



[Biden is Inaugurated as the 46th President of the United States](#)

Joe Biden officially became the 46th President of the United States when he was sworn into office at 12pm EST on Wednesday, January 20th. The 2020 election marked the third time Biden had run for president, having previously lost bids in 1988 and 2008, although he became the eventual Vice President during the latter. President Biden has made history by being the oldest person to win the presidency, at 78 years of age. His running mate, Vice President Kamala Harris, also made history by becoming the first woman, Asian-American, and African-American to hold the vice presidency. In his inaugural address, President Biden stressed the need to unite the country after four years of division, and he pledged to bring together Americans from all walks of life. Attention will now turn to President Biden's legislative agenda, where he is expected to work toward passing coronavirus-related economic relief, immigration reform, and tackling domestic extremism, among others.

President Biden asked members of the public not to travel to Washington D.C. to attend his inauguration, citing the risk from COVID-19. However, several dignitaries and former presidents were in attendance at a safe distance. Former presidents Obama, Bush, and Clinton attended the ceremony, as did outgoing Vice President Mike Pence. Notable for his absence was former President Trump, who departed Washington for the final time on the morning of the inauguration to head to Palm Beach, Florida. Trump had previously said he would not be attending the inauguration, and President Biden said his nonattendance was one of the few areas in which he agreed with his predecessor. After the inauguration, President Biden and Vice President Harris visited the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington Cemetery along with the aforementioned previous presidents. The new president and vice president then went immediately back to the White House to begin enacting their legislative agenda.

In his first actions as president, Biden signed 17 executive orders on a variety of issues. Several of these orders fulfilled campaign promises he had made to undo certain actions from President Trump. Among these were the lifting of the "Muslim Ban," the halting of construction on the Southern border wall, and the rejoining of the Paris Climate Accord. A large part of Biden's campaign was focused on COVID-19 relief efforts, and he took steps to address the crisis caused by the pandemic in several executive orders. The moratorium on evictions and student loan payments was extended, and he instituted a nationwide mask mandate on federal government property for employees and contractors. Finally, President Biden rejoined the World Health Organization, which former President Trump had previously pulled the United States out of over the body's perceived favorable treatment of China despite evidence that the Chinese government had withheld information about COVID-19 in the early stages of the pandemic.

President Biden's attention is now expected to turn toward pushing his legislative agenda through Congress. He has hopes of a \$1.9 trillion stimulus bill to boost the economy and provide money for a large vaccination effort. Democrats currently hold a majority in both chambers of Congress which will make passing items significantly easier for the Biden administration. However, President Biden has frequently stated his desire to work in a bipartisan manner, particularly in the Senate, as part of his pledge to bring unity back to the country. As a result, it is likely that the president seeks input from Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell on a number of policies in order to win support from some Republicans.