

# **A Top Biden Adviser Quietly Said What Could Never Be Voiced in Public About COVID and the 2020 Election**

Well, you could probably figure this out. It's no shock that Anita Dunn, a senior adviser to Biden, said this about COVID and the 2020 election. I'm sure many Democrats have said it quietly as well, though it's something you don't utter in public, especially now. It doesn't look good when stories you have stories about you saying 'thank God for COVID because it helped us win an election' when the death toll has now surpassed 500,000, but that's what Dunn has whispered to aides (via [The Guardian](#)):

A senior adviser to Democrat Joe Biden in his campaign for president believed "Covid is the best thing that ever happened to him", a new book reports.

It was, the authors add, a necessarily private comment that "campaign officials believed but would never say in public" as the US reeled from the impact of the pandemic amid hospitals stretched to breaking and with deaths mounting and the economy falling off a cliff.

The remark, made to "an associate" by Anita Dunn, a Washington powerbroker who the Atlantic called "The Mastermind Behind Biden's No-Drama Approach to Trump", is reported in *Lucky: How Joe Biden Barely Won the Presidency*, by Jonathan Allen and Amie Parnes.

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Yeah, nothing shocks when it comes to Democrats. The sick part is that she probably right. If it weren't for COVID, with the booming economy, Biden wouldn't have had a chance. With the regular campaign schedule, rallies, etc., he would have been gassed. We have lids being called as early as 8 A.M. now. By 3 PM, the president pretty much vanishes from sight. He's taking a nap, right?

So, yes, Democrats won the presidency in 2020, but it took a virus and 500,000 lives to do so. Is that the new narrative here?

## **Expert in Technique (and Grudges), Prime Biden Adviser to Depart White Home**

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WASHINGTON — For the previous 17 months, since shaking up his marketing campaign after an embarrassing fourth-place end within the Iowa caucuses, Joseph R. Biden Jr. has relied on Anita Dunn, a veteran Washington advisor, for each steering and grudge-holding.

Ms. Dunn, 63, offered route when Mr. Biden’s marketing campaign was flailing. Later, she refused to offer [Julián Castro, a former housing secretary](#), a requested talking slot on the Democratic Nationwide Conference, nonetheless upset about his debate-night jab at Mr. Biden’s psychological acuity, in response to folks accustomed to the snub. And within the West Wing, she has had a hand in shaping each main coverage push to date.

Now Ms. Dunn is about to return to her highly effective Democratic consulting firm, leaving a gap in Mr. Biden’s small inside circle because the extremely infectious Delta variant is ripping via unvaccinated communities and [the destiny of Mr. Biden’s bipartisan infrastructure deal](#) is teetering on the sting of collapse.

“She brings stability and a faithfulness to technique,” mentioned David Plouffe, the previous Obama marketing campaign supervisor. “You see it within the White Home, the place they’re very disciplined on their strategy to Covid, to the financial system, to the usage of the president. That self-discipline and never swinging at each pitch is de facto traditional Anita.”

Ms. Dunn has prepped the president for each interview and information convention since she took over his marketing campaign and pushed the administration’s buttoned-up strategy to

coping with the information media. She is extensively credited with elevating ladies to senior positions within the West Wing. And he or she is adamantly against Mr. Biden repeatedly taking questions from reporters, which she believes does little to advance his agenda. She prefers city corridor occasions.

However for all her self-discipline and experience, Ms. Dunn's presence within the Biden administration, and within the Obama administration earlier than that, has raised questions on how her affect within the authorities intersects with the company work of her firm, which represents shoppers looking for to affect coverage.

Ms. Dunn has solely separated herself from SKDK, the company and political consulting firm she helped discovered and is returning to subsequent month, for transient durations of marketing campaign and authorities work. And the truth that she is exempt from submitting public monetary disclosures required of full-time presidential appointees has drawn criticism from some ethics watchdogs.

