

Joe Biden, de l'obsession anti-Trump à l'indifférence
Analyse de la communication de Joe Biden pendant la campagne présidentielle de 2020 et durant ses 100 premiers jours en tant que président des États-Unis

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Corpus des discours de Joe Biden du 29 avril 2019 au 19 mars 2021

Marie Joannes
Année académique 2020-2021

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Joe Biden annonce sa candidature pour les primaires le **25 avril 2019**.

<https://twitter.com/JoeBiden/status/1121353260231688192>

Apr. 29th, 2019 Joe Biden Pittsburg Pennsylvania

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z6N1WdJgnLo>

May 18th, 2019

Biden [9'45"- 39'20"]

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FaN-Pf_LW1Q

June 5th, 2020

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LKoqMiK_VKg

June 30th, 2020

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZcR_kuCJvD8

July 14th, 2020 Wilmington Delaware

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T5pTdbSMcrI>

Aug. 31, 2020 Joe Biden Pittsburg Pennsylvania

Joe Biden Pittsburgh Speech Transcript August 31

[Rev](#) › [Blog](#) › [Transcripts](#) › [2020 Election Transcripts](#) › Joe Biden Pittsburgh Speech Transcript August 31

Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden spoke in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania on August 31. He said: “Our current president wants you to live in fear, he advertises himself as a figure of order. He isn’t, and he’s not been part of the solution thus far”. Read the transcript of his speech [here](#).

Joe Biden: I want to thank Carnegie Mellon for providing this space and all the promise it holds for future jobs in the high-tech world. In recent days, we’ve had a lot of talk about who’s going where and how I’ve decided to come to Pittsburgh to talk a little bit about what’s going on right now. In the early days of World War II, Franklin Roosevelt told the country, and I quote, “The news is going to get worse and worse before it gets better and better. And the American people deserve to have it straight from the shoulder.” Straight from the shoulder. The job of a president is to tell it straight from the shoulder, tell the truth, to be candid, to face facts, to lead, not to insight. That’s why I’m speaking to you today. The incumbent president is incapable of telling us the truth, incapable of facing the facts and incapable of healing. He doesn’t want to shed light, he wants to generate heat and he’s stroking violence in our cities.

Joe Biden: This is a tragic fact of the matter, how he’s dealing with this perilous hour in our nation. And now we have to stand against violence in every form it takes. Violence we’ve seen again and again and again, of unwarranted police shooting, excessive force, seven bullets in the back of Jacob Blake. Knee on the neck of George Floyd, killing of Breonna Taylor in her own apartment, violence of extremists and opportunists, right wing militias... And to derail any hope and support for progress, the senseless violence of looting and burning and destruction of property. I want to make it absolutely clear, so I’m going to be very clear about all of this, rioting is not protesting. Looting is not protesting. Setting fires is not protesting. None of this is protesting. It’s lawlessness, plain and simple. And those who do it should be prosecuted. Violence will not bring change, it will only bring destruction. It’s wrong in every way. It divides instead of unites, destroys businesses, only hurts the working families that serve the community. It makes things worse across the board, not better.

Joe Biden: It’s not what Dr. King or John Lewis taught and it must end. Fires are burning and we have a president who fans the flames rather than fighting the flames. But we must not burn, we have to build. This president, long ago, forfeited any moral leadership in this country. He can’t stop the violence because for years he’s fomented it. He may believe mouthing the words law and order makes him strong. But his failure to call on his own supporters to stop acting as an armed militia in this country shows how weak he is. Does anyone believe there’ll be less violence in America if Donald Trump is reelected?

Joe Biden: We need justice in America. We need safety in America. We're facing multiple crises. Crises that under Donald Trump have kept multiplying. COVID, economic devastation, unwarranted police violence, [inaudible 00:03:48] white nationalists, a reckoning on race, declining faith in the birth of the right American future. There's no reason why we can't just do so much more than we're doing. The common threat, the incumbent president who makes things worse, not better, an incumbent president who sows chaos rather than providing order. An incumbent president who fails in the basic duty of the job, which is to advance the truth that all of us know, that we're all born with the right to life, Liberty, and pursuit of happiness. That's right. All of us, the moms and dads in Scranton, where I grew up, who have worked and scraped for everything they've ever gotten in life.

Joe Biden: The auto worker in Michigan, who still makes the best automobile in the world, single mom in Ohio, working three jobs just to stay afloat who'll do anything for her child. Retired veteran in Florida who gave everything he had to this country. And now just wants us to honor the promises made to him. [inaudible 00:04:58] salesperson who just lost their job. A store closing after 194 years in business. Nurses and doctors in Wisconsin who've seen so much sickness, so much death in the past six months. And they wonder how much more can they take, but still they muster up the courage to take care of those patients in this pandemic while risking their own lives. Researchers in Minnesota who woke up this morning determined to find a breakthrough in treating cancer and who'll do the same thing tomorrow and the day after and the day after, because she'll never give up. White, Black, Latino, Asian American, Native Americans, everybody, I'm in this campaign for you. No matter your color, no matter your zip code, no matter your politics.

Joe Biden: When I think of the presidency, I don't think about myself. It isn't about my brand. It's about you, the American people. We can do better and we have to do better. I promise you this. We will do better. The road back begins now in this campaign. You know me, you know my heart, you know my story, my family story. Ask yourself, do I look like a radical socialist with a soft spot for rioters? Really? I want a safe America, safe from COVID, safe from crime and looting, safe from racially motivated violence, safe from bad cops. Let me be crystal clear, safe from four more years of Donald Trump. I look at this violence and I see lives and communities and the dreams of small businesses being destroyed and the opportunity for real progress on issues of race and police reform and justice being put to the test. Donald Trump looks at this violence and he sees a political lifeline. Having failed to protect this nation from the virus that has killed more than 180,000 Americans so far, Trump posts an all caps tweet, screaming, "Law and order," to save his campaign.

Joe Biden: One of his closest political advisers in the White House doesn't even bother to speak in code, just comes out and she says it. "The more chaos, violence, the better it is for Trump's reelection." Just think about that. This is a sitting president of the United States of America. He's supposed to be protecting this country, but instead he's rooting for chaos and violence. The simple truth is Donald Trump failed to protect America. So now he's trying to scare America. Since Donald Trump and Mike Pence can't run on their record that has seen more American death to a virus, this virus, then the nation suffered in every war since Korea

combined, since they can't run on their economy that has seen more people lose their jobs than any time since the Great Depression, since they can't run on a simple proposition of sending our children safely back to school, since they have no agenda or vision for a second term, Trump and Pence are running on this.

Joe Biden: And I find it fascinating. "You won't be safe in Joe Biden's America." And what's their proof? The violence we're seeing in Donald Trump's America. These are not images of some imagined Joe Biden America in the future. These are images of Donald Trump's America today. He keeps telling you if only he was president, it wouldn't happen. If he was president. He keeps telling us that he was president you'd feel safe. Well he is president, whether he knows it or not, and it is happening, it's getting worse. And you know why? Because Donald Trump adds fuel to every fire because he refuses to even acknowledge that there's a racial justice problem in America because he won't stand up to any form of violence. He's got no problem with right-wing militia, white supremacists, and vigilantes with assault weapons often better armed than the police. Often in the middle of the violence at the protestors and aiming it there. And because tens of millions of Americans simply don't trust this president to respect their rights, to hear their concerns or to protect them. It doesn't have to be this way.

Joe Biden: When President Obama and I were in the White House, we had to defend federal property. We did it. We didn't see it. You didn't see us whipping up fears around the deployment of secret federal troops. We just did our job and the federal property was protected. When president Obama and I were in office, we didn't look at cities as Democratic or Republican run. These are American cities. But Trump doesn't seem himself as president for all of America. Frankly, I believe if I were president today, the country would be safer and we'd be seeing a lot less violence, and here's why. I have said we must address the issue of racial injustice. I've personally spoken to George Floyd's family, and to Jacob Blake's family. I know their pain. And so do you. I know the justice they seek and so do you. They've told us, "None of this violence respects or honors George or Jacob." I believe it can bring these folks fighting for racial justice to the table.

Joe Biden: I've worked with police in this country for many years. I know most cops are good, decent people. I know how they risk their lives every time they put that shield on and go out the door. I'm confident I can bring the police to the table as well. I'd make sure every mayor and governor had the support they needed from the federal government. But I wouldn't be looking to use the United States military against our own people. If I were president, my language would be less divisive, I'd be looking to lower the temperature in this country, not raise it. I'd be looking to unite the nation. But look, if Donald Trump wants to ask the question, "Who will keep you safer as president?" Let's answer that question. First, some simple facts. When I was vice president, violent crime fell 15% in this country. We did it without chaos and disorder.

Joe Biden: And yes, we did it with democratic mayors in most of the major cities in this country. The murder right now is up 26% across the nation this year under Donald Trump. Do you really feel safer under Donald Trump? COVID has taken this year, just since the outbreak, has taken

more than 100... Look, the lives, when you think about it, more lives this year than any other year for the past 100 years. More than 180,000 lives in just six months, an average of 1,000 people dying every day in the month of August. Do you really feel safe under Donald Trump? Mr. Trump, you want to talk about fear? Do you know what people are afraid of in America? Afraid they're going to get COVID. They're afraid they're going to get sick and die. And that is in no small part because of you. We're now on track to more than 200,000 deaths in this country due to COVID. More than 100,000 seniors have lost their lives to the virus.

Joe Biden: More cops have died from COVID this year than have been killed on patrol. Nearly one in six small businesses have closed in this country today. Do you really feel safer under Trump? What about Trump's plan to destroy the Affordable Care Act, and with it, the protections for preexisting conditions that impacts more than 100 million Americans? Does that make you feel safer? Or how about Trump's plan to defund social security? The social security administration's chief actuary just released a report saying that if a plan like the one Trump is proposing goes into effect, the social security trust fund would be, and I quote, "Permanently depleted by the middle of calendar year 2023, with no ability to pay benefits thereafter." To put it plainly, Trump's plan will wipe out social security period. Do you feel safer and more secure now? The fear that reigns under this president doesn't stop at our shores. The Kremlin has put bounties on the heads of American soldiers.

Joe Biden: And instead of telling Vladimir Putin that there'd be no putting up with this, that there'd be a heavy price to pay if they dare touch an American soldier, this president doesn't even bring up the subject in his multiple phone calls with Putin. It's been reported that Russian forces just attacked American troops in Syria, injuring our service members. Did you hear the president say a single word? Did he lift one finger? Never before has an American president played such a subservient role to a Russian leader. It's not only dangerous, it's humiliating and embarrassing for the rest of the world to see, it weakens us. Not even American troops can feel safer under Trump. Donald Trump's role as a bystander in his own presidency extends to the economic plan and pain. The plan he doesn't have and the pain being felt by millions of Americans. He said this week, and I quote, "You better vote for me, or you're going to have the greatest depression you've ever seen." Does he not understand and see the tens of millions of people who've had to file for unemployment this year so far?

