

Will Antisemitism Cost Kamala Harris the Presidency?

Per an Oct. 9 article in The New York Times by Shane Goldmacher, “There may be seven main battlegrounds in the race for the White House in 2024, all of which could prove crucial. But Pennsylvania stands apart as the state that top strategists for both Ms. Harris and Mr. Trump have circled as the likeliest to tip the election.”

In light of this observation, which is nothing new, the obvious question is: Why, then, wasn’t Pennsylvania Gov. Josh Shapiro chosen as Harris’ vice presidential candidate? Wouldn’t he do a better job of delivering Pennsylvania to the Democrats? And overall, wasn’t he clearly a better choice than Tim Walz?

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I am neither a political pundit nor a pollster. And I am simply raising questions rather than making assertions, let alone dogmatic ones.

But what if Trump wins the national election, and taking Pennsylvania proved key to that victory? (Again, this is not a prediction; these are questions.) What if choosing Gov. Shapiro for vice president would have ensured Pennsylvania went for Harris? And what if he was not chosen because of anti-Israel, anti-Jewish sentiments?

I’m not the only one to inquire about this.

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Writing on Aug. 6 for the Forward, a liberal Jewish publication (in fact, America's oldest), Jacob Kornbluh stated,

Some say Harris' decision to go with Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz was influenced by an aggressive social media campaign led by pro-Palestinian activists and progressives aimed at keeping Shapiro off the ticket.

The Harris campaign has denied this. A Harris aide, speaking on condition of anonymity due to the sensitivity of the matter, called the claim "absurd." and "absolutely ridiculous and offensive."

Two weeks earlier, also writing for the Forward, a headline to Benjamin Cohen's article inquired, "Will Josh Shapiro's Jewishness hurt or help a Harris ticket?" Yes, we were told, "The Pennsylvania governor is on the shortlist for vice president," but, "Will antisemitism derail the nomination?"

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