

By [Michael Kates](#) | Jul, 20th 2020 | 4 mins

BIDEN VP PICK ODDS: RICE STRENGTHENS; DUCKWORTH SURGE HOLDS



Susan Rice, a former UN ambassador and national security advisor under President Barack Obama, continued to gain ground Monday on favorite Kamala Harris in the Joe Biden VP odds market at [888sports' UK-facing betting site](#).

Rice improved to +275, up from +300 on Sunday and +400 just a few days earlier. They are her best odds ever to be the 2020 Democratic running mate.

Illinois Sen. Tammy Duckworth, a U.S. Army helicopter pilot who lost her legs in the Iraq War, slipped slightly to +650, down from +550, but still a strong third choice and a far cry from her +3300 odds of late June. Duckworth, the first Thai American elected to Congress, is also the first Senator to give birth while in office.

California Sen. Harris remains the favorite as she has been for many months, but slipped back to +100 from her all-time best -134. Florida Rep. Val Demings is tied for fourth at +1000 with former first lady Michelle Obama and Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren, who jumped from +2000 last week.

Last month, Rice was +2500 to be Biden's running mate before [reports emerged](#) that she was one of six women seen as serious contenders and on the short list. Joining Rice, Harris and Demings on that list were Warren, Atlanta Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms and New Mexico Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham. Biden has said he would pick a female running mate.

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2020 Democratic Vice Presidential Betting Odds

Candidate	Odds
Kamala Harris	+100
Susan Rice	+275
Tammy Duckworth	+650
Val Demings	+1000
Michelle Obama	+1000
Elizabeth Warren	+1000
Keisha Lance Bottoms	+2000
Stacey Abrams	+3300
Michelle Lujan Grisham	+3300
Amy Klobuchar	+5000
Gretchen Whitmer	+5000

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A Closer Look At The Top Contenders

Kamala Harris

Harris endorsed Biden roughly three months after ending her own campaign. A former prosecutor and California senator since 2017, Harris waited until Warren dropped out of the race before throwing her support to Biden. Harris' campaign largely exceeded expectations and gained strong momentum early before fizzling out in the polls. She is also considered more moderate and has been out in front with issues of police and race, likely boosting her odds.



Susan Rice

Rice worked closely with Biden when he was vice president, is personally close with him as well, and has been a particular vociferous critic of the Trump administration. She had considered challenging Republican Sen. Susan Collins of Maine but decided against it.

While she has never held elected office, she has extensive foreign policy experience. But Rice has also been a Republican target years over the Benghazi attack and disproven allegations she spied on Michael Flynn, Trump's first national security advisor (records declassified by the Trump administration show no evidence that she improperly accessed any information).



Val Demings

Demings, the former Orlando, Florida, police chief who is in her second term in Congress, was selected by House Speaker Nancy Pelosi to be an impeachment manager.

Several factors could be playing into Demings' rise in the odds. There has been an increasing call from within the party to pick an African-American woman, especially after Biden's gaffe this spring when he told an interviewer, "If you have a problem figuring out whether you're for me or Trump, then you ain't black." Biden said he was sorry about the comment.

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Demings said in May during an appearance on CNN's "State of the Union" that Biden was right to apologize and ripped Donald Trump's "gall" of going after Biden over the remark. It was the full-throated defense a candidate would like to see from a potential running mate.

There is also an electoral argument to be made. Even though VP nominees don't move the needle much, a small shift in Florida could make a huge impact, and Demings is extremely popular in her district and along the pivotal I-4 corridor. She has law enforcement chops, which is appealing to more moderate voters, but also was extremely strong as an impeachment manager.



Tammy Duckworth

Duckworth was elected to the House of Representatives in 2012, serving two terms before winning her Senate seat in 2016.

After her service in the Iraq War, she served as the Director of the Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs from 2006 until 2009 and was credited with starting a program to help veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder and veterans with brain injury.

For two years she served as the Assistant Secretary of Public and Intergovernmental Affairs for the United States Department of Veterans Affairs prior to running for Congress.

Keisha Lance Bottoms

Bottoms, who was elected Atlanta mayor in 2017, earned considerable praise for her handling of protests over George Floyd's death as well as decisive action after the fatal shooting of Rayshard Brooks by police in a Wendy's parking lot. Georgia could be a swing state, though how much she moves the needle is unclear. She also has been vocal about the recent travesty of a primary election in the state.

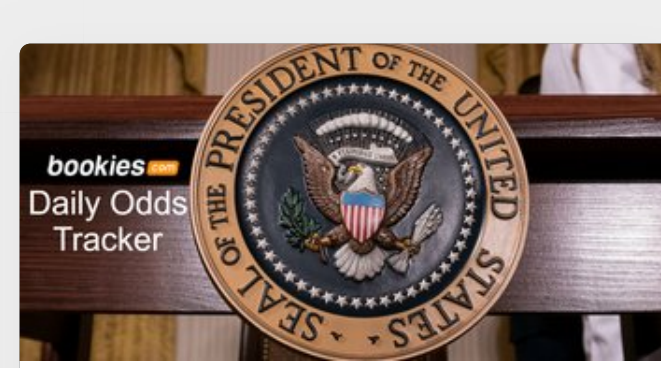
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Elizabeth Warren

Warren has been a strong voice amid the coronavirus crisis and has unveiled details of both a coronavirus response and recovery plan. Multiple polls find her to be the most popular pick among Democrats, especially progressives. However, Massachusetts has a Republican governor, who would get to fill her seat until a special election is held. While that might only present a short-term roadblock, it might not be something the Democrats want to mess with, given a narrow Senate majority might be in the balance.

Michelle Lujan Grisham

The lone Latina on the reported short list and the first Democratic Latina woman to serve as governor in the United States, Grisham served in the U.S. House of Representatives from 2011-2018. She was the state's secretary of health and her early bet on aggressive COVID-19 testing has earned praise.



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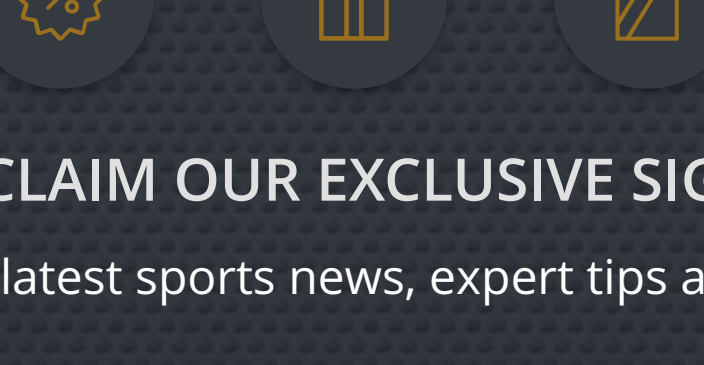
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