Joe Biden: The people who won't be able to make next month's rent payment? The people who lost wages or the cost of groceries have gone up dramatically? President Obama and I stopped a depression in 2009. We took a bad economy that was falling and turned it around. Trump took a good economy and drove it back into the ditch. Through his failure to get COVID under control, his failure to pull together the leaders in Congress, his failure to deliver real relief to working people, has made our country's economic situation so much worse, so much worse than it had to be. We talk about safety and security. We should talk about basic security of being able to look your child in the eye and tell them, "Everything's going to be okay. Don't worry, honey. We're not going to lose our home. We're going to be able to put food on the table. It's going to be okay."

Joe Biden: It's the job of the president. I've laid out an agenda for economic recovery that will restore a sense of security for working families. We won't just build things back the way they were before. We're going to build them back better with good paying jobs. Building our nation's roads, bridges, solar rays, windmills with investments in our healthcare and childcare workers so they get the pay and dignity they deserve while easing the financial burdens on millions of families with a clean energy strategy that has a place for the energy workers right here in Western Pennsylvania. I am not banning fracking. Let me say that again. I am not banning fracking. No matter how many times Donald Trump lies about me, the future, that's what this is all about. We hear Donald Trump's self-centered rants and riffs, but the voice of Americans should be heard. And one you should listen to is Julia Jackson, the mother of Jacob Blake. Hers is a voice of courage, character and wisdom.

Joe Biden: Looking at the damage that has been done in her city, she said, "The violence and destruction doesn't reflect my son or my family." These are the words of a mom, a mother whose son had just been shot seven times in front of his children, badly injured, paralyzed, perhaps permanently. And even as she seeks justice for her son, she's pleading for an end to the violence and for this nation to heal. She said she was praying for her son. Then she said something to me that that surprised me. She said she was praying for all police officers. She said was already been praying for America even before her son was shot. She's publicly asked all of us to examine our hearts, citizens, elected officials, the police, all of us. And then she said, this. "We need healing. More than anything, that's what we need to do as a nation. We need to heal."

Joe Biden: Our current president wants you to live in fear, he advertises himself as a figure of order. He isn't, and he's not been part of the solution thus far. He's part of the problem. The problem, I, as president, will give you my all resolve to stop. I'll deal with the virus, I'll deal with the economic crisis, and I'll work to bring a quality and opportunity to everyone. We've arrived at a moment in this campaign, we all know, including the press in front of me, knew we'd get to. The moment when Donald Trump would be so desperate, he'd do anything to hold onto power. Donald Trump has been a toxic presence in our nation for four years. Poisoning how we talk to one another, poisoning how we treat one another, poisoning the values this nation has always held dear, poisoning our very democracy. Now, in just a little over 60 days, we have a decision to make. Will we rid ourselves of this toxin or will we make it a permanent part of our nation's character?

Joe Biden: As Americans, I'm confident we believe in honesty and decency, treating everyone with dignity and respect, giving everyone a fair shot, leaving no one behind, giving hate no safe harbor, and demonizing no one. We, up to now, always recognize there's something bigger than ourselves, that's what we're about. Trump doesn't seem to believe in any of that. Look, I've said it before and I'll keep saying it, America is an idea. It's the most powerful idea in the history of the world. And I believe it beats in the hearts of the people of this country. All men and women are created equal and they deserve to be treated equally.

Joe Biden: Trump has sought to remake this nation in his image. Selfish, angry, dark, and divisive. This is not who we are. At her best, America's always been, and if I have anything to do it, it will be again, generous, confident, an optimistic nation full of hope and resolve. Donald Trump is determined to instill fear in America. That's what his entire campaign for the president has come down to, fear. But I believe Americans are stronger than that. I believe we'll be guided by the words of Pope John Paul II, words drawn from the scriptures. Be not afraid, be not afraid. Fear never builds the future, but hope does. And building the future is what America does, what we've always done. In fact, it's what we have done best and continue to do best. This is the United States of America. There's not a single thing beyond our capacity when we decide to do it together. So let's get together. I want to thank you all. May God bless you, and may God protect our troops.

Sept. 9th, 2020 Joe Biden Warren Michigan

Joe Biden Speech Transcript Warren, Michigan September 9

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Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden spoke in Warren, Michigan on September 9. He addressed the auto industry and discussed protecting American jobs. Read the transcript of his speech [here](#).

Joe Biden: It's great to be here in Michigan and with the United auto workers. As they say, in parts of my state, I got brought up on General Motors. My father ran a General Motors agency. He didn't own it, but he ran it and cars or cars or cars. By the way, I still have my '67 Corvette that's new. It was new. I still keep that, but I got to tell you, I'm waiting for that electric one you just made that goes 210 miles an hour, but that's a different story.

Joe Biden: Look, earlier this week and the reason we're a little bit late here, we found as I was getting off the plane, the press asked me a legitimate question that I did not have the background on because it occurred on the plane. Earlier this week, we celebrated Labor Day. And here in the heart of the American automobile industry, we never forget everything that we owe the unions. And unions, as you've heard me say many times, built this country. Unions built the economy. The economic engine has driven American manufacturing dynamism. And literally in the case of the auto workers, you're the ones that did it.

Joe Biden: So I want to thank you again, UAW region one, for hosting me today. And it's great to see Senator Stabenow. My good friend, Debbie Stabenow. Got a chance to spend a little time with the governor, but Senator Stabenow and I worked together on an awful lot of matters over the years in the United States Senate. She was a great partner to me when I was vice president and we worked in lockstep to get the people in Michigan back on their feet. We're joined by one of the best and brightest and hardest working governors around, my friend, Gretchen Whitmer.

Joe Biden: And if you're wondering what responsible strong executive leadership looks like in COVID-19, just look at this executive right here. Governor, you've done an incredible job steering the people of Michigan through a turbulent time. Much of it is brought on by Donald Trump's lack of leadership. You've been rock solid, governor. You've listened to the experts and you've led with science and you put the needs of the people, who are hurting first, helping them get through this crisis.

Joe Biden: Meanwhile, on the day that we hit 190,000 dead in the United States, because of COVID-19, we just learned from the Washington Post columnist Bob Woodward that the

president of the United States has admitted on tape in February he knew about COVID-19 that had passed through the air. He knew how deadly it was. It was much more deadly than the flu. He knew and purposely played it down. Worse, he lied to the American people.

Joe Biden: He knowingly and willingly lied about the threaded pose to the country for months. He had the information. He knew how dangerous it was. Now, while this deadly disease ripped through our nation, he failed to do his job on purpose. It was a life and death betrayal of the American people. Experts say that if he had acted just one week sooner, 36,000 people would have been saved. If he acted two weeks sooner, back in March, 54,000 lives would have been spared in March and April alone. His failure has not only costs lives. He sent our economy in a tailspin. It costs millions more in American livelihoods. This is a recession created by Donald Trump's negligence. And he is unfit for this job as a consequence of it. How many schools aren't open right now? How many kids are starting a new school year the same way they ended the last one at home?

Joe Biden: How many parents feel abandoned and overwhelmed? How many frontline workers are exhausted and pushed to the limits? And how many families are missing loved ones at their dinner table tonight because of his failures? It's beyond despicable. It's a dereliction of duty. It's a disgrace. We're going to hear a lot more about this. I'm sure, not just from me, but from the news media and a lot of others, but I want to ask you one simple question. What's the value of a promise? What's it worth? What's the worth of a woman or man's word, of a president's word, if it's not matched with action?

Joe Biden: In 2016, then candidate Trump came here to Warren just a few days before the election. Here's what he said. He said, "If I'm elected, you won't lose one plant. You have plants coming into this country. You're going to have jobs again. You won't lose one plant. I promise you. I promise you." That's what he said. Donald Trump makes a lot of promises. He promised that he alone could stop the off shoring of jobs. He promised he bring back jobs, stop companies from leaving. He could do what, "Nobody else could do it, but him." Nut he promised it has administration would enforce every last buying American provision on behalf of the American people. And what makes his wild claims and hopes, he now hopes we don't notice what he said or won't remember. And when he does follow through or doesn't do with follow through the exact opposite, he's hoping we just have poor memories.

Joe Biden: He doesn't give us much credit, but the American people are smart, honest, decent, and they're hard working. And we expect our president to be straight with us, to do what he or she says they're going to do. So let's look at the reality of Donald Trump's economy and what exactly his promise to the American people and workers are worth. He's on track to be the first president since Herbert Hoover in the Great Depression to see the number of jobs in our economy go down, not up while being president. Our economy's down 4.7 million jobs since he took office, 4.7.

Joe Biden: Even before President Trump's failed response to COVID-19 crashed through our economy, his reckless and chaotic trade policy had thrown American manufacturing into

recession. It was already contracting in 2019, even when COVID-19 hit, before it hit. Trump was creating an average of 500,000 jobs fewer per year than the last three years when President Obama and I were an office. When the GM transmission plant here in Warren close last year, I bet the workers around weren't all that comforted by Trump's empty promises.

Joe Biden: Under Donald Trump, Michigan lost auto jobs, even before COVID did. And what about off shoring? Has Trump delivered on stopping companies from shipping jobs overseas, American jobs? You already know the answer. Of course not. The rate of offshoring by federal contractors, there are people that get federal dollars from the federal government to do things. The off shoring, big companies being paid by US Taxpayers has doubled, doubled under Trump. Those federal contracts with your tax dollars. They've doubled the number that had been off shored.

Joe Biden: He invited companies to the White House to make what he called the pledge to American workers. He couldn't even keep those firms from outsourcing. Many were given lucrative federal contracts, but then some of them turned around and shipped 7,000 jobs overseas. Under President Trump, US trade deficit has grown. It's hit an all time high. Let me say that again. US trade deficit is at an all time high under Trump in the last three years.

Joe Biden: President Trump's answered all this as the same as he's answered everything. Corporate tax giveaways that actually ward off shoring. You heard me right. Giveaways that reward offshoring. If you offshore, you get more tax breaks. His 2017 tax bill slashed taxes on companies that sent production and jobs overseas. Those corporations then make huge profits by shipping these foreign made products back to the United States to sell to American consumers. And no industry has taken a greater advantage of Trump's offshoring tax loopholes than the pharmaceutical industry.

Joe Biden: Big pharma lobbied Trump for a handout. That's exactly what they got from him. US pharma is building factories overseas instead of the United States, skipping out on having to pay US taxes and then sending those same foreign made drugs back to American consumers, all while raising their prices on prescription drugs that union families and working people have to rely on. And in the process by the way, he's trying to do away with all healthcare in America.

Joe Biden: During a pandemic, we're seeing not only the inequity of this policy, but the enormous vulnerability that this creates for our own health security. And our security requires us to have supply chains of the necessary drugs based here, not overseas. Not overseas in times of crisis.

