

PRESIDENT BIDEN'S FIRST ADDRESS TO CONGRESS | KEY TAKEAWAYS

Biden goes bold, calling for sweeping change

'America is on the move again,' he told a sparse, socially distanced crowd in the House chamber

Los Angeles Times and Associated Press reports

President Joe Biden, who has already signed one of the costliest measures in U.S. history to help the country rebound from the coronavirus crisis, is pushing for even more aggressive, long-term actions to reshape American life in his first address to a joint session of Congress on Wednesday.

The nationally televised, prime-time speech represents a coda to Biden's initial 100 days in office, during which he focused on expanding vaccine distribution to slow the infection and death toll from COVID-19, and a pivot toward an increasingly ambitious agenda that, if successful, would make his presidency among the most transformative in generations.

"Tonight, I come to talk about crisis and opportunity," Biden said.

"America is on the move again," he added. "Turning peril into possibility, crisis into opportunity, setback into strength."

Key takeaways from the night:

Biden's four-letter word: Jobs

Biden uttered the word "jobs" a whopping 43 times, according to his prepared text.

It's perhaps no surprise for an administration that has made beating backing the pandemic and getting Americans back to work the central guideposts in the early going of the administration.

Biden noted that the economy has gained some 1.3 million new jobs in the first few months of his administration — more than any in the first 100 days of any presidency. But he quickly pivoted to the need to pass his American Jobs Plan if the country is going to sustain momentum and get back to the historic low levels of unemployment prior to the pandemic.

He also aimed to frame his push for the U.S. to meet its international obligations to slow the impact of climate change as, ultimately, a jobs plan.

"For too long, we have failed to use the most important word when it comes to meeting the climate crisis," Biden said. "Jobs. Jobs. For me, when I think about climate change, I think jobs."

Taking credit for turning the tide

Biden said "America's house was on fire" when he took office, citing the devastating COVID-19 pandemic, its damaging economic impacts and the insurrection at the Capitol.

"Now — after just 100 days — I can report to the nation: America is on the move again," Biden said, adding the nation is now "turning peril into possibility. Crisis into opportunity. Setback into strength."

It's a tried and true strategy by the president to take credit for the more



Chip Somodevilla/Pool/Getty Images North America

President Joe Biden addresses a joint session of Congress on Wednesday in a socially distanced House chamber. Vice President Kamala Harris and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi sit behind him, symbolizing the historic nature of the speech — it's the first time both of the top positions in the presidential line of succession have been held by women.

hopeful moment, as the coronavirus vaccines have provided a path out of the pandemic.

Republicans, meanwhile, made it clear they see things differently, with Sen. Tim Scott, R-S.C., implicitly crediting President Donald Trump for the Biden's good fortune.

"This administration inherited a tide that had already turned," he said in prepared remarks from the official GOP response to Biden's address. "The coronavirus is on the run!"

From polling, it's clear Biden's view is winning the day — at least thus far — with more Americans approving of his job performance than ever did of Trump, with strong marks even from Republicans for handling the pandemic.

"What we heard from the President tonight was a resounding message of hope, unity, and resilience," Sen. Ron Wyden, D-Ore., wrote on Twitter. "The American people elected Democrats to fight for the priorities that matter to American families, and that's just what we'll continue doing"

Making the case for big government

Biden made the full-throated case for an American embrace of big government.

He ticked off details of some of his plan for \$1.8 trillion in spending to expand preschool, create a national family and medical leave program, distribute child care subsidies and more.

The "American Families Plan," a just-released 10-year proposal, would increase taxes on the wealthy to expand educational opportunities, provide paid family leave and offer tax credits to reduce the cost of child care. Low- and middle-income families would be eligi-



Sen. Tim Scott, R-S.C., offered the Republican rebuttal.

On our website

Read the president's full remarks and coverage of the official Republican rebuttal: [bendbulletin.com/nation](https://www.bendbulletin.com/nation)

ble for two years of preschool and two years of community college at no cost.

To pay for the proposals, Biden wants to end the favorable tax rate on capital gains from stocks and other assets for people earning at least \$1 million per year and to undo Trump's reduction in the top income tax rate for wealthy Americans, restoring it to 39.6% from 37%.

The plan comes on top of his proposal for \$2.3 trillion in spending to rebuild roads and bridges, expand broadband access and launch other infrastructure projects.

Republicans have shown little interest in Biden's spending plan. But Biden and his aides say all of this new spending is wise investment in Americans — and doable in time of low interest rates. Much of it can be paid through raising taxes on the wealthy and would go a long way toward addressing the frailties of life for the middle class and working poor exposed by the pandemic, Biden argues.

While achieving bipartisan backing in Washington for the proposals is a longshot, Biden seems to be betting he can win support across the electorate.

