to do to talk about policies and talk about legislation and regulations. It’s up to us to decode that and connect the dots back

to what is happening in Washington.” (Reid J. Epstein, “Biden Again Has Union Support. But The Unions Look Different This Time.,” [The New York Times](#), 6/17/23)

Before He Was President, Biden Was A Regular At Events Like Labor Day Parades. “Before he was president, Mr. Biden was a regular at Labor Day parades — especially in Pittsburgh, home of the largely male and white steelworker unions that built much of western Pennsylvania, and where he kicked off his 2020 campaign.” (Reid J. Epstein, “Biden Again Has Union Support. But The Unions Look Different This Time.,” [The New York Times](#), 6/17/23)

Biden’s Current Support From Labor Has Masked Discontent Towards Biden From Organized Labor. “The broad union endorsements for Mr. Biden Saturday mask some discontent for the president among organized labor. The United Auto Workers has withheld an endorsement over concerns about the electric vehicle transition the White House has championed. There was significant grumbling among labor groups that on the day Mr. Biden launched his campaign, he spoke to the building trades union — a group whose members are seen within the labor world as less reliably Democratic.” (Reid J. Epstein, “Biden Again Has Union Support. But The Unions Look Different This Time.,” [The New York Times](#), 6/17/23)

Some In The Labor Movement Have Noted That Biden’s Infrastructure Legislation Will Largely Benefit Construction Workers — A Group Far More Likely To Be Male And To Vote Republican Than The Rest Of The Organized Labor Universe. “And then there is the fact that Mr. Biden’s much-touted infrastructure legislation will largely benefit construction workers — a group far more likely to be male and to vote Republican than the rest of the organized labor universe. ‘There is some real progress, ironically, for construction workers, probably half of whom voted for Trump twice,’ said Larry Cohen, a former president of the Communications Workers of America who has long been an adviser to Senator Bernie Sanders of Vermont. ‘The messaging is as good as it’s ever been in 50 years or more, but there needs to be results.’” (Reid J. Epstein, “Biden Again Has Union Support. But The Unions Look Different This Time.,” [The New York Times](#), 6/17/23)

AVERAGE AMERICANS ARE BEING HURT BY HIGHER PRICES, EVEN AS ECONOMIC DATA SHOWS INFLATION IS DROPPING

Biden Has Been Claiming The Economy Is Doing Great...

Biden Claims The Economy Is Strong

In July 2023, Biden Delivered A Speech To Union Workers At A Shipyard Telling Them The Economy Remains Strong. “President Biden stood at the lectern of a shipyard here with a familiar pitch as he seeks a second White House term: The economy remains strong. ‘It’s not an accident, it’s my economic plan in action,’ Biden told a crowd of mostly union workers Thursday at the latest stop on his nationwide record-burnishing tour. ‘Together, we’re transforming the country.’” (Sabrina Siddiqui and Christian Robles, “Biden Goes All In on Bidenomics. Voters Aren’t Buying It.,” [Wall Street Journal](#), 7/22/23)

Biden And The White House Have Leaned Into The Phrase “Bidenomics” To Highlight His Policies And To Take Credit For What He Sees As A Positive Economy. “Biden’s aides, who often voice frustration in private that the president doesn’t get more credit for the economic gains under his watch, say they are aware of voters’ skepticism. The White House has leaned into the phrase “Bidenomics” in an effort to showcase how the president’s policies have benefited the middle class, and officials underscore that his legislative achievements poll well with the public.” (Sabrina Siddiqui and Christian Robles, “Biden Goes All In on Bidenomics. Voters Aren’t Buying It.,” [Wall Street Journal](#), 7/22/23)