Joe Biden: And what about Trump's commitment to buy American? Like the rest of President Trump's promise it has nothing to do with reality. It's all a bunch of hot air. In fact, contracts awarded by US governments to foreign companies using American tax dollars went up 30% since he's been president. So to recap, one, Trump hasn't stopped companies from closing plants and sending jobs overseas. Two, he's rewarded companies that have cut jobs and failed to invest here at home with billions of dollars in tax breaks. And three, he's awarding more and

more federal contracts to foreign companies. President Trump has broken just about every promise he's ever made to the American worker. And he's failed. He's failed our economy and our country.

Joe Biden: But look, would you really expect anything different from this guy? From someone who called those of you and those who are serving in uniform, who have given their lives to the country losers and suckers? Let me tell you something. My son Beau is an assistant US attorney. He volunteered to go to Kosovo to help them set up a government in the middle of the war. I know I'm being proud here, but he's the only foreigner has a monument that they raised and built in service to him, thanking him for what he did. My son also then as attorney general volunteered to go to Iraq for one year. He wasn't a loser or a sucker. No one who served this nation has been a loser or a sucker. They're all heroes. Or would you expect anything different than someone who could stand next to a father of a fallen soldier and say at a cemetery and say, "I don't get it. What was in it for them?" What was in it for them?

Joe Biden: Donald Trump does understand what it means to serve something bigger than yourself. He doesn't understand duty, honor, country. He lives by a different code. Lies, selfishness, greed. Yes, Donald Trump and I have a pretty different philosophy when it comes to giving our word. Mine means something. When I tell the American people I'm going to do something, I follow through. Here in Michigan, you know that's true.

Joe Biden: When Barack and I took office back in 2009, the economy was crashing. We inherited an economy in free fall. And millions of Americans, including so many right here in Michigan, lost their jobs, their homes, and their savings. With the help of Debbie breaking her neck here, President Obama and I worked hard. He put me in charge of the Recovery Act. I spent a lot of time here in Michigan and Detroit, working with you and Senator Stabenow, and thinking every single day about the folks on the factory line, busting their necks, just trying to put food on the table.

Joe Biden: A lot of folks were all ready to count Detroit out as well as the auto American industry to count it out. But I knew what Debbie knew. I've known always. It's never a good bet to bet against the American worker. So when we promise to stand with the American auto industry, we delivered. We didn't do it to help wealthy investors or pad bonus checks for CEOs, we did it to save an iconic American industry, a testament to the skills and ingenuity of American manufacturing. And the jobs of hundreds of thousands of American workers and the lifeblood of communities all across the Midwest, and used to be in my state of Delaware as well. When Detroit declared bankruptcy, I was right here working alongside the city leaders to get the lights turned back on to revitalize the future of Detroit.

Joe Biden: Well, nearly 20,000 auto manufacturing jobs have been lost in Michigan under Trump. Nearly 80,000 were created during the Obama Biden administration. I've got long history. I'm not just talking about what I'm going to do but delivering results for Michiganders. And now, we need to do it again. We need to do the hard work, not only to recover, but to build the economy back for the future once more. That's why my build back better agenda, that's

what it's all about. Starts right here with you in the union halls, all across America. Back in July, I made the first plank in my agenda a plan to modernize American manufacturing and technology to ensure that the future is made in America, by all of you. And today, I'm announcing some additional steps to make this plank even stronger.

Joe Biden: First, we're going to impose a tax penalty on companies that avoid paying US taxes by off shoring jobs and manufacturing, only to sell those goods back to the American consumer. If your big corporate strategy is to boost your shareholders profits, your CEOs' bonuses by moving jobs out, well, we're going to make sure you not only pay full US taxes on those profits, but we're going to guarantee. We're going to add a 10% off shoring penalty surge tax to your bill. No more deductions for writing off expenses for the cost of sending jobs overseas, which is a big deal that could be done here at home by qualified American workers. I'm not looking to punish American business, but there's a better way. Make it in Michigan, make it in America, invest in our communities and the workers in places like Warren. That's what this is about.

Joe Biden: UAW workers, steel workers, IBW workers. You're the best craftsmen and women in the world. And you're right here. If you're ready to make it in America, then just like there are consequences for off showing, there will be rewards and incentives for creating good paying jobs here at home. Today, I'm announcing my new Made in America tax credit, a 10% advanceable tax credit for companies that invest in the United States and American workers, to help accelerate the recovery under our build back better agenda.

Joe Biden: So if your company revitalizes a closing facility here in the United States, like the transmission plant that got closed last year, we'll take care of 10% of the investment that company makes to reopen it. If you retool a manufacturing facility to make it more competitive, for example, by shifting to help build a new fleet of clean American vehicles made by UAW members, we'll make sure that's more than affordable for you. We're going to make sure you'll get a tax credit. If you restore jobs that have previously been sent overseas, expand your operations in the United States or increase wages for manufacturing jobs will make an even smarter strategic decision for your company because we will make sure you get a tax credit.

Joe Biden: These two steps on top of my plans to close each and every one of the Trump loopholes that he created in 2017 with his tax cut to reward companies with big tax breaks for off shoring. That's going to end. If you're going to want to build things here in the United States, because under our administration, the Biden Harris Administration, is going to deliver on the promise to buy American. It's been a law for almost a century, but we've never lived up to it. The idea is simple.

Joe Biden: Today, the US government spends about \$600 billion of taxpayer's money on federal contracts annually. And that money should go to support American jobs and American businesses. But President Trump has only ever treated it like it was a weak suggestion. Agencies of the federal government can waive the requirements, explanations that Trump doesn't bother even kick back on. We're going to change that when I'm president.

Joe Biden: In my first week, I'll sign a series of executive actions to make sure we enforce by America and direct the full purchasing power of the federal government to fulfill his promise, starting by closing those waiver loopholes immediately. And I promise you, I'll use the full power of the Defense Production Act to enforce buy American and tighten the rules for public infrastructure projects, roads, bridges, canals, airports. And I'm going to crack down on companies that label products as made in America, even if they're coming from China or elsewhere. We found out that on Trump's watch a company selling deployment bags to active duty troops being deployed falsely claimed this product was made in America. When in fact, it was really made mostly in China. Trump didn't do anything to respond. I'm not going to let that happen on my watch. We're going to have an office at the White House dedicated to making sure everyone is playing by the same made in America rules.

Joe Biden: And one more thing, when I say we're going to use the purchasing power of the federal government to reinvigorate domestic manufacturing, I mean. We're going to do that with the American automobile industry as well. United States government owns and maintains an enormous fleet of vehicles. We're going to convert those government vehicles into electric vehicles, made in America, sourced right here in the United States of America. With the government providing the demand and support to retool factories that are suggesting they're struggling to compete, the United States automobile industry will set up expanding the capacity in the United States, not China, to lead the world in clean energy vehicles. I can't wait to get, I said, behind that all electric Corvette that goes 210 miles an hour. Y'all think I'm kidding. I mean it. Last year, that converted Corvette set a speed record of 210.2 miles per hour, electric vehicle. So don't tell me we don't still make the best cars right here in the United States of America, and trucks. We're going to make it easy for American consumers to switch to electric vehicles.

Joe Biden: We're going to build on all the new infrastructure we're going to build on highways. We're going to build a network of 500,000 charging stations across America, providing prevailing wage jobs for the IBW and other craftsmen all across the country. And by offering rebates and incentives to swap older fuel-efficient vehicles for new clean American made models, saving hundreds of millions of barrels of oil. And together, this will mean, listen to me now, 1 million new jobs in the American automobile industry, 1 million. With supply chain, as well as the associated infrastructure, we can do this. We can do this. We can revitalize our industrial base as the heart of the American middle class.

Joe Biden: Think about the worker in Warren who when the transmission plant closed, he told a reporter and I'm quoting him, "Getting a good GM job 23 years ago for me was like winning the lottery," he said. "I was trying to start a family. I was able to buy a house. I went to Disney world, all that." Think about that. A job that felt like winning a lottery because it opened the door to a life that you wanted for yourself, because it gave you dignity, allowed you to provide for your family. Getting a good job in 2020, right here in America, shouldn't be a lottery. It should be an absolute expectation for everyone.

Joe Biden: I don't accept the defeatist view that the forces of automation and globalization mean we can't keep good paying union jobs here in America and create more of them. I don't buy for one second that the vitality of American manufacturing is a thing of the past. We have the most qualified workers in the world. American manufacturing, is the old expression you heard your grandpop say or your grandmother, was the arsenal of democracy in World War II. Well, guess what? It's going to be part of the engine of American prosperity now in 2021, and we're going to make it happen with American grit, American determination, and American union workers.

Joe Biden: Look, folks. That's my promise to you. And keep in mind, back in the 30s, they set up the law relating to unions. It said that not you could have a union, it said the government should encourage unions to increase [inaudible 00:25:10]. You're going to have the best, most friendly union president in history of the United States of America, when I'm in the White House.

Joe Biden: I want to thank you all, for all you do. Don't give up hope. Don't give up hope. We can come back. We can come back stronger than we were before. I want to thank you all. I carry with me... I don't have it. I gave it to my staff. I carry with me in my pocket... Do I have that around, anyone? Where's my staff? I gave it away. Anyway, I carry a schedule in my pocket that lists every single day the number of troops lost in Afghanistan and Iraq. The number wounded. This is my schedule. The back of the schedule is always a black box. You can't really see it. The press may be able to. It says daily US updates. Troops died in Iraq and Afghanistan, 6,922, not over 6,000, 6,922, is every one of those women and men left behind. An entire group of people relied on them.

Joe Biden: US troops wounded in Iraq and Afghanistan, 53,188. Not over 53,000. US COVID infected in America, 6,344,700. US COVID deaths, 189,506. Military COVID infected, 118,984. Military COVID deaths, 6,114. Folks, every one of these lives matter. Every one of these lives left somebody behind grieving. We can't ever forget them, ever, ever forget them. Thank you all. God bless you. And may God protect our troops. Thank you.

Sept. 14th, 2020 Joe Biden Wilmington Delaware

Joe Biden Climate Change Speech Transcript in Wilmington, Delaware September 14

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Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden gave a speech in Wilmington, Delaware about climate change on September 14 to address the wildfires in California, Oregon, and Washington. Read the transcript of his remarks here.

Joe Biden: Good afternoon. Welcome to the Natural History Museum.

Joe Biden: As a nation, we face one of the most difficult moments in our history, in my view. Four historic crises all at the same time. The worst pandemic in a hundred years, it's already killed nearly 200,000 people and counting. The worst economic crisis since the Great Depression has cost tens of millions of American jobs and counting. Emboldened white supremacy unseen since the '60s and a reckoning on race that's long overdue. And undeniable acceleration of the punishing reality of climate change on our planet, and our people, on the lives and livelihoods, which I like to talk about now.

