



# JOSEPH R. BIDEN

## President of the United States

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**Joe Biden** (Democrat) was sworn in as the 46th President of the United States on Jan. 20, 2021. President Biden represented Delaware for 36 years in the U.S. Senate before serving as the 47th Vice President of the United States for two terms beginning on Jan. 20, 2009.

Upon taking office, President Biden immediately began to issue executive orders pertaining to the COVID-19 pandemic. In his first 24 hours as President, Biden issued a federal mask mandate — requiring the use of masks and social distancing on all federal property — and increased production of needed medical supplies to meet his vaccination goal of 100 million shots in his first 100 days in office. He also advocated on behalf of his American Rescue Plan that provides additional relief to address the continued impact of Covid-19 on the economy, public health, state and local government, individuals, and businesses. It was signed into law on March 11, 2021.

On President Biden's first day in office, he also signed an executive order to rejoin the United States to the Paris Agreement. On Jan. 27, he signed a number of executive orders aimed at combating climate change. He also established the position of U.S. Special Presidential Envoy for Climate and White House National Climate Advisor. President Biden halted the construction of the U.S.-Mexico border wall and ended the National Emergency Concerning the Southern Border of the United States. An executive order was also issued that lifted the ban on transgender military service members.

As Vice President, Biden was charged with oversight of infrastructure spending for the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, the economic stimulus package earmarked to help rebuild the nation's economy. He served as chair of the administration's Middle Class Task Force, a major White House initiative targeted at raising the living standards for middle-class families in America. As part of this effort, he focused on the issues of college affordability and American manufacturing growth. Biden also became a leading figure in the national debate about gun control when he was appointed to head a special task force to help develop solutions for reducing gun violence.

President Biden was one of the longest-serving U.S. Senators in history. He has been at the forefront of issues and legislation ranging from drug control policy and crime prevention to terrorism and weapons of mass destruction. As chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee for 16 years, Biden was widely recognized for his work writing legislation and spearheading the creation of the Violence Against Women Act — landmark legislation that strengthened penalties for violence against women and that created resources for the survivors of assault. As chair of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee for 12 years, Biden played a pivotal role in shaping U.S. foreign policy. He was at the forefront of legislation and issues that related to terrorism, weapons of mass destruction, post-Cold War Europe, the Middle East and Southwest Asia.

Biden was born on Nov. 20, 1942, in Scranton, Pennsylvania, and lived there for 10 years before moving to Delaware. He received his bachelor's from the University of Delaware in 1965 and his J.D. from Syracuse University College of Law in New York in 1968. After obtaining his law degree, he returned to Wilmington, Delaware, where he started a law practice. Shortly thereafter, he was elected to the New Castle County Council in 1970 and began his career in politics.

President Joe Biden and his wife, Jill, have two living children and seven grandchildren.

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