



U.S. Secret Service

Protective Intelligence & Assessment Division

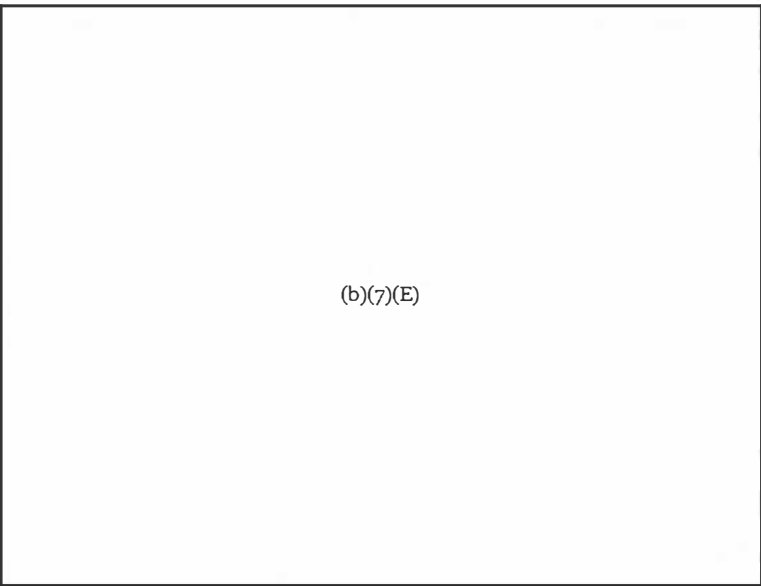
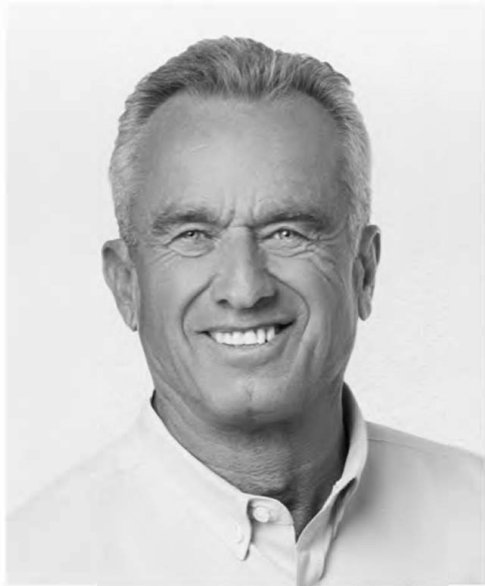
Risk Management Branch

Protective Intelligence Assessment

June 1, 2023

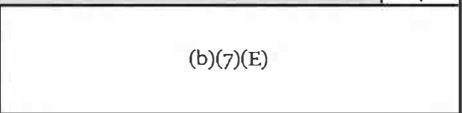
2024 PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE

ROBERT F. KENNEDY JR.



RISK ENVIRONMENT

Robert F. Kennedy Jr.'s public profile has increased since announcing his candidacy for the 2024 presidential election. All presidential candidates are inherently at risk for adverse attention due to the public, high-profile nature of the election (b)(7)(E)



Robert F. Kennedy Jr. is the son of former Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy—who was assassinated while a presidential candidate in 1968—and the nephew of former President John F. Kennedy and former Senator Ted Kennedy. Kennedy is an environmental lawyer and children's health advocate. He founded the world's largest clean water advocacy group, Waterkeeper Alliance, and the nonprofit Children's Health Defense. Kennedy is also an author, having published several books and articles for national newspapers about the science of vaccines and the environment.

On April 5, 2023, Kennedy announced his candidacy for the Democratic presidential nomination in 2024, making him the fourth member of his family to pursue the presidency. Kennedy

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acknowledged his controversial opinions during his announcement speech, stating “I am not the ideal presidential candidate.” Kennedy went on to explain the goal of his campaign and potential presidency would be to “end the corrupt merger of state and corporate power.”