Joe Biden: Jill and I continue, as I suspect all of you do, is pray for everyone in California, Oregon, and Washington, and across the West as these devastating wildfires rage on. Just as we hold them in our hearts those who have faced the hurricanes, tropical storms, off our coast of Florida, North Carolina, or like parts of New Orleans that in fact have just finished an emergency evacuation order for Hurricane Sally.

Joe Biden: Floods and droughts across the Midwest. The fury of climate change everywhere. All this year and right now. We stand with our families who have lost everything. The firefighters, the first responders, risking and everything to save others. And the millions of Americans caught between relocating during a pandemic or staying put as ashes and smoke pollute the air they breathe. Just think about that. People aren't just worried about raging fires, they're worried about the air they breathe, about the damage to the lungs. Parents are already worried about COVID-19 for their children when they're indoors and now they're worried about asthma attacks if their kids are outside.

Joe Biden: Over the past two years, the total damage from wildfires has reached nearly \$50 billion in California alone. 50 billion. This year alone, nearly 5 million acres have burned across 10 States, more acreage than the entire state of Connecticut. And it's only September. California's wildfire season typically runs through October. Fires are blazing so brightly, smoke reaching so far, NASA satellites can see them 1 million miles away in space.

Joe Biden: The cost of this year's damage will again be astronomically high, but think of it from the view on the ground. In the smoldering ashes, loved ones lost, along with the photos, the keepsakes, all the memories, spouses and kids praying each night for their firefighter husband, father, wife, and mother. Will they come home? Entire communities destroyed. We have to act as a nation. It shouldn't be so bad that millions of Americans live in the shadow of an orange sky and they're left asking, "Is doomsday here?" And I know this feeling of dread and anxiety extends well beyond the fires. We've seen record hurricane season costing billions of dollars as well. Last month, Hurricane Laura intensified at a near record rate just before it's landfall along Louisiana and Gulf Coast. It's a troubling marker, not for just the increased frequency of the hurricanes, but more powerful and destructive storms.

Joe Biden: They're causing record damage after record damage to people's homes, lives, and livelihoods. Before it intensified and hit the Gulf Coast, Laura ravaged Puerto Rico, where three years ago Hurricane Maria, our fellow Americans there are still recovering from its damage and devastation. Think about that reality. Our fellow Americans are still putting things back together from the last big storm as they face the next one. We've also seen historic flooding in the Midwest, often compounding the damage delivered by last year's floods that cost billions of dollars in damage. Many of you traveled through the Midwest with me on that bus tour and you saw it.

Joe Biden: This past spring in Midland, Michigan experienced a flood so devastating with deadly flash flooding over running dams and roadways that is displaced 10,000 residents. It was considered once in a 500-year weather event. But those once in many generation events are now happening every year. The past 10 years were the hottest decade ever recorded. The Arctic is literally melting. Parts are actually on fire. What we're seeing in America and our communities is connected to all of this. With every bout with nature's fury caused by our own inaction on climate change, more Americans see and feel the devastation. Whether in the big cities, small towns, on coastlines, or in farm lands, it's happening everywhere and it's happening now, and it affects us all.

Joe Biden: Nearly 200 cities, not Republican or Democratic cities, 200 cities are experiencing the longest stretches of deadly heat waves in 50 years. Requires them to help their poor and elderly residents adapt to the extreme heat to simply stay alive, especially in a home without air conditioning, which many don't have. Our family farmers in the Midwest are facing historic drought. Those follow record floods and hurricanes, sped by windstorms, all this year. The speed of those windstorms has been incredible when you saw it on television or saw it in person. It's ravaged millions of acres of corn, soybeans, and other crops. Their very livelihoods, which sustain their families, and our economy for generations is now in jeopardy.

Joe Biden: How do they pay their bills this year? What will be left to pass onto their kids? And none of this is happening in a vacuum. Recent studies showed air pollution is linked with increased risk of death from COVID-19. Our economy can't recover if it can't build back with more resiliency, more ability to withstand extreme weather, extreme weather that will only come with greater frequency and intensity. The unrelenting impact of climate change affects

every single solitary one of us, but too often the brunt falls disproportionately on communities of color, exacerbating the need for environmental justice, sorry, there was a bug, speaking of the environment.

Joe Biden: These are interlocking crises of our time. Requires action, not denial. Requires leadership, not scapegoating. It requires the President to meet the threshold duty of the office to care, to care for everyone, to defend us from every attack scene, seen and unseen, always and without exception, because here's the deal: hurricanes don't swerve to avoid Red States or Blue States. Wildfires don't skip towns that voted a certain way. The impacts of climate change don't pick and choose. That's because it's not a partisan phenomenon, it's science and our response should be the same. Grounded in science. Acting together, all of us, but like with our federal response to COVID-19, a lack of a national strategy on climate, on climate change overall, leaves us with a patchwork of solutions. Matter of fact, it's been made worse by the changes this administration has made.

Joe Biden: I'm speaking from Delaware. We're the lowest line state in the nation relative to sea level, where just last week, Delaware state attorney general sued 31 big fossil fuel companies alleging that they knowingly wreaked havoc and damage on climate, our climate. Damage that is plain for everyone to see but the President. And as he flies to California today, we know he has no interest in meeting this moment. We know he won't listen to the experts or treat this disaster with the urgency it demands, as any President should do during the national emergency. He's already said he wanted to withhold aid to California to punish the people of California because they didn't vote for him. This is another crisis. Another crisis he won't take responsibility for. The West is literally on fire. And he blames the people whose homes and communities are burning. He says, "You got to clean your floors. You got to clean your forest."

Joe Biden: This is the same President who threw paper towels on the people of Puerto Rico instead of truly helping them recover and rebuild. We know his disdain for our own military leaders and our veterans. Just last year, the Defense Department reported that climate change is a direct threat to more than two thirds of the military's operationally critical installations. That's what the military warned him. And this could well be a conservative estimate. Donald Trump's climate denial may not have caused these fires and record floods and record hurricanes, but if he gets a second term, these hellish events will continue to become more common, more devastating and more deadly.

Joe Biden: Meanwhile, Donald Trump warns that integration is threatening our suburbs. It's ridiculous, but you know what is actually threatening our suburbs? Wildfires are burning the suburbs in the West. Floods are wiping out suburban neighborhoods in the Midwest. Hurricanes are imperiling suburban life along our coast. We have four more years of Trump's climate denial; how many suburbs will be burned in wildfires? How many suburban neighborhoods will have been flooded out? How many suburbs will have been blown away in superstorms? If you give a climate arsonist four more years in the White House, why would anyone be surprised if we have more America blaze? If we give a climate denier four more years in the White House, why would anyone be surprised when more of America is underwater?

Joe Biden: We need a President who respects science, who understands that the damage from climate change is already here. And unless we take urgent action, it will soon be more catastrophic. A President who recognizes, understands, and cares that Americans are dying, which makes President Trump's climate denialism, his disdain for science and facts, all the more unconscionable. Once again, he fails the most basic duty to a nation. He fails to protect us from the pandemic, from an economic free fall, from racial unrest, from the ravages of climate change. It's clear that we're not safe in Donald Trump's America. This is Donald Trump's America. He's in charge. What he doesn't get is that even in a crisis, there's nothing beyond the capacity of the American people when we stand up and act together. And while so many of you are hurting right now, I want you to know that if you give me the honor of serving as your President, we can, and we will meet this moment with urgency and purpose. We can, and we will solve the climate crisis, and we'll build back better than we were before.

Joe Biden: When Donald Trump thinks about climate change, he thinks hoax. When I think about it, I think jobs. Good paying union jobs to put Americans to work, building a stronger, more climate resilient nation. A nation modernized. We have modernized water and transportation systems. An energy infrastructure to withstand the impacts of extreme weather and changing climate. When Donald Trump thinks about renewable energy, he sees windmills somehow as causing cancer. I see American manufacturing, American workers racing to lead the global market. I see farmers making agriculture the first in the world to achieve net zero emissions. And in the process, gaining new sources of income. Donald Trump's thinks about LED light bulbs, he says he doesn't like them because the lights are no good. They always make him look orange.

Joe Biden: I see small businesses and master electricians designing and installing award-winning energy conservation measures, rebuilding buildings across the country. It's going to reduce electrical consumption and save businesses hundreds of thousands of dollars a year in energy costs. While he turns against our allies, I'll bring us back into the Paris Agreement. I'll put us back in the business of leading the world on climate change, and I'll challenge every other country to up the ante on climate commitments.

Joe Biden: Where he reverses the Obama Biden fuel efficiency standards, he picks big oil. He picks big oil companies over American workers, even when the automobile industry agreed. I don't want to bring the standards back, I'll set new ambitious ones that our workers are ready to meet. I'll also see American workers building and installing 500,000 electric vehicle charging stations along our newly engaged infrastructure programs and highways, all across the country.

Joe Biden: I see American consumers switching to electric vehicles through rebates and initiatives. Not only that, but the United States also owns and maintains an enormous fleet of vehicles. And we're going to harness the purchasing power of our Federal Government to make sure we're buying electric vehicles that are made and sourced by union workers right here in the United States of America. And together, this will mean more than a million new jobs in the American auto industry.

Joe Biden: And we'll do another big thing, we'll put us on a path to achieving a carbon pollution-free electricity sector by 2035 that no future President can come along and turn back. Transforming the electrical sector power to produce power without carbon pollution will be the greatest spur to job creation and economic competitiveness in the 21st century, not to mention the positive benefits to our health and our environment. We need to get to work right away. We'll need scientists at the National Labs and Land-grant universities, historic black colleges and universities, to improve and innovate technologies needed to generate, store, and transmit this clean electric.

Joe Biden: We need engineers to design and workers to manufacture these new products. We'll need iron workers and welders to install them. We'll need to become the world's largest exporter of these technologies, creating even more jobs sourced in America. We know how to do this. The Obama-Biden administration rescue the auto industry and help them retool. We made solar energy cost competitive with traditional energy and weatherized more than a million homes, which is just the beginning if we get reelected. And We'll do it again, bigger and faster and better than before.

Joe Biden: We'll also build 1.5 million new energy efficient homes and public housing units that will benefit our communities in three times over by eliminating the affordable housing crisis, by increasing energy efficiency, and by reducing the racial wealth gap linked to home ownership. There are thousands of oil and natural gas wells that oil companies and gas companies have abandoned, many of what you're leaking toxins. We can 250,000 jobs now by just plugging those wells right away. Good union jobs for energy workers.

Joe Biden: This will help sustain communities and protect them from the environmental damage as well, whilst creating new markets for our family farmers and ranchers. We'll launch a new, modern Civilian Climate Corp to heal our public lands and make us much less vulnerable to wildfires and floods. I believe that every American has a fundamental right to breathe clean air and drink clean water. I know that we haven't fulfilled that right yet. That's true of the million families struggling with the smoke created devastation of the wildfires right now, but it's also been true for a generation or more in places like Cancer Alley in Louisiana, or right here in Delaware, along the Route 9 Corridor, right here in Delaware, fulfilling this basic obligation to all Americans, especially in low income, white, black, Brown, and Native American communities who too often don't have the clean air and the clean water.