He even made a thinly veiled bid to blue-collar and non-college-educated white men who voted for Trump in November, noting that 90% of the infrastructure jobs that will be created by his spending plans don't require a college degree and 75% don't require an associate's degree. "The American Jobs Plan is a blue-collar blueprint to build America," Biden said. "And it recognizes something I've always said: Wall Street didn't build this country. The middle class built this country. And unions built the middle class."

Smaller audience, more security

Pandemic restrictions left the president speaking to a relatively sparse gathering of fewer than half the 535 members of Congress in the House chamber, rather than to the usual packed audience of lawmakers, Supreme Court justices, Cabinet officials, military leaders, diplomats and other guests.

Lawmakers were spaced three or four seats apart, including in the gallery normally reserved for guests. During most years, a handful of members stake out the seats along the center aisle hours in advance to appear on television shaking the president's hand as he enters. This year, no one was allowed inside until two hours before and each had a seat assigned by the speaker's office.

Metal fencing and National Guard troops ringed the Capitol, a reminder of the enhanced security that remains in place months after the Jan. 6 siege by Trump supporters. Biden described the riot in his speech as "the worst attack on our democracy since the Civil War," an event that continues to cast a shadow over the building.

Vaccines, vaccines, vaccines

The U.S. has vaccinated a greater percentage of its population than almost any other country. Nearly 43% of Americans have received at least one dose, and 29% are considered fully vaccinated, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

"Go get vaccinated America," Biden said Wednesday. "Go and get the vaccination. They're available."

Targeting China

Biden warned lawmakers that they have to work harder and work together to make the United States competitive in the world and not cede the 21st century to China, calling it an "inflection point in history."

He said that in conversations with Chinese President Xi Jinping, it's clear that Xi is "deadly earnest about becoming the most significant, consequential nation in the world."

"The rest of the world is not waiting for us," he said. "I just want to be clear: From my perspective, doing nothing is not an option."

Noting a historic moment

Biden mentioned a historic development at the very opening of his address. After taking the podium, Biden greeted the two women standing behind him with a "Madam Speaker" and "Madam Vice President."

He then declared, "No president has ever said those words — and it's about time."

Speaker Nancy Pelosi already knows what it feels like to sit on the rostrum and introduce presidents for their speeches. She has sat there for several addresses by Presidents George W. Bush, Barack Obama and Donald Trump. Pelosi and Vice President Kamala Harris are both California Democrats.

■ The Washington Post contributed to this report.

TODAY

Today is Thursday, April 29, the 119th day of 2021. There are 246 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On April 29, 1992, a jury in Simi Valley, California, acquitted four Los Angeles police officers of almost all state charges in the videotaped beating of motorist Rodney King; the verdicts were followed by rioting in Los Angeles resulting in 55 deaths.

In 1945, during World War II, American soldiers liberated the Dachau concentration camp.

In 1967, Aretha Franklin's cover of Otis Redding's "Respect" was released as a single by Atlantic Records.

In 1961, "ABC's Wide World of Sports" premiered, with Jim McKay as host.

In 1991, a cyclone began striking the South Asian country of Bangladesh; it ended up killing more than 138,000 people.

In 2008, Democratic presidential hopeful Barack Obama denounced his former pastor, the Rev. Jeremiah Wright, for what he termed "divisive and destructive" remarks on race.

In 2010, the U.S. Navy officially ended a ban on women serving on submarines, saying the first women would be reporting for duty by 2012. The NCAA's Board of Directors approved a 68-team format for the men's basketball tournament.

Ten years ago: Britain's Prince William and Kate Middleton were married in at London's Westminster Abbey.

Five years ago: Joey Meek, a friend of Dylann Roof, the white man later convicted of killing nine Black parishioners during a Bible study at a Charleston, South Carolina, church pleaded guilty to lying to federal authorities. (Meek was sentenced in March 2017 to more than two years in prison.)

One year ago: Scientists announced the first effective treatment against the coronavirus, the experimental antiviral medication remdesivir, which they said could speed the recovery of COVID-19 patients. President Donald Trump said the federal government would not extend the social distancing guidelines that were expiring the next day; he said he would resume his own out-of-state travel.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Keith Baxter is 88. Conductor Zubin Mehta is 85. Singer Tommy James is 74. Comedian Jerry Seinfeld is 67. Actor Leslie Jordan is 66. Actor Kate Mulgrew is 66. Actor Daniel Day-Lewis is 64. Actor Michelle Pfeiffer is 63. Rock musician Phil King is 61. Singer Carnie Wilson (Wilson Phillips) is 53. Actor Uma Thurman is 51. International Tennis Hall of Famer Andre Agassi is 51. Rapper Master P is 51. Rock musician Mike Hogan (The Cranberries) is 48. Actor Megan Boone is 38.

