

## LABOR

# The UAW Has Now Endorsed a Cease-Fire in Gaza and President Biden for 2024

Last month, the United Auto Workers backed an end to the violence in Gaza. Today, the union threw its support behind Biden—who has been a strong backer of Israel’s war—in his likely rematch with Republican Donald Trump.

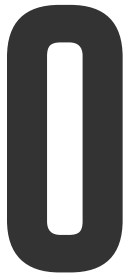
IVONNE ORTIZ      JANUARY 24, 2024



U.S. President Joe Biden and Shawn Fain, President of the United Auto Workers, wave during the UAW conference in Washington, DC, on January 24, 2024.

(PHOTO BY SAUL LOEB/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES)

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On Wednesday, the United Auto Workers officially endorsed President Joe Biden at the UAW National CAP Conference in Washington, D.C with President Shawn Fain declaring that “elections are about power.”

“Elections,” Fain said, “aren’t about just picking your best friend for the job, or the candidate who makes you feel good.”

That statement from Fain, who recently spoke proudly about the UAW’s support for a cease-fire in Israel and Palestine, may have been directed at UAW members who have been deeply upset by Biden’s unflinching support for the Israeli government since Hamas’ October 7 attacks, and the fact that his administration has helped funnel weapons and money to the Israeli war machine as more than 25,000 Palestinians have been killed.

A group of those UAW members protested the union’s decision on Wednesday, demanding that the UAW withhold the endorsement until Biden reversed course on Gaza and called for an end to the violence.

Other national unions including the AFL-CIO announced endorsements of the incumbent as early as last summer. It was about this time that Fain met with Biden to ask for his support for auto workers during their contract negotiations and address the union’s concerns regarding the auto industry’s transition to electric vehicles (EVs).

During the UAW’s historic Stand-Up Strike against the Big Three automakers that followed in the fall, Biden said that “record profits [should] mean record contracts” and showed up to the union’s picket line outside a General Motors plant in Belleville, Michigan. In November, the UAW secured historic contracts with General Motors, Ford and Stellantis that resulted in increased wages, an end to the despised system of tiers, and ensured production facilities would have capacity to manufacture EVs.

In announcing the endorsement on Wednesday, Fain emphasized the importance of Biden’s support for labor, stressing that Biden’s appointees to the National Labor Relations Board had been crucial to the labor movement. Meanwhile, Fain mocked Trump as a “scab” who gained a reputation for “attacking unions.”

“Trump went to a nonunion plant, invited by the boss, and trashed our union,” Fain said. “And, here is what Joe Biden did during our Stand-Up Strike: He heard the call. He stood up and showed up.”

The UAW’s endorsement of Biden comes almost two months after it became the largest union in the United States to back a cease-fire (on Monday, Service Employees International Union, the second largest U.S. union, took the mantle as the largest in the country to demand an immediate and lasting peace). Fain also announced on Monday that “when and where there’s a war, whether it’s in Vietnam or