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EDITORS' PICK

Inside The Kamala Harris Coalition And Plan To Bet On Female Voters

Erin Spencer Sarver Senior Contributor ⓘ
Cover the intersection of gender and politics.

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Vice President Kamala Harris during the start of her nationwide "Fight For Reproductive Freedom" tour. | © Vice President Kamala Harris

Minutes after announcing on Sunday that he would drop out of the presidential race, President Joe Biden endorsed Vice President Kamala Harris to be the candidate for the Democratic party. Almost immediately, women-led political groups coalesced around Harris with strong endorsements and fundraising efforts.

By Monday morning, the list of organizations that have thrown their weight behind the Vice President's candidacy include the National Organization for Women (NOW), the National Women's Political Caucus, She Should Run, Higher Heights, Run Your Run, Women for American Values and Ethics (WAVE) and Her Bold Move. The group Win With Black Women raised more than $1 million for Harris' campaign in a Zoom call Sunday night; more than 40,000 women joined the call, the group has said.

One of the first groups to offer their official endorsement was Emily's List, a powerful political action committee that aims to elect Democratic female candidates in favor of abortion rights to office.

"This is such a momentous moment in time," Jessica Mackler, president of the organization, said in a phone interview Sunday. "Emily's List has stood with the Vice President throughout her career, and we were thrilled to endorse her as quickly as we possibly could to be President of the United States."

Still, Harris must officially secure the nomination, and Mackler says the strategy for ensuring this ultimately happens is to amplify Harris' voice at every turn, and as loudly as possible.

"In the research that we have done, we have seen that with the voters that we need to win—particularly women, young voters, voters of color—she's an incredibly strong messenger," Mackler says. "When we talk to them about her background and the work that she has done on issues like reproductive freedom and gun safety, they really respond to her."

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Reproductive freedom, in particular, is a winning issue according to research and past elections, even in red states. It's also been a key focus for Harris, who has been the administration's mouthpiece on abortion, regularly speaking about the issue at stops throughout her nationwide "reproductive freedom tour."

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Another group looking to highlight Harris' track record of delivering for women is Vote Mama, an organization that advocates for the political participation of mothers, an underrepresented group at the state and federal levels. Though it officially launched in 2020, the group has been ramping up its efforts and endorsements to self-identified "mamas" to young children, and Harris' stepchildren are adults—the Vote Mama team is still celebrating her potential nomination.

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"Vice President Kamala Harris has been an extraordinary leader on reproductive rights, maternal health, affordable childcare, paid family leave, and education equity—issues critical to American families across the country," Linda Crotchen Shirley, Vote Mama Founder and CEO, wrote in an email. "We greatly admire Vice President Harris, and we are thrilled with the possibility of her becoming the first mother and first woman to ever lead our nation."

She The People, a national network seeking to elevate the political power of women of color, is yet another group that quickly came with an endorsement for Harris on Sunday.

"We founded She The People in 2018 to help more people imagine an America inspired and led by women of color," said Aimee Allison, president of the organization (and, like the VP herself, an alum of the Forbes 30 Under 30 list) in a phone interview Sunday. "At the time, it was almost a revolutionary idea. Now, sooner than I thought possible, we have this historic election in which a woman of color is likely to be, for the first time ever, the presidential candidate."

Allison believes that women of color, the longtime backbone of the Democratic party, are being energized in a new way in this moment, and says her organization is already fielding an influx of inquiries from people seeking to engage: "All day, I've been hearing from people who are feeling hope, and who are ready to fight, and who are ready to get people out to vote. This is what we needed for the road ahead."

The energy coalescing around Harris might be driven by women—and particularly Black women—but grassroots donations are coming in fast from voters of all backgrounds, according to fundraising platform ActBlue. The nonprofit announced Sunday night that Harris supporters had raised $46.7 million by 5pm ET, making it the biggest fundraising day of the 2024 election cycle.

"With the door closing on Biden's candidacy, the window opened for Kamala Harris," says Allison. "I'm excited to show what women can do with that opportunity."

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Erin Spencer Sarver is a New England based writer who enjoys contributing to the national conversation on gender, politics and culture. She's been a contributor with Forbes.
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LEADERSHIP

Feel Confident On Your First Trips To The Golf Course

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Aug 1, 2016, 11:00am EDT

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Golf is a game everyone, but for most people it can be fear-inducing, intimidating, or both. That's why it's important to remember, golf is meant to be fun, according to Ali Miller, senior manager of programs training at First Tee.

GETTY IMAGES

Miller grew up learning the game at First Tee – Quad Cities before playing collegiate golf and joining the staff at First Tee headquarters, the placed an important role in developing First Tee's updated curriculum, which was rolled out in 2013. It uses fun golf activities to teach life skills and help kids uncover their values.