News media reporting and social media chatter have highlighted the assassination of Kennedy’s father and uncle in relation to his decision to run for president. Many comments suggested that, for no other reason than that he is a Kennedy, he would be at risk of assassination. In May 2023, Kennedy received increased media attention after accusing the CIA of involvement in the assassination of his uncle. Kennedy has advocated for the release of the individual currently imprisoned for assassinating his father, Sirhan Sirhan, because he believes a CIA contractor was responsible for the death.

Kennedy has received both support and criticism for his stance on vaccines and has been described as an anti-vaccine activist. Kennedy has rejected this notion, insisting rather that he is a proponent for safe vaccines. For decades, Kennedy has lobbied against the use of a mercury-based preservative in vaccines because he alleges it is linked to autism. Kennedy remained in the public spotlight throughout the COVID-19 pandemic due to his vocal opposition to COVID-19 vaccines. In 2021 he published a book, *The Real Anthony Fauci: Bill Gates, Big Pharma, and the Global War on Democracy and Public Health*, in which he accused Dr. Fauci and Bill Gates of purposefully exaggerating the COVID-19 pandemic to promote expensive vaccines for profit. In January 2022, Kennedy received backlash for comparing COVID-19 policies in the US to Hitler’s Nazi Germany. Several of Kennedy’s social media accounts were suspended after he posted information critical of COVID-19 vaccines.

In 2013, a personal journal detailing Kennedy’s extramarital affairs and his opinions of various celebrities and political leaders was leaked to a news outlet. In his autobiography, *American Values: Lessons I Learned from My Family*, Kennedy writes about his struggle as a “functional” drug and alcohol addict following the death of his father and subsequent path to sobriety. Media outlets, and Kennedy himself, have commented on how his past and political opinions may diminish his chances of securing the Democratic nomination.

Kennedy’s family history, perceived controversial stance on vaccines, and his status as a challenger to President Biden for the Democratic presidential nomination elevates his risk for adverse attention.

OPEN SOURCE ANALYSIS

(b)(7)(E)

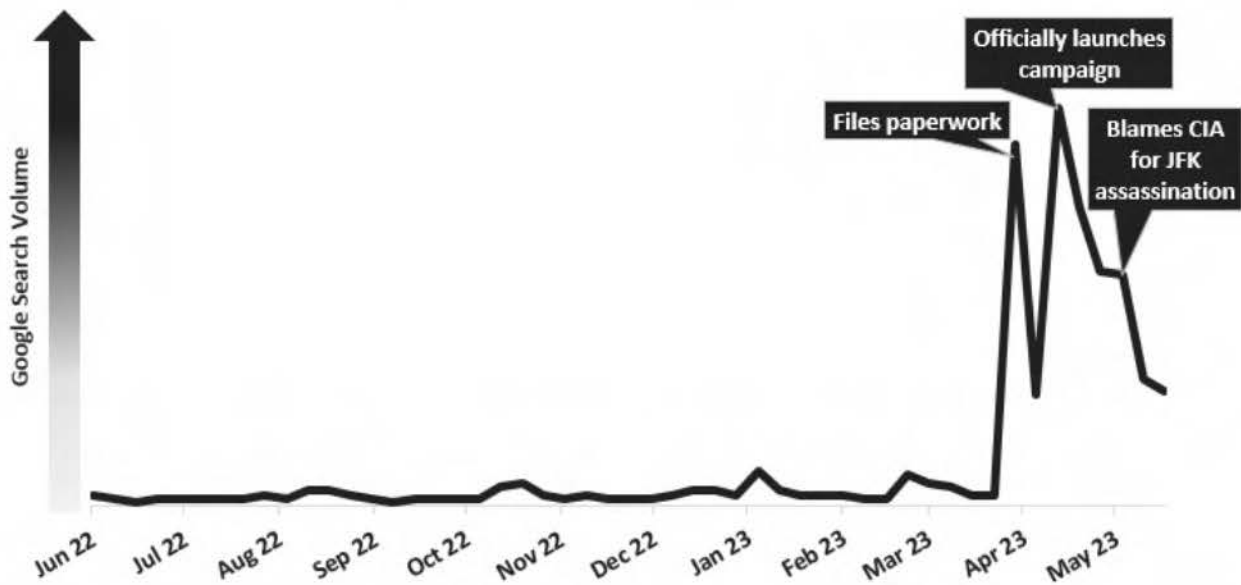
See OSB’s attached Open Source Report for an in-depth analysis.