Joe Biden: It's not going to be easy, but it's necessary. I'm committing to get it done. These aren't pie in the sky dreams. These are concrete, actionable problems that create American jobs, mitigate climate change, and put our nation on the road to net zero emissions by no later than 2050. Some say we can't afford to fix this, but here's the thing, look around at the crushing consequences of the extreme weather events I've been describing. We've already been paying for it. So we have a choice. We can invest in our infrastructure to make it stronger, more resilient, improving the health of Americans and creating millions of good paying jobs while at the same time, tackling the root causes of climate change, or we can continue down the path Donald Trump has us on. A path of indifference, costing tens of billions of dollars to rebuild

when the human cost, the lives and the livelihoods and the homes and the communities destroyed, are immeasurable.

Joe Biden: We have a choice. We can commit to doing this together because we know that climate change is the existential challenge that's going to determine our future as a country for our children, our grandchildren, and our great grandchildren, or we can do it Donald Trump's way. Ignore the facts, deny reality, which amounts to a full surrender and a failure to lead. It's backward-looking politics that's going to harm the environment, make communities less healthy, and hold back economic progress while other countries race ahead. And it's a mindset that doesn't have any faith in the capacity of the American people to compete, to innovate, and to win.

Joe Biden: Like the pandemic, dealing with climate change is a global crisis. And that requires American leadership. It requires a President for all Americans. So as the fires rage out West on this day, our prayers remain with everyone under the ash. I know it's hard to see the sun rise, believing today will be a better day than yesterday. Americans face this historic inflection point. A time of real peril, but also a time of extraordinary possibilities. I'm confident. I know we can do this. We will do this. This is the United States of America. We've seen the light through the dark smoke. We never give up. Always without exception, every time, we succeed when we try.

Joe Biden: May God bless our firefighters and keep them safe, and our first responders. May God protect our troops. Thank you very much. I'm anxious to hear what the President had to say. Thank you.

Sept 18th, 2020 Joe Biden Hermantown Minnesota

Joe Biden Hermantown, Minnesota September 18

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Joe Biden gave a speech in Hermantown, Minnesota on September 18 after touring a union training center. Senators Amy Klobuchar and Tina Smith also spoke. Read the transcript of their remarks here.

[...]

Matt Campanario: On behalf of the North Central States Regional Council of Carpenters, the Carpenters Training Institute, and our membership, I'd like to thank Vice President Joe Biden for taking the time to learn more about what the UBC members in our region do, and also hear what issues are important to us. Without further delay, it's my pleasure to introduce Vice President Joe Biden.

Joe Biden: Hello, Minnesota. It's good to be back. As Amy was saying, I've been here a number of times up in the Iron Range, and it's a magnificent part of the world. Magnificent part of the world. And I want to thank you so much, Amy, Senator, you've been a great friend and a great, great Senator. And Senator Smith, you're something else, I'll tell you what. Thank you for the job you're doing, and I'm counting on it continuing for another six years.

Joe Biden: I know you're both fighting around the clock to take care of Minnesotans who are hurting in these multiple crises we face today. We have everything from COVID to unemployment, to a country that is being divided along racial lines. We have institutional racism we're dealing with. A whole range of things. And the people of Minnesota know that they have two of the best Senators in the country on their side.

Joe Biden: And Matt, thank you so much for that introduction and for showing me around today, this incredible apprentice program here at the Carpenters Training Center. What a lot of people don't know if they're not involved with labor is the apprenticeship program not only trains the best workers in the world, I'm not being facetious, that's a fact, but they get paid while they're doing it. Not full wage, but they're getting paid while they're doing it. And that's why these union apprenticeship programs are so, so critically important they stay this way. It matters. People who still make it while they're learning a trade, a trade that's going to put them in good stead the rest of their lives.

Joe Biden: It was great to see some of the practical hands-on experience that apprentices and journeymen and women here receive and while, as I said, earning a wage as a benefit. It's a bit quieter here than usual because of COVID-19 restrictions, but the pride of these workers who are learning the skills that will carry them throughout their careers is still unmistakable.

Joe Biden: My father, and I apologize to the press who follows me for repeating this, but it warrants saying every time, my dad used to have an expression. He said, "Joey, a job's about

a lot more than a paycheck. It's about your dignity. It's about respect. It's about your place in the community." Then he'd end by saying, "It's about being able to look your kid in the eye and say, 'Honey, it's going to be okay,' and mean it."

Joe Biden: That's the lesson I've never forgotten. It's the way I grew up surrounded by hard working families in Scranton, Pennsylvania, and a lot of steelworkers in Claymont, Delaware. All those jobs are gone now, those steel working jobs. And that's what I saw here at this training center, dedicated women and men investing in their dignity. In their dignity.

Joe Biden: Here in the Iron Range, we can see the resilience and the grit, the communities that built America, the metal they're made of. And fortified by the strength of union power, worker power. I think I was saying to you, Matt, that my dad had another expression, "The only way to deal with the abuse of power is with power," and the only real power for workers in America is union power. You're the folks who keep the barbarians on the other side of the gate, and making sure that people can make a decent living.

Joe Biden: And folks, but here like everywhere else, times are hard. Unemployment is way up due to the pandemic. Fewer workers can be on the job at one time in order to abide by social distancing roles. And the economic outlook for next year, including for the building trades, is more uncertain than it need be.

Joe Biden: Here in Minnesota and all across the country, there are plenty of folks who are hurting. They're worried about making their next mortgage payment or keeping their rent payments in check. They see the people at the top of the heap doing very well. An incredible number: billionaires in America during this pandemic have made another \$300 billion. Hear what I just said? In the middle of the pandemic. They're left of wonder, as a consequence, ordinary folks, "Who's looking out for me?"

Joe Biden: That's been the entire story of Donald Trump's presidency. Now, in the midst of this unprecedented national crisis, Trump has given up on even pretending to do his job. Almost 200,000 lives lost in the last six months. And experts tell us now, the same studies the administration's relied on to predict what's coming next, that we're going to lose another 215,000 lives between now and January 1st. The United States has another 36,000 new COVID cases per day. Per day. Another average thousand deaths a day.

Joe Biden: Just across the border, figuratively speaking a stone's throw into Canada, one day earlier this month, the United States had a thousand deaths from COVID, Canada had zero. Just two days ago, three days ago, I believe it was, America had 1,200 deaths, Canada had nine. Nine.

Joe Biden: So many lives lost unnecessarily because the President is only worried about the stock market and his reelection. He refused to do what you're doing right here in this program, social distance, wear a mask, sanitize. You're protecting your apprentices. He's not protecting America.

Joe Biden: It's estimated by the scientists that if we just wore masks nationally, we'd save a hundred thousand lives between now and January 1st. Let me say that again. If we just wore a mask nationally, we'd save a hundred thousand lives between now and January, according to the same study.

Joe Biden: And it was estimated by a great medical school, Columbia medical school, that if the President had just started one week earlier in March than he did, we'd have 36,000 more people sitting at the dinner table tonight or being able to put your arm around grandpa or grandma tonight.

Joe Biden: And again, in his own words, recorded by Bob Woodward, the President knew back in February that this was an extremely dangerous communicable disease. Think about it. How many people across the Iron Range, how many empty chairs around those dinner tables because of his negligence and selfishness? How many lies said and lives lost? Imagine if he had just, Amy, on the State of the Union that year, spoke up and said, "We got a problem. We can handle it. Here's what we got to do." I can't think of any president who's ever acted, in my view, so selfishly, about his own reelection instead of a sworn obligation to protect and defend the American people.

Joe Biden: As I said last night in my hometown, I view this campaign as between Scranton and Park Avenue. All Trump sees from Park Avenue is Wall Street. That's why the only metric of the American prosperity for him is the value of the Dow Jones. Like a lot of you, I spent a lot of my life with guys like Donald Trump looking down on me. Looking down on the people who make a living with their hands. People who take care of our kids, clean our streets.

Joe Biden: Maybe what bothers me most is when he talks about, reportedly talks about from too many sources confirmed by many outlets, when he's talked about the men and women who join the military and gave full measure for their country as "suckers" and "losers." Unless you think it's made up, remember how he talked about John McCain, a political opponent but a close friend who I did his eulogy. John McCain was no sucker or loser. He was a hero. My son who volunteered and spent a year in Iraq, won the Bronze Star [inaudible 00:11:27], he wasn't a loser or sucker. He was a proud patriot.

Joe Biden: These are the guys who always thought they were better than me, better than us, because that a lot of money. Guys inherited everything they got and still managed to squander. I have to admit, which I guess is coming out and pretty obvious, particularly relative to Trump, I just have a little bit of a chip on my shoulder about these guys.

Joe Biden: ... my shoulder about these guys. Recently, and I probably shouldn't have said it last night, but I did, recently I read some stories and was asked questions by leading columnists. It went like this. "If you get elected, you're going to be the first guy in a long time elected president without an Ivy League degree." Like somehow a kid who went to a state university isn't qualified to be president of the United States, doesn't have an Ivy League degree? Let me tell you something. I know how to do the job of being president. It's pretty clear. No matter

how wealthy Donald Trump is, no matter how much he doctors his, if he does, his tax returns, he doesn't have a clue how to be president. One of the lessons my mother taught me, not a joke, long time ago taught me and my siblings, it's one that you probably were taught too out here in Minnesota. She said, "Joey, remember nobody's better than you, but everybody's your equal. Nobody's better than you. Everybody's your equal." You don't measure people by the size of their bank accounts. I don't respect people based on how big the house they live in is. I don't look down my nose when people are busting their necks just making a limit, nor do any of you. Trump says, by the way, I'm paraphrasing, everyone's in the stock market. That's why he cares about the stock market. What the hell is he talking about? People, I grew up in Scranton, Claymont, they don't have money in stocks. Every penny we made was to pay the bills and take care of the families, putting clothes in the back, and a roof over our head. In the market?

Joe Biden: That's why I have a different measure in which I judge the health of the American economy. And my measure is Scranton, Duluth, Har蒙town, places where I grew up, that so many people I know grew up. I see hard working women and men who are just trying to earn an honest, decent living to take care of their families. I mean, just to have a little bit of confidence, a little bit of confidence, you can just see around the corner. And they don't have to live literally from paycheck to paycheck. Most do. But hope for a little bit of space. Now the American people have seen these women and men, the essential workers, workers who stock the shelves in the middle of these crisis in the grocery stores, drivers who drove the trucks, delivered the food, farm workers, nurses who risk their lives, in many cases, gave their lives in the middle of this pandemic to save other people. Essential workers.

