

Trump and Biden: What are the differences with four years ago?

American youth challenging supportive policies towards Israel

By Ebrahim Beheshti
Staff writer

It seems that Donald Trump and Joe Biden will once again face each other for the presidency of the United States. Is it possible for any changes to occur in the main candidates before the elections? How will the rematch between these two differ from the previous term? Will the Gaza conflict have an impact on the elections? Iran Daily has discussed these questions with Ali Nazifpour, an expert on American affairs.

After the event known as the Great Tuesday in the United States, should we consider Biden and Trump as the main candidates for the presidential elections, or could something else happen considering their age?

The path to selecting party nominees is established and lengthy, and I doubt that the party nominees, namely Donald Trump for the Republicans and Joe Biden for the Democrats, will change. Biden, despite criticisms regarding his health and age, managed to secure intra-party support for his candidacy in the elections. However, age and health remain significant concerns for him and the Democrats in the elections. Nevertheless, he has time until the elections to change nega-

tive perceptions about himself, as he tried to do in his annual speech by speaking passionately and demonstrating that he is in good physical condition. Therefore, the definite choices are Trump and Biden, unless an unforeseeable event such as the sudden death of one of them occurs. Even the possibility of replacing a Democratic nominee in place of Biden has been ruled out.

What differences does the rematch between Trump and Biden have from four years ago?

One of the differences is the age of both candidates. Whichever wins the election will be considered the oldest president in American history. Another significant issue is the matter of democracy and the health of the elections, which is more serious compared to the previous term. In the previous elections, Donald Trump did not accept the election results, and concerns about the decline of democracy in the country have been raised following subsequent events and the attack by protesters on the US Capitol. Additionally, since then, Trump has heavily emphasized the health of the elections, effectively challenging it. Another new component in the current elections is the issue of abortion. The US

Supreme Court has rejected federal-level abortion freedoms, which could be a priority for certain segments of voters, particularly women.

Considering the repeated criticisms of both candidates, how likely is it to consider the influence of a third party or independent candidates?

The next US president will either be Trump or Biden, and it's unlikely for a third-party candidate to win. However, a question arises here: which main candidate's votes could independent candidates reduce, and in reality, who could they work to the advantage of? I also find this scenario unlikely because independent candidates won't have significant impact on influential states or on the ballot papers. For example, Robert Kennedy, who is ahead of other independents, has only appeared on ballots in three states so far, and it's uncertain whether his votes would be to the detriment of Trump or Biden. With months left until the elections, the votes for independent candidates in polls aren't bad, but as we approach the elections, their votes in polls decline. Third-party or independent candidates have not been effective so far.



We've witnessed in the past few months in American society large protests in support of the Palestinian people and criticism of America's supportive policies towards Israel. Even a Harvard University poll showed that 51% of American youths support the destruction of Israel. Do you think the Gaza conflict will have an impact on the US elections?

I don't think the Gaza conflict will have a significant impact on the US elections. Supporters of Palestine within the Democratic Party are powerful and significant, and their power increases year by year. Despite the protest

votes that Palestine supporters in Michigan gave, I still think their votes won't have a significant impact on the elections. If the votes of those who are independent, meaning not supporters of the two main parties, turn against Biden and some Democrats, including these Palestine supporters, don't vote for Biden, it could lead to Biden's downfall. Supporters of Israel fervently vote for Trump in the elections because he is seen as a better option for Israel. There's a difference between the Republican and Democratic parties in this regard. Republicans are unified in their support for Israel, but Biden faces a party that has older sup-

porters in favor of Israel and younger supporters more in favor of Palestine. The Harvard University poll also showed that significant portions of American youth support Palestine. I believe if this trend of American youth inclination towards Palestine continues in the next 10-15 years and their numbers increase, America will be forced to reconsider its supportive policies towards Israel.

Trump is a tested option in America. Especially considering the concerns about exacerbating social divides and damaging democracy resulting from Trump's policies, why is he still a primary election

candidate and has enthusiastic supporters? One reason is that Trump has still retained the support of conservative Americans. Another point is that in some issues where he could be troublesome for Republicans, who have stricter policies, Trump shows flexibility. For example, in the conservative Republican Party, Trump defends universal healthcare insurance, which is appealing to the general public and especially to workers. Although Trump is often staunch, he is conservative in the economic realm, and this quality might even attract some hesitant or independent voters towards him.

BRICS' plan of an independent payment system becomes operational

Economy Desk

The Central Bank of Iran announced on Monday that the BRICS group's plan to launch an independent operational payment system has become operational. This system is based on cryptocurrencies and operates on a blockchain

platform, ISNA reported. This system is a formal declaration of war against the dollar and Western hegemony, contributing to the surge in demand for bitcoin and other currencies. The five major emerging economies – Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa put on the

agenda the Central Bank of Iran's proposal to set up the group's own equivalent to the SWIFT payment system and create an organization to fight money laundering and terrorist financing that would be similar to Intergovernmental Financial Action Task Force.

Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist



Oil minister: Iran's crude production at five-year high despite sanctions



Iran's oil minister said the country's production of crude oil has hit a five-year high since 2018 despite sanctions imposed by the United States on the Iranian energy sector. Javad Owji made the remarks in a Sunday interview, saying that despite all obstacles created to impede Iran's oil exports in 2023, the country's crude exports have reached their highest in the past five years, Press TV reported. Stressing that Iran is still facing sanctions that are tougher than those which existed in 2018, the minister said,

"However, our oil exports have reached the highest level since that year." "At the beginning of this administration, oil production in Khuzestan Province stood at 1.7 million barrels per day, which has now reached 2.7 million barrels per day," Owji said. He added that natural gas production has also grown by five percent, and production capacity of many Iranian refineries has been boosted through projects implemented by Iranian specialists after foreign companies left the country due to US sanctions.

The United States under former president Donald Trump reinstated crippling sanctions on Iran after unilaterally walking out of the 2015 nuclear deal in May 2018, despite Iran's full compliance with the terms of the agreement, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). One of the stated goals of Trump's sanctions, which were maintained by his successor, was to reduce Iran's oil exports to almost zero. Iran has repeatedly denounced the sanctions as an act of "economic war" and

"economic terrorism." Responding to a question about the possible impact of Trump's reelection as the US president on Iran's oil production, the minister said the return of Trump to power will have no effect on the country's crude output. "International organizations have admitted that Iran is currently facing no obstacles for selling its crude oil," Owji said. "I also reject reports about Iran selling its oil at a discounted price; the price of Iran's exported oil is close to global rates." Last month, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) revised up its previous economic growth projection for Iran in 2023, attributing it to a higher-than-expected increase in the country's oil production. Releasing its latest quarterly report, the IMF said Iran's economy grew 5.4 percent in 2023, showing a remarkable boost compared to the preceding year. The international agency had previously predicted a three-percent growth for the country's economy in that year.