In Times of Doubting Biden

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So many things are changing so quickly. I've been covering environmental issues for 30 years and I, other journalists and even the scientists we interviewed never imagined the effects of global warming would advance so quickly. Yet here we are in the midst of annual record-breaking heat, ever more vicious hurricanes, tornadoes, fires and floods, food shortages from failed crops and increasingly threatening insects.

Recently I saw the same quote from different people about different issues in two different articles in two different newspapers. "I felt like I was screaming into the void..." One was about politics and the other about the environment (and I've said almost the same thing myself on that score, though I scream into the wind, rather than the void).

But we're not screwed, as the <u>Financial Times quoted</u> an(other) unnamed source after Biden demonstrated his grasp on cognition by calling Ukraine's Zelensky President Putin and his own veep Kamala Harris Vice President Trump, noting that he wouldn't have chosen her. Rather, this is a timely gift we must not let slip by looking in the horse's mouth. We're (finally) blessed with the opportunity to reshape this man's world into the sustainable egalitarian utopia of our dreams (not cute Katy Perry style, please)... or to at least try. As Jon Stewart pointed out on The Daily Show, we only have four months here, folks; we have time to correct our Biden problem, but we don't have time to waste.

So let's quit wringing our hands and tallying votes on what to do and let's forge a solution. Women are good at that. And women are direly needed here. And as Hillary wisely observed eons ago, it takes a village. So let's get together and ride the white horse into the future we've been waiting for. Rather than cringe in panic at our apparent only options of the degenerating Biden or the despotic Trump, let's do as Van Jones suggested during CNN's debate debriefing and make a new plan, Stan.

It's true, as an 81-year-old, President Biden is having unsurprising problems, but we should not let that override the fact that he's done a lot of good for us in his four years.

In Biden's administration, we've seen the raising of our efforts to stall global warming, an increase in employment with innovative new green manufacturing of solar and wind power, the development of electric and hybrid vehicles, and, of course, saving us from the despotic Donald Trump and his many dogmatic minions.

Nonetheless, we know the narcissistic Trump will not go away quietly, and our aging leader may struggle to keep him at bay. With such fierce threats, dramatic action has to be taken by the people of this nation to protect our democracy at all costs. Democrat, Republican and Independent political operatives are at each other's throats in the competitive rush to push a new candidate to the frontlines and shove President Biden from his podium. Some have even suggested Oprah and Taylor Swift get involved. While their popularity can certainly help reach massive swaths of the public, I think we might go further in creating a new model for the political decision-making needed here.

These women and others like them are clearly very intelligent and could certainly bring wisdom to the table. As Minnie Driver observed when interviewed by <u>Variety</u>, "...the idea that because the founding fathers — *if there had been some mothers involved perhaps it would be different*..."

Since our Constitution was drafted nearly 250 years ago, our country has grown from just under three million citizens to more than 300 million. As our country evolves, the demands of our government must evolve as well. Running our country is the most important job in the world and perhaps it's time to amend our leadership model from relying on one person chosen by popularity and financial support to a more well-rounded group effort.

Let's consider a model of cooperation rather than the ruthless competition that rules the airwaves and halls of Congress. What if Dr. Biden, his wife, and Vice President Harris worked together to help the President - now, while we still have a few months to demonstrate success? They could, and should, form a roundtable of leaders including Gretchen Whitmer, Gavin Newsome, Michelle Obama, and others, such as the aforementioned Ms. Winfrey and Ms. Swift, who can see beyond the current political landscape and what's in store in the near and distant future, should Trump be re-elected.

We just saw in France that when the far right was projected to win, the progressives rushed forward to protect their democracy. And in Britain, where the Conservatives have botched so much, they too threw out their government in favor of Labour.

The time is ripe to form a council of the sharpest minds available and invite all the public to provide their honest and productive input.

We began that process by asking a few visitors to the 15th Annual Cinema Verde Film Festival to offer their thoughts on improving our world. Now we invite you to share your ideas with our government leaders as well.

Let's make 2024 the year of the future where we want to live!



What Would You Do To Make The World A Place Where You Want to Live?

Supporters of the Cinema Verde Film Festival share their perspective on how we can make our world a better place to live. *Trish Riley is founding director of <u>Cinema Verde</u>, an environmental film channel and festival, and an award-winning environmental journalist and author.*