Joe Biden: And when they walk down the streets and people come out and clap pans and pots together, tell them how much they're appreciated, that's not enough. They're not asking for anything, they're just asking for a shot. I remind you, given a shot, the American people have never, ever, ever, ever let their country down. So it's about time we start to pay essential workers for the fact that they're essential. Blinders have been taken off the American people. I think they're ready. They're ready to insist that the minimum wage be \$15 an hour. They're ready to insist that people have childcare and access to it. They're ready to admit and understand the needs that average Americans have.

Joe Biden: That's why my Build Back Better plan, in fact, my entire campaign is built upon a simple concept. It's time to reward hard work in America, not wealth. Reward work, not wealth. We don't have to penalize wealth, it's the opposite now. Reward wealth and not work. We're going to have to rebuild an economy in the wake of COVID-19. And as we do, we have an incredible opportunity to make long overdue investments for working families. To make sure the wealthy, the very wealthy and big corporations finally began to pay their fair share. I'm not looking to punish anybody, just pay your fair share.

Joe Biden: It's time we give hard working families who literally built the country through their skills and their sweat and the blood, like the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners, a leg up for once. I've a big ambitious plan that bets on the American worker. My plan is going

to create millions of good paying jobs building the products and technologies that we need now and in the future. And it starts with a pretty basic idea. When the government spends taxpayers' money, we should spend that money to buy American products made by American workers in American supply chains to generate American growth and opportunity. My plan would tighten the rules to make buy American a reality. During my first term alone, we're going to invest \$400 billion in federal money that you go out and spend, that I have control over as the president or an administration, to invest and purchase products and materials our country needs to modernize the infrastructure, to replenish critical stockpiles, to enhance our national security.

Joe Biden: I was just going through the apprentice program was one of your carpenters. And you're showing me how to read blueprints. And I'm a frustrated architect. I just love building. My kids years ago bought me a Lightboard. I have no professional training, but I like and I carry around a graph paper. I'm always making up and designing homes and landscapes. It's my way out. Some people can paint. I can't. And you're showing me the blueprints and how they can change several walls in a particular building to conserve and save energy. And he pointed out what you have to learn to be able to read a blueprint. I pointed out to him that my Buy American plan, he said, "By the way," not me, this carpenter said, "And by the way, we can kill two birds with one stone." He didn't use that phrase. He said, "We can do two things at once." He said, "We can improve the environment by using less energy to operate this building and create more jobs." And I said, "I'm going to send you a copy of my plan."

Joe Biden: I sent a college note exactly what it is. My Buy American Build America plan calls for literally what we started in our administration and couldn't finish, retrofitting four million buildings in America that are leaking millions of gallons of energy now. In the process, creating the four million jobs for skilled labor. Replacing windows, insulation that works, making sure that the unit is tight, including retrofitting two million homes. All of it done in a prevailing way with union labor, creating hundreds of thousands of union certified jobs. That's not hyperbole, that's a fact. That's how it will happen. And saving millions of barrels of oil in the process, improving our environment. That's why the IBEW and a lot of other unions support what we're doing. We're going to put in 500,000 charging stations along our highways. Why? So we can own, own, own the electric car market. Estimated creating a million new jobs in Michigan and Detroit in automobile industry. Look, we can outcompete anybody, we set our mind to it. My infrastructure plan is going to revitalize American infrastructure so the future is made in America. The president keeps talking about he's going to invest in infrastructure, right? How many times has he said when you guys were there he had a plan in '17, his infrastructure plan, it's coming? Then he had one in '18, then he had one in '19, then he has one for '20. Just like his nonexistent healthcare plan that's coming next week. He has no plan.

Joe Biden: When I got started, this wasn't a partisan issue, dealing with infrastructure. Republicans wanted to build solid infrastructure to make us first in the world, now we rank 28th, just like Democrats did. It was totally nonpartisan. And creating thousands and thousands and thousands and thousands of good paying jobs. We're going to invest over time two trillion dollars to build resilient infrastructure. Roads, bridges, ports, right here along with these great Great lakes. 1.5 million new affordable housing units, high speed broadband for every

American household. More important than ever as we are educating our children from home because he has no plan how to open our schools. 100 billion dollars to rebuild crumbling schools. How many schools in America do you think there are where you can't safely drink the water from the water fountain? Where they're worried about whether or not there is enough ventilation in the school, where there is leaking energy or still has hazardous materials in the walls. It's ridiculous.

Joe Biden: We should be spending the money to improve those schools and the safety of our children and our teachers. As I said, retrofitting four million buildings and weatherizing two million homes. And the way we do that is with the tax credits that we're giving them again. All done by certified union labor. Look, I'll fight for workers and unions at every step requiring all federal infrastructure projects to, one, pay prevailing wage, two, prioritize project labor agreements so collective bargaining is in place before the project starts, employee workers from registered apprenticeships. I won't water them down like Trump tried to do. Pass the PRO Act to crack down on employers who are trying to block or break unions. And I'll do it without raising anyone's taxes if you make less than \$400,000 a year. I gave my word as ... You have nothing to worry about if you make less than 400. If you-

Joe Biden: This is why you have nothing to worry about if you make less than 400. If you make more, you're going to start to pay your fair share. No who makes less than 400 is going to pay a single penny more in taxes under our administration. In fact, tens of millions of middle class families are going to get tax cuts when they need it most, while you're raising your children, while you're trying to get affordable healthcare, buying your first home or saving for retirement.

Joe Biden: Almost directly after President Trump passed his tax bill in 2017, almost two-trillion dollars, increased the deficit, he went down to Mar-a-Lago and he said to his guests there, and this is a quote, it's on record: "You just got a lot richer," end of quote. He was right. They got a hell of a lot richer. How about the person making 50, 60, or even the family making \$120,000 a year? How much did you get? How much richer did you get? It may be the only time he's told the plain truth, his entire presidency. In 2018, the year after that tax cut passed, 91 corporations in the Fortune 500 paid no income tax. Zero tax. Zero. Making billions of dollars, paid zero tax. I guess you guys got all your taxes eliminated too, right?

Joe Biden: He said he was going to lower the cost of prescription drugs. But guess what, instead of big pharma got billions of dollars in tax cuts, sent they're manufacturing of those drugs overseas, so they'd be cheaper for them to produce, unconscionably raised the prices for ordinary Americans. How many of you people knew your mother's, father's, uncle's, aunt's, friend's had to choose between getting the prescription, not a joke, and putting dinner on the table. Now he says he's going to try to cut drug prices, like he's going to have a healthcare plan. All he's done in this big thing about, he's calling it drug prices cut, all he's done, he sent to the HHS, Health and Human Services, he said, "Study the issue."

Joe Biden: I have a clear plan. I guarantee I'll lower prices in America for drugs by allowing Medicare to negotiate drug prices, which he said he would do. The House and the Senate were ready to do it, and he said he'd veto it if he got it. If you want to participate in the Medicare program, you've got to negotiate with Medicare for the price of that drug, which is significantly lower prices. And for any new specialty drugs that don't have competition that are launched, I'm setting up a review board to recommend a reasonable price based on the board's evaluation, and that price will not be able to be increased beyond the cost of medical inflation unless they can prove they've gone and done some more research and change the nature of the drug.

Joe Biden: Now, astonishingly, astonishingly, and when my staff told me this, I know both the senators knew this, but when they told me this, I said, "He can't be proposing this." He now is proposing in this budget another multi-billion dollar tax cut for the very wealthy millionaires and billionaires. Here's what he wants to do. He wants to lower the capital gains tax down to 15%. To 15%. Every one of you, including the reporters in this room, unless you're making a lot more than I think you are, every one of you is going to be paying at a higher tax rate than someone making a billion bucks off their investment. You're going to pay a higher tax rate, because they make their money by investing not by the sweat of your brow. Another tax cut worth billions of dollars. Whose hide do you think that's going to come out of? Where's it come from? The deficit is already bonkers. Where do you think it's going to come out of? It'll come out of you and the programs and things that help the American people.

Joe Biden: Like I said, it's about time we start rewarding work, not wealth. Look, I'm not looking to punish anybody, but dammit, it's about time the super wealthy and corporate America start paying their fair share. That's all it is. Just pay their fair share so hard work and families can start getting a break on childcare, elder care, buying that first home, and the cost of education beyond high school, being able to get started in life. By the way, all of this is going on while Donald Trump is trying to rip away your healthcare. This whole con: "I got a new healthcare program. I'm going to protect pre-existing conditions." He's in the Supreme Court saying get rid of pre-existing conditions. They should not. They shouldn't be able to stand in the way of you getting insurance because it helps insurance companies.

Joe Biden: And as a gimmick, he's got a new one. He's going to end the payroll tax that you pay in social security. Yet the actuary at the social security says if that were to occur, social security will be bankrupt by the middle of 2023. You may get a few more bucks in your paycheck, then go home and tell your mom and dad social security's about to come to an end. They never liked social security and Medicare to begin with. Look, we can't let this happen, that social security would run dry by 2023. We're so much better than this. This United States of America. We have never, ever, ever, ever been unable to do something when we've done it together. Never. It's time to stand up, Democrats and Republicans. I said it last night, and I know my colleagues know sometimes Democrats get mad at this, I'm running as a Democrat, but I'm going to be President of the United States, not President of the Democratic Party. We must unite this country. It's the only way we can move forward. I believe the American people are ready for it. I believe in half a dozen to a dozen of our Republican colleagues, who've been unable and unwilling to have the guts to take him on because he's so vindictive, with him gone

I think they're ready to work. Not on everything, but an awful lot. It's time to take the country back, folks. It's going to start here, today with voting in Minnesota.

Joe Biden: God bless you all and may God protect our troops. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you.

Sep 20th, 2020 Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Joe Biden Philadelphia Speech Transcript Sept. 20

[Rev](#) › [Blog](#) › [Transcripts](#) › [Speech Transcripts](#) › Joe Biden Philadelphia Speech Transcript Sept. 20: Accuses Trump & Republicans of Abuse of Power Over SCOTUS

Joe Biden gave a speech in Philadelphia, PA on September 20 where he talked about the ongoing Supreme Court controversy after Ruth Bader Ginsburg's passing. Biden accused Trump & the Republicans of "abuse of power" and asked the Senate to wait until after the election. He also said Trump's nominee should be withdrawn if he wins. Full transcript here.

Joe Biden: Welcome to the nation's Constitution Center. I had the great privilege of being a guest here. It's an appropriate place to make the speech I'm about to make. I attended a mass earlier today and prayed for Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg and her family. The nation lost a heroine, an icon. They also lost a mother, a grandmother, and a matriarch. We know how hard that is, to watch a piece of your soul absorb the cruelty and the pain of the dreadful disease of cancer. I spoke to her daughter and her granddaughter last night, expressing my whole family, I mean, my whole family's sorrow, particularly my grown granddaughters, one of whom was a student of Ruth Bader Ginsburg's daughter at Columbia. They made clear to me, daughter and granddaughter, that until the very end, Justice Ginsburg displayed the character and courage we'd expect of her. They said she held their hands and gave them strength and purpose to carry on.

