



TALKING TO VOTERS

William McKinley, the 25th US President, served from 1897 to 1901 and was the first President to use a telephone during his campaign.



President Joe Biden speaks to supporters during a campaign stop in Pennsylvania on July 7.



What is a convention?



Since the mid-1800s, Democrats and Republicans have held national conventions during a Presidential election year. At these events, a party officially selects its Presidential nominee. The Vice Presidential nominee may also be introduced, and many leaders give speeches over the course of four days.

Questions being raised in US election

As the US heads toward its general election on November 5, some Democratic leaders are raising questions about whether President Joe Biden should be their nominee. Some are calling for him to step down so the party can find another candidate to run against former President Donald Trump, the presumptive Republican nominee.

What happened?

A live televised debate was held on June 27 between Biden, age 81, and Trump, age 78. Biden struggled during the event, speaking in a raspy voice and losing track of what he was saying. His aides said he had a cold, but the performance caused some people to question whether Biden would be able to serve a second four-year term. A poll taken after the debate

showed that 74% of Americans think Biden is "too old to be an effective President."

What are some people calling for?

Some top Democrats called for Biden to drop out of the race, an unprecedented move for an expected nominee this late in the campaign. They said this would give Democrats a better chance of beating Trump. Suggestions for replacing him include putting Vice President Kamala Harris at the top of the ticket and holding a "mini primary" among candidates. (A primary is similar to an election.) These options depend on Biden stepping aside.

What are others saying?

Other Democrats are saying Biden remains the best candidate to defeat Trump. Michigan Governor

Gretchen Whitmer, a Democrat, said she backs Biden for what he has "delivered to people." Biden "is in it to win it, and I support him," she posted on social media. The President acknowledged that he had a "bad night" at the debate but said he will not step aside. When *The Week Junior* went to press on July 9, Biden remained in the race and was making speeches on the campaign trail.

What else is happening?

Trump continues to campaign and is close to selecting his Vice Presidential running mate. Experts predicted that he would announce his pick in the days before the Republican National Convention, set for July 15–18 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. The Democratic National Convention will be held in Chicago, Illinois, from August 19–22.



WORD OF THE WEEK

MOUSE

The word "mouse" is a relative of the German word *maus*, but it has a far stranger connection with another English word, "muscle." In ancient times, people thought the flexing biceps of an athlete looked like mice moving beneath the skin. The Romans named these muscles *musculus*, which literally means "little mouse."

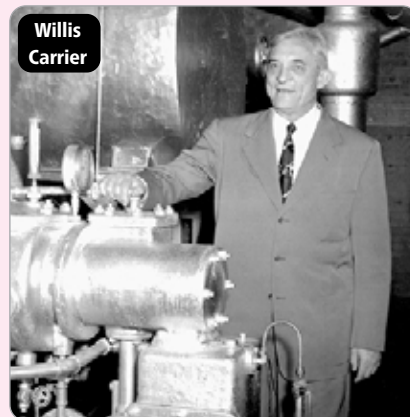


THE WEEK IN HISTORY

July 17, 1902

Air conditioning invented in New York

On July 17, 1902, the first air conditioner was invented by Willis Carrier (1876–1950), who was working for a printing company in Buffalo, New York. The company's paper was being damaged by humidity (the amount of moisture in the air). His machine recirculated air to cool the rooms. Carrier's invention took off, and in 1998, *Time* named him one of the most influential people of the 20th century.



Willis Carrier