



THIRD WAY

TO: Friends, allies, and interested parties

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SUBJECT: Protecting Democratic progress and democracy

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Countering Third Party Threats: Protecting Democratic Progress and Democracy

The two of us represent different viewpoints within the larger Democratic tent. But we have a few common goals. First and foremost, we agree that in order to protect our country from the existential threat posed by a second Trump administration, we absolutely must reelect President Biden. That's why we joined forces to prevent No Labels from recruiting a spoiler candidate, and that's why we're now working together to mitigate the threats posed by third-party presidential candidates.

Third-party presidential candidates like Robert F. Kennedy Jr., Jill Stein, and Cornel West can't win 270 electoral votes. But they can ensure that President Biden loses—and give Donald Trump a second term.

On the substance, many of these candidates are dangerous. And the MAGA universe has taken note: They're funding them, singing their praises, and welcoming them onto their propaganda channels and podcasts.

The Biden-Harris administration has delivered on many issues we care about: record investments in infrastructure and clean energy; more people working than at any other point in American history; record numbers of women, people of color, and public defenders appointed to the federal bench; historic debt relief for 40 million families; protections for reproductive and LGBTQ+ rights enshrined—and more.

But **even if you have some reservations about Biden, a return of Trump would be a catastrophe.** Through the Project 2025 initiative, Trump's extremists have spelled out their plans to tear down basic constitutional protections. Returning power to these social vandals would have devastating consequences for a generation, eviscerating our electoral system and putting global stability at risk, ending initiatives to protect against climate change, and weaponizing government against the most vulnerable—including women, people of color, immigrants, LGBTQ+ people, and non-Christians.

That's why we've teamed up to make sure Vladimir Putin and MAGA Republicans don't engineer a Trump win by using third-party presidential candidates to siphon away our voters. We know many of you share our concern. We appreciate those already taking action, and for those who haven't yet—now is the moment. We offer this memo and the included research, as well as additional resources to come, in service of the work already taking place and to encourage additional organizing.

THIRD-PARTY PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES COULD THROW THE RACE.

Third-party spoilers could be the decisive factor in the 2024 presidential election, ushering in a catastrophic second Donald Trump presidency. RFK Jr.'s own campaign [says so out loud](#), and MAGA talking heads are running their own electoral vote calculations.

- **The Biden coalition is soft.** Trump’s support is stronger than Biden’s, with a much higher share of “very favorable” supporters. And **Biden supporters are [13% more likely to consider a third-party vote](#)**; Trump’s base is locked in.
- **Third-party candidates are pulling away voters Biden needs to win.** In a multicandidate race, recent polls show RFK Jr. pulling support from Biden among independents, moderates, and young voters—all groups Biden won handily in 2020.
- **“Double haters” could flee to third parties.** Voters who don’t like either major party (about 20% right now) broke hard for Biden in 2020, but Trump’s running nearly even with him among those voters this year—and a third of them say they’re voting for RFK Jr.
- **The third-party vote has cost Democrats twice** in the last six presidential elections.

More: [Third Way polling analysis](#), right-wingers on [RFK Jr.](#) and [Stein](#)

THE MAGA UNIVERSE IS PRAISING—AND FUNDING—THESE CANDIDATES.

RFK Jr.’s Super PAC, American Values 2024, is being openly funded by extreme right-wingers—because, as one democracy watcher [puts it](#), funding spoilers gives them “more bang for their buck” than donating to Trump. [Millions in donations](#) have come from small donors who have given to right-wingers. And the big MAGA donors are ponying up, too: [More than 500](#) of RFK Jr.’s biggest donors gave to Trump in 2020, and he’s received a whopping [\\$25 million from banking heir Timothy Mellon](#), a [major Trump donor](#) who also funds anti-immigrant campaigns.

The MAGA right wing is thrilled with this year’s third-party crop. [Here’s what they have to say](#):

- STEVE BANNON embraces RFK Jr.’s conspiracy rhetoric: “[Kennedy is] what I’ve been talking about—the anti-vax, the vaccine-hesitant, anti-establishment, anti-authoritarian ... What Kennedy is talking about is the administrative state and deep state.”
- ROGER STONE says RFK Jr. “sounds a lot like Donald Trump”: “I’m extraordinarily impressed with his performance on the stump ... He’s a truth teller.” And he thinks RFK Jr.’s run will pull voters to Trump.
- ALEX JONES says, “I really support” RFK Jr., whom he calls “a man of integrity that fights fluoride and poison shots and fentanyl and everything else ... I would support him over most RINO Republicans.”

More right-wing quotes [here](#) and [here](#)

RFK JR. AND STEIN ARE PUSHING AN EXTREMIST AGENDA.

- **RFK Jr.’s** candidacy has been [loudly repudiated](#) by his own family. A sampling of his [dangerous positions](#): Vaccines don’t work, abortion should be banned after 15 weeks, trans youth should be denied health care, January 6 prosecutions are politically motivated, climate change mitigation is a pretext for totalitarianism, Big Pharma causes mass shootings, COVID-19 is “targeted to attack Caucasians and Black people” and spare “Ashkenazi Jews and Chinese,” the border should be shut down using military force. [This video on Ukraine](#) is a masterpiece of disinformation.

- **Jill Stein** is running almost openly [as a Putin puppet](#), parroting false Russian talking points about Biden and saying almost nothing about Trump.

WE NEED TO COME TOGETHER AND STOP THIS THREAT FOR GOOD.

We must make sure we reelect the Biden-Harris ticket in November. Our call to action is straightforward: Tell your constituencies that the dangers of third-party candidates can't be discounted, and that we must work together to make sure they don't gain ground. Explain what's at stake. Remind them that candidates like RFK Jr. and Jill Stein are generously bankrolled and supported by bad actors who are hoping for a Trump win.

The resources below are a starting point; disseminate them widely. We need every voice, and every voter.

- **THE POLLS:** [Data shows that third-party spoilers could help Trump win.](#)
- **RFK JR.:** [His extreme right-wing MAGA connections](#)
- **JILL STEIN:** [A Russian asset parroting Putin talking points](#)
- **MOVEON FACT SHEET:** [RFK Jr. is a MAGA Extremist in Disguise](#) ■

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