Joe Biden: It's been noted that she passed away on Rosh Hashanah. By tradition, a person who dies during the Jewish new year is considered a soul of great righteousness. That was Ruth Bader Ginsburg, a righteous soul. It was my great honor, when I was in the Senate and Chairman of the Judiciary Committee, to preside over her confirmation hearings and strongly support her ascension to the Supreme Court bench. Justice Ginsburg achieved a standing few justices have or ever will. She became a presence in the lives of so many Americans and a part of our culture.

Joe Biden: I agree with what others have said, that she did as much to advance the constitutional rights, opportunities, and justice for women as Justice Marshall did for African Americans. Yes, there was humor and mentions of the Notorious RBG and her impressive exercise routines, but there was so much more. She was, to use an overused word, a trailblazer, a role model, a source of hope and a powerful voice for justice. She was proof, proof that courage and conviction and moral clarity can change not only the law, it can change our culture. It can change the world. And I believe in the days and months and years ahead, excuse me, she will continue to inspire millions of Americans all across this country. And together we can, and we will, continue to be a voice for justice in her name.

Joe Biden: Her granddaughter said yesterday and said publicly that her dying words were, "My most fervent wish is that I not be replaced until a new president is installed." As a nation, we should heed her final call to us, not as a personal service to her, but as a service to the country,

our country, at a crossroads. There's so much at stake, the right to healthcare, clean air, clean water, the environment, equal pay for equal work, the rights of voters, immigrants, women, workers. And right now our country faces a choice, a choice about whether we will come back from the brink.

Joe Biden: That's what I would like to talk with you about for a few minutes today. Within an hour of news of her passing, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell said President Trump's nominee to replace Justice Ginsburg will receive a vote in the Senate. Within an hour of her passing. The exact opposite of what he said when President Obama nominated Merrick Garland to replace Justice Scalia in 2016. At that time, Majority Leader McConnell made up a rule based on the fiction that I somehow believe there should be no nomination to the court in an election year. That's ridiculous. The only rule I've ever followed relating to the Supreme Court nomination was the Constitution's obligation for senators to provide their advice and their consent to a president's judicial nominee.

Joe Biden: But he created a new rule, the McConnell rule. Absolutely no hearing, no vote for a nominee in an election year, period, no caveats, and many Republican senators agreed with him, including then Chairman of the Judiciary Committee, Chuck Grassley of Iowa, including the current Chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, Lindsey Graham, of South Carolina, who at the time said, and I quote verbatim, here's what he said. "I want you to use my words against me if there's a Republican president in 2016 and a vacancy occurs in the last year of the first term. You can say, Lindsey Graham said, let's let the next president, whoever it might be, make the nomination." Continuing to quote, "And you could use my words against me, and you'd be absolutely right." End of quote. That's what Republicans said when Justice Scalia passed away about nine months before election day that year.

Joe Biden: Now, having lost Justice Ginsburg less than seven weeks before the election this year, after Americans have already begun to cast their vote. It's estimated that up to 40% of Americans will have voted by October 1st, but at least 30%. Tens of millions. And you can't unring the bell. Having made this their standard when it served their interests, they cannot just four years later change course when it doesn't serve their ends. Look, I'm not being naive. I'm not speaking to President Trump, who will do whatever he wants. I'm not speaking to Mitch McConnell, who will do what he wants, and he does. I'm speaking to those Republicans out there, Senate Republicans, who know deep down what is right for the country and consistent with the Constitution, as I stand here in the Constitution Center, not just what's best for their party.

Joe Biden: I'm speaking for millions of Americans out there who already have voted and continue to vote, and we'll have many more voted by the time this process is finished. Millions of Americans who are voting because they know their healthcare hangs in the balance. In the middle of the worst global health crisis in living memory, Donald Trump is before the Supreme Court, trying to strip healthcare coverage away from tens of millions of families. This took away the peace of mind of more than 100 million Americans with preexisting conditions. If he

succeeds, insurers could once again discriminate or drop coverage completely for people living with preexisting conditions, like asthma, diabetes, cancer, and so many other problems.

Joe Biden: And perhaps most cruelly of all, if Donald Trump has his way, the complications from COVID-19, which are well beyond what they should be, it's estimated that 200 million people have died probably by the time I finish this talk, the complications of COVID-19, like lung scarring and heart damage, could become the next deniable preexisting condition for over six million Americans who've already contracted the disease.

Joe Biden: Millions of Americans are also voting because they don't want nearly half a century of legal precedent to be overturned and lose the right to choose. Millions of Americans who are at risk of losing their right to vote. Millions of Dreamers who are at risk of being expelled from the only country they have ever known. Millions of workers. Union workers who are at risk of losing their right to collectively bargain. Millions of Americans who are demanding that their voices be heard, that equal justice be a guarantee for all, not just some. They know, we all know, what should happen now. The voters of this country should be heard. As I said, voting has already begun. By the time we get to the middle of October, there will be millions and millions and millions who have already voted. In just a few weeks, all votes in this nation will be heard. They're the ones who the Constitution envisions should decide who has the power to make this appointment.

Joe Biden: This appointment isn't about the past. It's about the future, and the people of this nation, and the people of this nation are choosing their future right now, as they vote. To jam this nomination through the Senate is just an exercise in raw political power, and I don't believe that the people of this nation will stand for it. President Trump has already made it clear, this is about power, pure and simple power. Whether the voters should make it clear on this issue and so many others, the power in this nation resides with them, the American people, the voters, and even if President Trump wants to put forward a name now, the Senate should not act until after the American people select their next president, their next Congress, their next Senate. If Donald Trump wins the election, then the Senate should move on his selection and weigh the nominee he chooses fairly.

Joe Biden: But if I win this election, President Trump's nominee should be withdrawn, and as a new president I should be the one who nominates Justice Ginsburg's successor, a nominee who should get a fair hearing in the Senate before a confirmation hearing, before a confirmation vote, I should say, after a confirmation hearing.

Joe Biden: We're in the middle of a pandemic. Like I said, as I speak, we're probably passing 200,000 deaths lost to this virus. Tens of millions of Americans are unemployed. Healthcare in this country hangs in the balance before the court. And now, in a raw political move, this president and the Republican leader have decided to jam a lifetime appointment to the Supreme Court through the United States Senate. That's the last thing we need at this moment. As I said, voters have already begun casting their votes in the millions. And in just a few weeks, we're going to know who the voters of this nation have chosen as the next president. The United

States Constitution was designed to give voters one chance, one chance to have their voice heard in who serves on the court. And by the way, there's no court session between now and the end of this election.

Joe Biden: That moment is now for the voters to get a chance to be heard, and their voice should be heard. And I believe voters are going to make it clear. They'll not stand for this abuse of power, this constitutional abuse. There's no discussion about what happens if the Senate confirms on the eve of election or in a lame duck after Donald Trump loses. A successor to Justice Ginsburg, what happens? But that discussion assumes that we lose this effort to prevent the grave wrong that Trump and McConnell are pursuing here. I'm not going to assume failure at this point. I believe the voices of the American people should be heard and will be heard. This vote, this fight, this nomination will not be over until the Senate votes, if it does vote. Winning that vote, if it happens, is everything. Action and reaction, anger and more anger, sorrow and frustration at the way things are in this country now politically, that's the cycle that Republican senators will continue to perpetuate if they go down this dangerous path that they put us on.

Joe Biden: We need to deescalate, not escalate. That's why I appeal to those few Senate Republicans, the handful who really will decide what happens. Please, follow your conscience. Don't vote to confirm anyone nominated under the circumstances President Trump and Senator McConnell have created. Don't go there. Uphold your constitutional duty, your conscience. Let the people speak. Cool the flames that have been engulfing our country. We can't keep rewriting history, scrambling norms, ignoring our cherished system of checks and balances. That includes this whole business of releasing a list of potential nominees that I would put forward. They're now saying, after Ruth Bader Ginsburg passed away, they said, "Biden should release his list." It's no wonder the Trump campaign asked that I release the list only after she passed away. It's a game for them. It's a play to [inaudible 00:19:44] up emotions and anger.

Joe Biden: There's a reason why no presidential candidate, other than Donald Trump, has ever done such a thing. First, putting a judge's name on a list like that could influence that person's decision making as a judge, and that would be wrong, or at least create the perception that it would have influence. Second, anyone put on a list like that under these circumstances will be subject to unrelenting political attacks. Because any nominee I would select would not get a hearing until 2021 at the earliest, she would endure those attacks for months on end, without being able to defend herself. Thirdly, and finally, perhaps most importantly, if I win, I'll make my choice for the Supreme Court not based on a partisan election campaign, but on what prior presidents have done, Republican and Democrats, and I've served with many of them.

Joe Biden: Only after consulting Democrats and Republicans in the United States Senate and seeking their advice and asking for the consent, it says, "Advice and consent of the Senate," the president is the person who gets to name someone, propose. The Senate deposes. As everyone knows, I made it clear that my first choice for the Supreme Court will make history as the first African American woman justice. But I'll consult with senators in both parties about that pick, as well as the legal and civil leaders in our country. In the end, the choice will be

mine and mine alone, but I will consult. It will be the product of a process that restores our finest traditions, not the extension of one that's torn this country apart the last years.

Joe Biden: So let me conclude with this. As I've said in this campaign, we're in the battle for the soul of this country. We face historic crises, once in a generation pandemic, a devastating economic recession, the rise of white supremacy that the FBI directors warned us against, unseen since the sixties, and a reckoning on race that's long overdue, a challenging climate, a changing climate that is ravaging our nation and the world as we speak. Supreme Court decisions will touch every part of these crises, every part of our lives and our future. The last thing we need is to add a constitutional crisis that plunges us deeper into the abyss, deeper into the darkness.

Joe Biden: If we go down this path, I predict it will cause irreversible damage. The infection this president has unleashed on our democracy can be fatal. Enough. Enough. Enough. We must come together as a nation. Democrats, Republicans, independents, liberals, conservatives, everybody. I'm not saying we have to agree on everything, but we have to reason our way through what ails us as citizens, voters, public service. That's the guidebook called the Constitution. We have to act in good faith, in mutual goodwill, in the spirit of conciliation, not confrontation.

Joe Biden: This nation will continue to be inspired by Ruth Bader Ginsburg, but we should not only be inspired by her, we should be guided by her, by her willingness to listen to those with whom she disagreed, to respect other points of view. Famously, Justice Ginsburg got along well with some of the most conservative justices on the court. And she did it without compromising her principles, clouding her moral clarity, or losing her core principles. If she can do this, so can we. How we talk to one another matters, how we treat one another matters, respecting others matters. Justice Ginsburg proved it's important to have a spine of steel, but also important to have an open hand, not a clenched fist, to those with whom we disagree.