Her presence within the West Wing can be proof of how Mr. Biden has prioritized his reliance on trusted figures with many years of Beltway expertise, whilst he promised to finish the [access-peddling](#) that proliferated throughout [the Trump administration](#). (This week, as an illustration, Thomas J. Barrack Jr., a detailed pal of former President Donald J. Trump and certainly one of his prime 2016 marketing campaign fund-raisers, was accused of utilizing his entry to Mr. Trump [to advance the international coverage targets of the United Arab Emirates](#) after which repeatedly deceptive federal brokers about his actions.)

Ms. Dunn and her colleagues have mentioned she has at all times been scrupulous about adhering to ethics guidelines. SKDK emphasizes that it doesn't foyer however does political and media consulting.

Ms. Dunn and her husband, Robert Bauer, a former White Home counsel who nonetheless serves as the private lawyer for each Mr. Biden and former President Barack Obama, have lengthy been a part of the infrastructure of nationwide Democratic politics in Washington.

After the 2020 election, Ms. Dunn meant to return to her place as managing director at her firm, which represents Pfizer, AT&T and Amazon, amongst different company behemoths in addition to nonprofits just like the N.A.A.C.P.

Mr. Biden and his spouse, Jill Biden, nevertheless, had different plans. They pressed Ms. Dunn to hitch the incoming administration, reminding her that the pandemic was killing 3,000 folks a day and that Mr. Biden relied on her expertise and decisiveness.

Ms. Dunn didn't really feel as if she might say no, colleagues mentioned.

She agreed to return in solely on a short-term foundation, as a "particular authorities worker," a designation that exempts her from public monetary disclosures required of full-time authorities workers members but in addition caps the variety of days she will be able to spend within the White Home.

She additionally didn't intend to supervise Mr. Biden's marketing campaign. However after he completed fourth place within the Iowa caucuses, adopted by a disastrous fifth-place end in New Hampshire, Ms. Dunn, colleagues mentioned, was motivated by a mixture of loyalty and desperation.

There was little cash in February 2020. There have been no crowds. Ms. Dunn seized management of your complete operation, residing out of a Hampton Inn in Philadelphia close to the marketing campaign headquarters and approving \$200 in workplace provide expenditures, colleagues recalled.

Ms. Dunn helped Mr. Biden conclude that the timing was not proper. Mr. Biden turned to her once more in 2018 when he started to significantly ponder a run in opposition to Mr. Trump.

In her present position, she is making a wage of \$129,000, slightly below [the \\$132,552 threshold](#) that requires submitting public monetary disclosures. (Mr. Bauer, who's a co-chairman of the president's [fee to judge proposed overhauls to the Supreme Court docket](#), can be a particular authorities worker, though his position is unpaid.)

Eleanor Eagan, a analysis director for the Revolving Door Challenge, criticized the administration for permitting Ms. Dunn to keep away from disclosure guidelines. "Biden promised to revive belief in authorities within the wake of Trump's fantastically corrupt administration," Ms. Eagan mentioned. "Permitting this and comparable evasions is a transparent violation of that pledge."

Now Ms. Dunn is returning to the non-public sector, the place her colleagues profit from her connections within the West Wing.

Ms. Dunn's firm was additionally employed to deal with the \$2.2 million unsolicited mail contract for the Biden marketing campaign, in response to marketing campaign filings, underscoring how the enterprise and political worlds are generally aligned.

A few of SKDK's shoppers have drawn controversy, as was the case with [NSO Group](#), an Israeli cybertechnology firm that has been [accused of utilizing its adware](#) to hack the telephones of journalists and human rights activists, [in response to The Intercept](#). Hilary Rosen, a associate at SKDK, mentioned it stopped representing the corporate in 2019 and dropped it as a consumer over the adware allegations.

A senior White Home official mentioned Ms. Dunn can be topic to postgovernment restrictions that apply to former federal staff. That features a two-year restriction on whom she contacts on issues wherein the federal government has a "substantial curiosity" that was pending underneath her official accountability within the White Home.

Even together with her return to the corporate, no person within the White Home expects Ms. Dunn's affect in Biden world to finish utterly. In actual fact, many view her departure as a short second to breathe earlier than she begins to plan the president's re-election, which to date [he has indicated he intends to wage](#).

“She’ll at all times be a telephone name away,” mentioned Cedric Richmond, a senior adviser within the White Home.