ELECTION YEAR TENSION: LOBBIES AND BROKEN PROMISES IN THE USA

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The 60th presidential elections to be held in the USA on 5 November led the political conjuncture and lobbying activities to intensify. After Biden announced his withdrawal from the presidential elections, Kamala Harris was elected as the presidential candidate of the Democratic Party with the approval of many delegates.

The lobbies, who wanted to use this new turn of events in their favour, took action to get the candidates to accept their demands through various publications and events. Regarding the issue, Kamala Harris: A Disappointing Partner for the Armenian Community used the method of incitement.[1] In the article, which states that Kamala Harris is a disappointment for the Armenian community, it is stated that if Harris continues her policies, she will not receive votes from the Armenian community living in America.

The text refers to the Section 907 of the United States Freedom Support Act,[2] which restricts US aid to Azerbaijan, and mentions the disappointment of the Biden-Harris administration's waiver of this law on the Armenian community. However, this situation shows that expectations far from reality are unsustainable when it comes to real policy, regardless of the promises made. Another issue emphasised in the text is that the Biden-Harris administration did not pursue an aid policy in line with the expectations of the Armenian society during the Karabakh War and its aftermath. It is also evident that the promises made in line with the realities of the period and the region were not implemented.

In the article, which expects the US to impose sanctions on Türkiye and Azerbaijan, serious economic aid is also demanded for the Armenians who migrated after the Karabakh War. It is known that the EU and the US have been helping Armenia and the Armenians affected by the war. This request, which ignores the fact that the economic support of states today is based on mutual interests, was not met to the expected degree.

In conclusion, although it is quite normal for communities to have demands from the candidates before the presidential elections, as seen in the aforementioned article, some lobbies openly use blackmail and threats. They list their expectations and state that they will not vote unless their demands are met. Candidates who set out to win votes on the road to victory do not hesitate to make promises that their demands will be met due to the nature of politics, but when it comes to implementation, real concerns and necessities

prevent the implementation of utopian promises. Although various institutions and organisations express their dissatisfaction, the ongoing process shows that the demands seem to be as difficult to implement in the future as they have been in the past.

[1] Kamala Harris: A disappointing Partner for the Armenian Community, The Armenian Weekly, August 27, 2024, https://armenianweekly.com/2024/08/27/kamala-harris-a-disappointing-partner-for-the-armenian-community/.

[2] For more information see Section 907, Wikipedia, accessed September 10, 2024, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Section_907#:~:text=Section%20907%20of%20the%20United,facilitate%20economic%20and%20political%20stability.

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To cite this article: TECİMER, Tuğçe. 2026. "ELECTION YEAR TENSION: LOBBIES AND BROKEN PROMISES IN THE USA." Center For Eurasian Studies (AVİM), Commentary No.2024 / 27. September 12. Accessed October 30, 2026. https://www.avim.org.tr/public/index.php/en/Yorum/ELECTION-YEAR-TENSION-LOBBIES-AND-BROKEN-PROMISES-IN-THE-USA

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