— Associated Press

MICHAEL COLLINS • 1930-2021
Astronaut was Apollo 11 pilot

Associated Press

Apollo 11 astronaut Michael Collins, who orbited the moon alone while Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin made their historic first steps on the lunar surface, died Wednesday. He was 90.

Collins died of cancer, his family said in a statement: "Mike always faced the challenges of life with grace and humility, and faced this, his final challenge, in the same way."

Collins was part of the three-man Apollo 11 crew that in 1969 effectively ended the space race between the United States and Russia and fulfilled President John F. Kennedy's challenge to reach the moon by the end of the 1960s.

Though he traveled some 238,000 miles to the moon and came within 69 miles, Collins never set foot on the lunar surface like his crewmates Aldrin



AP file

Michael Collins takes a break during training for the Apollo 11 moon mission in 1969.

and Armstrong, who died in 2012. None of the men flew in space after Apollo 11.

"It's human nature to stretch, to go, to see, to understand," Collins said on the 10th anniversary of the moon landing in 1979.

He is survived by two daughters and grandchildren.

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DEATH NOTICES

Gloria Jean Mathews of Bend, OR January 20, 1945 - April 21, 2021
Arrangements: Baird Funeral Home of Bend is honored to serve the Mathews family. Please visit our website, www.bairdfh.com, to share condolences and sign our online guest book. *Contributions may be made to:* Humane Society of Central Oregon www.hsc.org 61170 SE 27th St Bend, OR 97702 541-382-3537

Monte "Skip" Brown of Bend, OR February 10, 1962 - March 29, 2021
Arrangements: Autumn Funerals, Bend 541-318-0842 www.autumnfunerals.net
Services: Memorial Services will be held on Sat., May 15 at 1 PM at the Christian Life Center, 21720 Hwy 20, Bend, OR 97701

Wayne emmett Shortreed of Terrebonne, OR June 7, 1950 - April 23, 2021
Arrangements: Autumn Funerals of Redmond is honored to serve the family. 541-504-9485 Memories and condolences may be expressed to the family on our website at www.autumnfunerals.net
Services: A celebration of life will take place at Faith Christian Center, 1049 NE 11th St., Bend, OR on May 22, 2021 at 10:00 AM. *Contributions may be made to:* Partners In Care Hospice, 2075 NE Wyatt Ct., Bend, OR 97701.

David K. Dunn of Bend, OR December 19, 1948 - April 13, 2021
Arrangements: Baird Memorial Chapel of La Pine is honored to serve the Dunn family. Please visit our website, www.bairdfh.com, to share condolences and sign the online guestbook.

Gerald R. Lyons of La Pine, OR February 2, 1944 - April 24, 2021
Arrangements: Baird Memorial Chapel of La Pine is honored to serve the Lyons family. Please visit our website, www.bairdfh.com, to share condolences and sign the online guestbook.

OBITUARY DEADLINE
Call to ask about our deadlines 541-385-5809
Monday-Friday 10am-3pm
Email: obits@bendbulletin.com

OBITUARY

David Leonard Lovik
July 13, 1948 - April 8, 2021

David Leonard Lovik set upon this world on July 13, 1948 in Lebanon, Oregon and moved away from us on April 8, 2021. His parents were Gladys and Lloyd Lovik and he grew up and graduated from high school in Sweet Home, Oregon. After high school, David served in the Army and then attended Oregon College of Education. One of David's proudest times was serving in the Army Honor Guard at Fort Meyer in Washington, D.C. It was while attending college that he met Phyllis Elaine Rains. They were married in June of 1971 and would have celebrated their fiftieth anniversary this coming June. David worked for the U.S. Post Office for 30 Years.

David was a very active ember of Elks Lodge #1371 where he serve as a board member and ran the school supply program and was in charge of the gathering and distribution of toys as Christmas as part of the Lodge's food basket program. He was a huge fan of all things Oregon State Beavers especially, football, baseball, and girls' gymnastics. David loved to travel and was an avid reader, with a book always within easy reach.

David was preceded in death by his parents, an older brother Lloyd Martin Lovik II, and older sister Rena Evans, nephew Lloyd Martin Lovik III and by Baron, the best dog ever. He will lovingly be remembered by his wife Phyllis, nephews, John and Bill Lovik and Michael Evans and nieces, Tella Evans and Lisa Parr and of course by his many friends.

A Celebration Of Life is yet to be scheduled. Donations in David's name may be made to the Christmas Toy Fund at the Bend Elk's Lodge #1371, 63120 Boyd Acres Road, Bend, Oregon, 97702.

Arrangements handled by Baird Funeral Home. Please visit www.bairdfh.com to sign the online guestbook.