Labor Leaders Were Initially Happy With Biden’s Performance

Labor Leaders Supported Biden’s First Two Years in Office For Being Pro-Union Citing His Appointees Who Are Sympathetic To Unions And A Variety Of Pro-Labor Measures, Like A Pandemic Relief Bill That Included Tens Of Billions To Shore Up Union Pension Funds. “Joseph R. Biden Jr. vowed to be ‘the most pro-union president you’ve ever seen.’ And for the last two years, labor leaders have often lauded him for delivering on

that promise. They cite appointees who are sympathetic to unions and a variety of pro-labor measures, like a pandemic relief bill that included tens of billions to shore up union pension funds.” (Noam Scheiber, “Most Pro-Union President’ Runs Into Doubts in Labor Ranks,” [The New York Times](#), 12/27/22)

...But Workers And Voters Don't Agree

Rank And File Union Workers Have Felt Let Down By Biden

Biden's Intervention In The Rail Dispute Angered Rank And File Workers. “The alternative view of Mr. Biden, put forth by many labor historians and activists, is that while the president has in fact been more obliging to unions and maintained better relationships with union leaders than his recent Democratic predecessors, the difference is one of degree rather than kind. ... For those who subscribe to this view, the rail labor dispute was a telling encapsulation of Mr. Biden's approach: an instance in which the administration worked closely with many leaders of the dozen unions representing rail workers but angered portions of the rank and file. Members of four unions voted down the deal that the administration had helped broker but were not allowed to strike for a better one.” (Noam Scheiber, “Most Pro-Union President’ Runs Into Doubts in Labor Ranks,” [The New York Times](#), 12/27/22)

- Organizers Worries That Biden's Intervention Sent A Message To Companies Like Starbucks And Amazon That They Would Not Be Punished For Anti-Union Behavior. “Workers and organizers at the forefront of recent union campaigns at companies like Starbucks and Amazon said they worried that Mr. Biden's intervention in the rail labor dispute sent employers a message that the federal government would not punish them for anti-union behavior.” (Noam Scheiber, “Most Pro-Union President’ Runs Into Doubts in Labor Ranks,” [The New York Times](#), 12/27/22)

But Many Voters Aren't Buying Biden's Message About The Economy

Voters Are Still Citing Inflation As A Key Issue, And That They Haven't Felt The Impact Of His Legislation He Has Passed To Address Economic Concerns. “But many voters aren't buying it. They say they haven't felt the impact of legislation that is the centerpiece of Biden's campaign, and they cite what may be his main albatross— inflation. High prices have turned economic issues that could've been a tailwind for his re-election into a headwind. ‘Inflation's terrible. Everything's more expensive than it was,’ said James Watson, 31 years old, an independent voter who manages a convenience store at a Philadelphia gas station.” (Sabrina Siddiqui and Christian Robles, “Biden Goes All In on Bidenomics. Voters Aren't Buying It,” [Wall Street Journal](#), 7/22/23)

A Poll Released In July 2023 Showed That Only Three In 10 Americans Feel The Country Is Doing A Better Job Recovering Economically Than The Rest Of The World Since The Covid-19 Pandemic. “Recent polls also show a disconnect between a buoyant labor market, which added 1.67 million jobs this year through June, and how voters feel about the economy. Robust consumer spending, inflation declining from a peak of 9.1% in June 2022 to 3% a year later and a stabilizing housing market have done little to move public perception on an issue that often ranks as a top priority for Americans at the ballot box. A Monmouth University poll released Wednesday showed only three in 10 Americans feel the country is doing a better job recovering economically than the rest of the world since the Covid-19 pandemic. Respondents were split on Biden's handling of jobs and unemployment, with 47% approving and 48% disapproving of his performance.” (Sabrina Siddiqui and Christian Robles, “Biden Goes All In on Bidenomics. Voters Aren't Buying It,” [Wall Street Journal](#), 7/22/23)

- **Many Other Surveys Have Also Found Voters Giving Biden Low Marks On The Economy.** “Many other surveys have also found voters giving Biden low marks on the economy. A Wall Street Journal poll in April found more people disapproved than approved of his handling of infrastructure by 3 points. Among those who were undecided in a hypothetical match between Biden and Trump, only 10% approved of Biden's job performance on infrastructure whereas 70% disapproved.” (Sabrina Siddiqui and Christian Robles, “Biden Goes All In on Bidenomics. Voters Aren't Buying It,” [Wall Street Journal](#), 7/22/23)