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PUBLIC INTEREST INDICATOR

Google data for Kennedy serves as a measure of public interest. Public interest fluctuates in accordance with media coverage. The graph below depicts searches for “Robert Kennedy Jr” in Google.

Most recent polls show Kennedy has around 16-19% support among Democratic voters.



- ◆ Public interest volume spiked in **early April 2023** after Kennedy filed paperwork with the Federal Election Commission, declaring his candidacy for the 2024 presidential race as a Democrat.
- ◆ Public interest volume was **highest in mid-April 2023** after Kennedy officially launched his presidential campaign.
- ◆ Public interest volume increased in **early May 2023** after Kennedy participated in interviews where he claimed the CIA was involved in the assassination of his uncle, John F. Kennedy.

BEHAVIORS OF INTEREST

(b)(7)(E)

- ◆ On April 23, 2023, a known subject (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) submitted an inappropriate comment on the White House website addressed to President Biden (b)(6); stated, "Born to a political family, his twelfth cousin—Robert Kennedy—announces their candidacy to succeed Joseph Biden for 'President of the United States.' There's no way you'd... assassinate former president Donald Trump. 'Go get 'em, kiddo!'" No further USSS investigation was conducted.

(b)(7)(E)

- ◆ A known subject (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) mailed a nonsensical letter to the hotel where Kennedy held his presidential campaign announcement event (b)(6); yarned a "madman" may commit a "serious terrorist act" and wanted to discuss his sins with Kennedy. (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)
(b)(6); (b)(7)(C)
(b)(6); (b)(7)(C) is of record with the USSS since March 2023 after he sent a nonsensical letter to President Biden with similar rhetoric. The USSS investigation is complete.
- ◆ A known subject (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) sent numerous packages, including gifts and a wedding band, to Kennedy (b)(6); stated she loves Kennedy and expressed anger about being kept away from him.
(b)(6); (b)(7)(C)
- ◆ A known subject (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) regularly sends materials to Kennedy's residence. One letter contained a 32-page manifesto in which (b)(6); made nonsensical religious references and described himself as a "commissioned messenger of God."
- ◆ A known subject (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) regularly sends threatening emails, stating he will "bury" Kennedy, "everyone will die," and that he will make Kennedy "suffer."
- ◆ A subject (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) sent inappropriate communications to Kennedy. The subject believed Kennedy was spying on him, paying people to follow him, and was responsible for vandalism against him. The subject stated "your behavior has complete freaked me out. Focus on your damn campaign and leave me the hell alone."
(b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

Information on Subjects of Interest is available through the Protective Threat Management System (PTMS) or PI Photo Array App, where all authorized users, including all special agents, can obtain photo arrays and photo bulletins of Subjects of Interest for a district or who have exhibited behaviors of interest in a particular protectee.

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DEMONSTRATIONS

The PID has received **no reports** of demonstration activity directed toward Kennedy.

TERRORISM

COUNTERINTELLIGENCE

(b)(7)(E)

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PROFILE & BIOGRAPHY

Full Name:

Robert Francis Kennedy Jr.

Date/Place of Birth:

January 17, 1954 / Washington, DC

Education:

Pace University (LLM)
University of Virginia School of Law (JD)
Harvard University (BA)

Family:



Religion:

Roman Catholic

Occupation:

Environmental lawyer and author

Residence:

Los Angeles, CA & Cape Cod, MA

Robert Francis Kennedy Jr. was born on January 17, 1954, in Washington, DC, as the third of 11 children to US Senator and Attorney General Robert Francis Kennedy and Ethel Kennedy. Kennedy was nine years old when his uncle, President John F. Kennedy, was assassinated and 14 years old when his father was assassinated while running for the Democratic presidential nomination in 1968. Throughout his teen years into adulthood, Kennedy struggled with drug and alcohol addiction which resulted in several school expulsions and a felony drug arrest. Kennedy graduated from Harvard University in 1976 with a degree in American history and literature. He went on to receive his Juris Doctorate from the University of Virginia School of Law and a master's degree in environmental law from Pace University.