As someone who's spent lots of time on golf courses – and even trains First Tee coaches – here is her take on the rules of golf.

Q: How does understanding the basic rules of golf make the sport safer and more enjoyable?

A: Knowing the basics makes golf more enjoyable because it's a little less intimidating when you feel like you know what's going on. In golf there are written and unwritten rules. The best way to get comfortable is to be around the game, be on the golf course and play with people who are more experienced – like a First Tee coach, or an older participant in the program. Some rules are very important for golf course safety, like out of bounds. It usually indicates areas you don't want to go, and it's safer to avoid them.

It takes exposure to the game to get comfortable with the official rules, however the sport can be enjoyed using intuitive etiquette, like taking turns and not distracting people when they are swinging. At First Tee we believe it's so important that the rules of golf aren't a barrier to entry. Remember most people are happy to help guide you or your child, whether it's a First Tee coach, a PGA or LPGA professional or golf course staff. Most golfers can remember a time they didn't know a rule, and someone helped them, so be sure to pay it forward.

Interestingly enough, many of the rules are designed to help level the playing field and allow for people with different abilities to still enjoy playing and competing together.

Q: How do you balance having fun when you're learning a new game?

A: Golf is a very social game. The fun part is being outside and walking and talking with your friends – and hopefully hitting some good shots along the way. I would focus on that aspect when your child is starting out. If they're out there playing with friends, they should be having fun while also learning about the game and understanding the rules as they spend more time with the sport. If they make a mistake on the rules, it's not a big issue.

We invite parents to become familiar with scoring basics – like in any sport – so we encourage it for all age groups. Of course, some younger players might not be able to do it on their own and that's OK too. Additionally, First Tee coaches are trained to teach the game, and they can provide guidance on how to score kids. For example, for kids under 6, we suggest 25 yards for a Par 3, or 50 yards for a Par 4, which just means losing off a little further down the fairway. These kinds of adaptations help kids enjoy the game.

If you've ever played golf, you know it's tough if you take it or yourself too seriously! It takes lots of work to become a scratch golfer, and new golfers shouldn't compare themselves to experienced players. That's where the concept of Personal Par comes in. We encourage kids to focus on achieving their personal best, which helps them enjoy golf. – the life – is a journey.

If your child advances or wants to play competitively, there's always someone around to help. It can feel intimidating to ask, but that's what rules officials and tournament staff are there for. It's funny, when I was playing competitively, my dad didn't know the rules well, and he always thought I scored way better than I did. But I just remember he was out there supporting me, and that was the important thing.

GETTY IMAGES

Q: What should new golfers know?

A: In a perfect world, you or your child should try to be on time for a tee time. It's an unwritten rule that you should aim to be ready 30 minutes early. It helps ease the nerves on the first tee and obviously is considerate to other golfers.

Other rules that come up often include out of bounds and lost balls. Lost balls happen a lot, and especially either take a one-stroke penalty and tee-up the shot or take a two-stroke penalty and play from the edge of the fairway near where your ball landed. Try not to play someone else's ball, which is why you'll see professional players put markings on their golf balls to identify them. First Tee's app has great, kid-friendly helpful lessons on many of these rules.

That said, I think new golfers should know we're all here in their shoes. So our primary role at First Tee is have fun and be safe. Be yourself and don't be afraid to ask questions. We want you to be on the course!

Q: You just alluded to the fact that golf courses are shared spaces. How does following the rules help ensure everyone enjoys their round?

A: Most golf courses will indicate the pace at which they expect golfers to finish a 9 or 18 holes. Keeping up that pace and following and understanding rules are important to ensure everyone has a fun and safe round. A lot of golf courses have homes on them, so out of bounds rules can protect golfers and homeowners.

For new golfers, it can feel intimidating to have a fast group right behind you. The etiquette here would be to pause and let them play through.

Q: What should you do if you make a mistake?

A: First, remember it's normal and OK. If you're playing with friends, own up to it and learn from it. If you're playing in a tournament, there can be other consequences, but in most cases, golfers are given an opportunity to fix their mistakes.

The USGA is a Founding Partner of First Tee and they published a rulebook each year and even offers a junior version in comic book form.

Q: How can learning the rules of golf help a child off the course?

A: Golf is a lot like life, right? Sometimes you need to call for help. At First Tee, we believe mentorship is a powerful tool, and we hope our participants have coaches they can turn to on and off the golf course. On the golf course, there are usually officials around, but it's a big place. Sometimes you might need to call a penalty on yourself, take responsibility and record your own scoreboard.

Having to react to unexpected situations or recover their composure after a bad shot on the golf course can prepare kids to do the same in life. Golf is a fun and engaging activity that provides challenges, requires commitment and effort over time, but is so worth it. It's a lifelong sport available for people with all abilities. Learn more about how to get involved.

First Tee

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