In June 2023, A poll Showed That Only 34 Percent Of U.S. Adults Approve Of Biden's Economic Leadership. “In a major economic speech in Chicago, Biden said his administration's efforts were sparking recovery after Republican policies had crushed America's middle class. But the poll said only one in three U.S. adults approve of

his economic leadership. That 34% figure is even lower than his overall approval rating of 41%, according to the survey from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research.” (Josh Boak, “President Touts ‘Bidenomics’ Though New Poll Shows Just 34% Approve His Handling Of The Economy,” [The Associated Press](#), 6/28/23)

- **According To The Poll, Only 60 Percent Of Biden’s Democratic Base Approves Of His Handling Of The Economy.** “The new poll identifies a weakness within Biden’s own base. Many of the Democrats he needs to marshal in 2024 are comparatively unenthusiastic about his economic record. Seventy-two percent within his party say they approve of his handling of his job overall, but just 60% say they approve of his handling of the economy.” (Josh Boak, “President Touts ‘Bidenomics’ Though New Poll Shows Just 34% Approve His Handling Of The Economy,” [The Associated Press](#), 6/28/23)

Even With Inflation Trending Down, Consumers Are Paying More For Goods And Services Than Before The Pandemic

Biden Has Attempted To Tout His Record On The Economy By Citing Metrics Like Employment; FiveThirtyEight Reported, “But That Message May Be Hard To Sell, Because Arguably Those Economic Shifts Haven’t Led To Dramatic Improvements In Most Americans’ Day-To-Day Lives. By many metrics — employment, consumer spending and wages — the economic recovery from the fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic was rapid. But Americans have been displeased with President Biden’s handling of the economy since he moved into the job. An Associated Press/NORC Center for Public Affairs Research poll from June found that just 34 percent approved his handling of the economy, barely up from 33 percent from the same pollster in May. A Gallup survey from April found that 64 percent of Americans had little or almost no confidence in Biden on economic issues. Biden is trying to change that narrative. In a speech in Chicago last month, Biden introduced his economic messaging, one that focuses on the middle class, infrastructure investments and job creation. ‘Bidenomics is about the future,’ he said. ‘Bidenomics is just another way of saying ‘restore the American Dream because it worked before.’ But that message may be hard to sell, because arguably those economic shifts haven’t led to dramatic improvements in most Americans’ day-to-day lives.” (Monica Potts, “Biden Says The Economy’s Doing Great. Lots Of His Own Voters Don’t Believe Him,” [FiveThirtyEight](#), 7/11/23)

- **Families Are Still Paying More For Goods And Services Than They Were Before The Pandemic, So They Could Continue To Feel Squeezed By Prices Even As Inflation’s Metrics Technically Go Down.** “Much of what happens with inflation is beyond Biden’s control, and it’s not clear whether or when inflation will return to normal or what the new normal might be. Families are still paying more for goods and services than they were before the pandemic, and they may be locked into high rents or mortgage payments, which means they’ll continue to feel squeezed even as inflation goes down.” (Monica Potts, “Biden Says The Economy’s Doing Great. Lots Of His Own Voters Don’t Believe Him,” [FiveThirtyEight](#), 7/11/23)

Wage Improvements Have Been Smaller For The Middle Class While They Faced Inflation At The Same Time. “And wage improvements were smaller for the middle class, which made them easier to ignore in the face of rising inflation. Add all of this together and it’s not hard to understand why even some Democrats are feeling kind of blah about the economy, and why they might not be too excited about Biden’s promises for the future.” (Monica Potts, “Biden Says The Economy’s Doing Great. Lots Of His Own Voters Don’t Believe Him,” [FiveThirtyEight](#), 7/11/23)