In 1982, Kennedy began his career as an assistant district attorney in New York City. He went on to join two nonprofits, Riverkeeper and the Natural Resources Defense Council, where he litigated and supervised environmental enforcement lawsuits. He became an adjunct professor of environmental law at Pace University in 1986, where he served for three decades. He later founded the school's Environmental Litigation Clinic, where he was a supervising attorney and co-director until 2017. Kennedy founded the non-profit environmental group Waterkeeper Alliance in 1999 and served as the president of its board. In 2000, Kennedy and environmental lawyer Kevin Madonna founded the environmental law firm Kennedy & Madonna, LLP, to represent private plaintiffs against polluters. In 2016, he joined the Morgan & Morgan, known for its personal injury and class actions suits.

Kennedy has been a vocal advocate for safe vaccines. In 2016, Kennedy founded the Children's Health

Defense advocacy group, formally known as the World Mercury Project. The group has advocated against the use of mercury in vaccines, pesticides, fluoridation of drinking water, and aluminum due to their alleged harmful effects on the health of children.

Kennedy was a staunch opponent to COVID-19 vaccines throughout the pandemic. In November 2021, Kennedy published a book titled *The Real Anthony Fauci: Bill Gates, Big Pharma, and the Global War on Democracy and Public Health*, in which he alleged Dr. Anthony Fauci and Bill Gates were purposefully exaggerating the pandemic and promoting expensive vaccinations for the benefit of “a powerful vaccine cartel.”

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

On April 5, 2023, Kennedy announced his candidacy for the Democratic presidential nomination in the 2024 presidential election, making him the fourth member of his family to pursue the presidency. Kennedy’s campaign priorities include promoting a transparent government, race relations, incentivizing clean energy, and ending foreign wars.

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

To: [redacted] (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) (CMR)
[redacted] (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) MICHAEL PLATI (OPO) [redacted] (b)(6); (b)(7)(C); (b)(7)(E)
[redacted] (b)(6); (b)(7)(C); (b)(7)(E) (CMR) [redacted] (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

Subject: Re: RFK Jr Says Biden Administration Denied Him Secret Service Protection - The Messenger

Team,

In addition to the numbered guidelines concerning FEC filing and polling requirements, I recommend any outward facing messaging include the attached language as well. Derived from the guidelines and appearing within the third paragraph of the attached. While interacting with the CPAC and from what I've gathered from this decision, the following language was key to the recommendation and subsequent decision.

"Protection under these guidelines should only be granted within one year prior to the general election. Protection more than one year prior to the general election should only be granted in extraordinary, case by case circumstances in consultation with the committee, based on threat assessment and other factors "

[redacted] (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)
United States Secret Service
Office of Protective Operations
DSAIC - Staffing and Logistics
C: [redacted] (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

From: [redacted] (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) (IGL) [redacted] (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)
Sent: Friday, July 28, 2023 10:32:56 AM
To: [redacted] (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) (CMR) [redacted] (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) MICHAEL PLATI (OPO)
[redacted] (b)(6); (b)(7)(C); (b)(7)(E) (CMR)
[redacted] (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) (OPO) [redacted] (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)
Subject: RE: RFK Jr Says Biden Administration Denied Him Secret Service Protection - The Messenger

Request for protection to DHS dated 5/26
Response by Congressional Advisory Board 7/11
Passed to DHS front office on 7/14

From: [redacted] (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) (CMR) [redacted] (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)
Sent: Friday, July 28, 2023 10:29 AM
To: MICHAEL PLATI (OPO) [redacted] (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) (IGL)
[redacted] (b)(6); (b)(7)(C); (b)(7)(E) (CMR)
[redacted] (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) (OPO) [redacted] (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)
Subject: Re: RFK Jr Says Biden Administration Denied Him Secret Service Protection - The Messenger

We're getting Press calls on this and sending to DHS

[redacted] (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)
Chief of Communications
United States Secret Service

Direct: (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)
e-Mail: (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

@SecretService | @SecretSvcSpox

www.secretservice.gov

From: MICHAEL PLATI (OPO) (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)
Sent: Friday, July 28, 2023 10:20:31 AM
To: (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) (IGL) (b)(6); (b)(7)(C); (b)(7)(E)
(b)(6); (b)(7)(C) (CMR) (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) (CMR)
(b)(6); (b)(7)(C) (OPO) (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)
Subject: RE: RFK Jr Says Biden Administration Denied Him Secret Service Protection - The Messenger

Copy thank you –

DSAIC (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) FYSA –

From: (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) (IGL) (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)
Sent: Friday, July 28, 2023 10:04 AM
To: (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) (CMR)
(b)(6); (b)(7)(C) (CMR) (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)
Subject: FW: RFK Jr Says Biden Administration Denied Him Secret Service Protection - The Messenger
Importance: High

For awareness

From: (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)
Sent: Friday, July 28, 2023 9:58 AM
To: (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) (IGL) (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)
Cc: (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)
Subject: RFK Jr Says Biden Administration Denied Him Secret Service Protection - The Messenger

The Messenger: [RFK Jr Says Biden Administration Denied Him Secret Service Protection](#)

Kayla Gallagher | July 28, 2023 9:49 a.m.

Robert F. Kennedy Jr. says that the Biden Administration has denied him the Secret Service protections offered to presidential candidates, which were enacted after the assassination of his father.

"Since the assassination of my father in 1968, candidates for president are provided Secret Service protection. But not me," the presidential hopeful tweeted. "Typical turnaround time for pro forma

protection requests from presidential candidates is 14-days. After 88-days of no response and after several follow-ups by our campaign, the Biden Administration just denied our request."

Secret Service protections for presidential candidates were established following the assassination of Robert F. Kennedy, a former U.S. senator and attorney general who was assassinated while running for president in 1968.

Kennedy, who is running against current President Joe Biden for the Democratic president nomination, included a statement he says is from Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas: "I have determined that Secret Service protection for Robert F Kennedy Jr is not warranted at this time."

The Secret Service is required by law to protect "major presidential and vice presidential candidates and their spouses within 120 days of a general presidential election." According to the Secret Service, the statute says that "major presidential and vice presidential candidates" refers to individuals identified by the Secretary of Homeland Security after consultation with an advisory committee.

The 2024 general election is 466 days away from the time Kennedy tweeted.

Kennedy says his campaign's request included a 67-page report detailing why he should receive protection because of the safety and security risks he faces as a presidential candidate.

The Biden Administration has not yet commented on Kennedy's claim.

From: (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) (IGL)
Sent: Thu, 15 Jun 2023 16:18:33 +0000
To: CYNTHIA SJOBERG-RADWAY (COO)
Cc: (b)(6); (b)(7)(C); (b)(7)(E)
Subject: FW: Candidate Protection Advisory Committee Material
Attachments: KENNEDY CPAC Criteria Analysis .pdf, KENNEDY Robert F JR - 2024 Presidential Candidate - Initial - May 2023.pdf, RFK Jr. Risk Assessment Declaration May 24 2023.pdf, Recording Secretary Cover letter .docx

From: (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) (IGL)
Sent: Thursday, June 15, 2023 9:08 AM
To: (b)(6); (b)(7)(C); (b)(7)(E)
Cc: (b)(6); (b)(7)(C); (b)(7)(E)
Subject: Candidate Protection Advisory Committee Material

Team,

Attached is the suggested message COO Cynthia Sjoberg Radway can cut and paste and send to Congressional Staff:

Dear Advisory Committee Members:

As the Recording Secretary for the Candidate Protection Advisory Committee, I write to provide you with the materials compiled by the United States Secret Service (Secret Service) to assist in your review of the request for Secret Service protection submitted on behalf of Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. As set out in the Department of Homeland Security "Guidelines for Authorizing Secret Service Protection to U.S. Presidential Candidates," the Secret Service has prepared an analysis of the factors listed in Section II. The analysis and relevant supporting documents as well as the request for protection are attached.

Please contact my office should you have any questions regarding these materials.

Sincerely,

Cynthia Sjoberg Radway
Chief Operating Officer

(b)(5)