Joe Biden: This nation needs to come together. I've said it many times in this election. We are the United States of America. There's nothing we cannot overcome. There's nothing we cannot do, if we do it together. Donald Trump seems to want to divide this nation between red states and blue states, between representing those states that vote for him and ignoring those who don't. I do not. I cannot, I will not be that president. I'll be a president for the whole country, for those who vote for me and those who vote against me. We need to rise in this moment for the sake of the country we love so dearly, indeed for its very soul. May God bless the United States of America. May God protect our troops. And may God bless Ruth Bader Ginsburg. Thank you so much.

Sept. 21st, 2020 Joe Biden Manitowoc Wisconsin

Joe Biden Campaign Speech Transcript Manitowoc, Wisconsin September 21

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Joe Biden spoke during a campaign visit to Manitowoc, Wisconsin on September 21. Biden focused on Donald Trump's coronavirus response, saying the virus was "too big" for Trump. Transcript of his remarks here.

Joe Biden: Thank you very, very much. And is the [inaudible 00:00:05] family here? Anyone from... as they say in part of my city, your family done good. Long, long time. Isn't it? God love you. Well, thank you. Thank you for taking the time to be here. I really do appreciate it. Today, unfortunately, America is going to, have to speak to this quickly, going to reach a tragic milestone. 200,000 deaths recorded as of today because of the coronavirus. 200,000 deaths all across this nation. And it means there are empty chairs and dining room tables and kitchen tables that weeks and months ago were filled with a loved one, a mom, a dad, a brother, a sister. And in many cases, the pain was made a lot worse because... and I've had people tell me this and close friends of the family tell me, because they were unable to visit their elderly parent or grandparent in a nursing home just before they passed away.

Joe Biden: Don't know how many stories I've heard about from the nurses saying they held up a cell phone to the patient on a ventilator in the bed about to pass, Mr. Mayor, and that's all they could speak to. And so the fact that people weren't able to hold funeral services where family and friends could pray together, remember the loved ones they lost and place them as they place them in the hands of God. And so many of the rituals we have come to help us cope with pain and loss, to help us honor the lives of those we've loved, to help us come to closure, just aren't available in the middle of this pandemic. What worries me now is we've been living with this pandemic for so long, we're risking becoming numb to the toll it has taken on us and our country and communities like this. We can't let that happen.

Joe Biden: We can't lose the ability to feel the sorrow and the loss and the anger for so many lives lost. We can't let the numbers become statistics, a background noise, just a blur that we see on the nightly news. 200 moms, dads, sons, daughters, grandparents, uncles, aunts, friends, coworkers, who are no longer with us. And so many of them didn't have to lose their lives to this virus, quite frankly, if only the president has acted sooner. Back in May, Columbia University released a study that said that if the president of that acted just one week sooner, we would have saved 36,000 lives. Today, the leading model being used to track the virus, one which the White House and many the others rely on, that model says between now and the end of this year, while we're waiting for a vaccine, between now and the end of the year, we're going to lose up to 200,000 additional lives.

Joe Biden: It ranged from 178,000 to 200,000. And it points out as well that if we act by doing what you're doing here in Wisconsin, wearing masks and making minimum requirements to meet this, we could save over 115,000 of those lives. So I hope to God we'll not learn the same lesson, we might have to learn the same bad lesson we learned in the first nine months. Due to Donald Trump's lies and incompetence in the past six months have seen one of the greatest losses of American life in history, in history. But sadly, it's not over. As awful as the past 180 days have been, the next 90 days could be twice as bad. Just pause and think about it. We could be looking at, as I said, between 178 and 200,000 lives lost. And all the president does is deliberately change the subject, which is especially infuriating. Once again, we're being told that we can save lives. This time as many, as I said, 110,000 lives if we just take the simple steps.

Joe Biden: Chief among them wearing masks and still the president refuses. In fact, we just watched him hold an indoor rally with thousands of people, many of whom weren't wearing masks despite the clear evidence that we're putting everyone of those people's lives at risk. The president knew of these dangers back in February and he hid it from the American people. You can actually hear his own voice recorded by Bob Woodward's interview with him saying that he understood how bad it was. We hear him privately saying, "This is a deadly virus. Far more deadly than any flu." But that's not what he was saying to us publicly. Publicly he told us that it was just like the flu and it would disappear in the warm weather like a miracle.

Joe Biden: It was all a lie. He knew it. What's his explanation? He said he didn't want to see the American people panic. He didn't want to panic them. Trump panicked. The virus was too big for him. All his life, Donald Trump has been bailed out of any problem he faced. And with this crisis, a real crisis, the crisis that required serious presidential leadership, he just wasn't up to it. He froze. He failed to act. He panicked and America has paid the worst price of nation in the world. Still, I support and understand what Donald Trump was saying. And by the way, the American people don't panic. We don't panic. I understand what he was saying because it crystallizes his whole worldview. When Donald Trump said he didn't want to create a panic, he wasn't just talking about a health panic, he was focused on the stock market. Trump was worried that if he told the public the truth, there would be a panic on the financial markets and that would hurt his chances of being reelected.

Joe Biden: That's how Donald Trump views the world. He sees the world from Park Avenue. I see it from where I grew up in a town like this from Scranton, Pennsylvania. Hard scrapple, hardworking town, just like this and so many more across Wisconsin. When you look at the world from Park Avenue, basically all you can see is Wall Street. And you think Wall Street built this country? Well, let me tell you. You think that Donald Trump as Donald Trump does, that handing out a \$1.5 trillion tax giveaway primarily for large corporations and wealthy qualifiers is an economic plan? You think like Trump, that \$15 an hour is too much for America's essential workers. You eliminate overtime pay for millions of American workers. You try to take away healthcare from 20 million Americans in the middle of this pandemic.

Joe Biden: He's in court today, trying to get that done. You trying to take away protections for preexisting conditions for 130 million Americans. You propose a plan that in order to make it look good, you're going to get a little bump in your pay because you're not going to take out withholding for your social security. But guess what? The actuary at social security says if he does that social security will be bankrupt by the middle of 2023. You might get that out of your paycheck, a little more in your paycheck, but guess what? Go home and tell your mom and dad, say goodbye to social security they worked for their whole lives. You think being tough with China is a trade deal that opens the door to big banks to make money in China. That's basically all we got out of it. A lot of dairy farmers and farmers and manufacturing went under.

Joe Biden: But guess what? It started a trade war that [inaudible 00:08:38] farm banker fees and America throws the American manufacturing into a recession. But you know what happened? I didn't know this at first. I couldn't understand why he was so excited about it. America's bank, Citibank, they got to open up in Beijing. They weren't able to before. He scuttled a deal to lower prescription drug prices. He probably had a deal, but he wanted the pharmaceutical companies before they lowered the prices to do something that they thought was unethical. He asked them to send out \$100 checks with his name on it to the elderly saying that, that's the down payment. They said, "We're not going to do that." They weren't going to do it so the deal fell apart. And now some 30 million Americans are on unemployment.

Joe Biden: You think the way to get American economy back on track is to give another gigantic multimillion dollar tax cut to the very wealthy. And here's what they're doing. The tax rate all of you pay in here is going to be higher than billionaires who make their money on investments. This is not exaggeration. He wants to lower, again, costing \$30 billion to the Treasury, lower the capital gains tax to 15%. So while someone who makes their money is off the market is paying the 15% rate, you're paying at a 24, 26, 28, depending on your tax bracket rate. It's not right. Workers here pay close to twice that amount. Close to 30%. Trump's tax cut for the wealthy is going to cost billions of dollars a year and who's hide does it come out? It comes out of your hide. The simple truth is that Donald Trump ran for office saying he would represent the forgotten man and women in this country.

Joe Biden: And then once he got in office, he forgot us. Not only did he forget them, the truth is that he never really respected us very much. Oh, he loves his rallies but the next time he holds one look closely. Trump keeps his distance from anyone in the rally. The folks who come are packed in tight as they can be risking disease, mostly without mask, but not Trump. He safely he keeps his distance. They showed a couple of days ago, a reporter trying to come up or someone come through, he said, "No, no. You got to keep your distance. I don't get close to these people." He's willing to let everybody else in the crowd risk their life, but not him. And now we know what he really thinks of the people who come to his rallies from someone who saw it up close and wrote about it up close in the White House. The former employee said he calls his own supporters, "Disgusting." He said one of the benefits of this pandemic, cause he doesn't have to shake their hands.

Joe Biden: He doesn't have to shake their hand. That's a good thing about the pandemic. For Trump these rallies are about entertainment, adoration and not respect. But you don't kid yourself, this is a one way street. And all the things that Trump has said and done, nothing is more offensive than the way he's spoken about many of you and the brave women and men who served the nation in uniform. Those have given their lives in service to this nation. It's been confirmed by every outlet that he referred to them as losers and suckers. That's what Trump calls those who served and They're made the ultimate sacrifice. Let me tell you something, my son Beau served and volunteered to go to Iraq for a year. Won the Bronze Star, came home decorated, came home with stage 4 glioblastoma and died of cancer. He wasn't a loser. He wasn't a sucker. He was a patriot.

Joe Biden: And all those people with whom he served, volunteered, were patriots as well. Just like your sons and daughters and many of you, your moms and dads. Frankly, I've dealt with guys like Trump my whole life. Some neighbor where I come who would look down on us because we didn't have a lot of money or your parents didn't go to college. Guys who think they're better than you. Guys who inherit everything they've ever gotten in their life and squander it. Guys who stretch and squeeze and stiff electricians and plumbers and contractors working on their hotels and casinos and golf courses just to put a few more bucks in their pocket. Guys who do everything they can to avoid paying their taxes they owe because they figure the rest of us, the little people, we can pick up the tab for the country. Do you have any doubt that the reason we haven't seen Trump's tax returns is because they didn't want to know what he paid?

Joe Biden: They've only seen four Trump tax returns in the last 45 years. And I don't think there's been any ever since he's been running for president. He had to turn some of them over to start a casino in New Jersey. He had to show his taxes. And they showed that he paid zero. He talked about the billion dollars that... he paid zero, nothing. That's a fact. And when he was asked about it, you know what he said? This why I really don't like guys like this in my neighborhood. He said, "It makes me smart." Or in another way, "I'm not a sucker. Why should I pay when I can figure my way out?" Zero. Wall Street's a long way from Scranton, Pennsylvania, and here, but you get to see the world a little more clearly there. I grew up understanding as I believe all of you did that Wall Street didn't build this country, hardworking people, given half a chance, the middle class built this country and unions built the middle class.

Joe Biden: Unions. Union labor like the folks in this room. I've learned a few simple lessons from my parents that I've never forgotten. One is from my mother. She used to say, and this the God's truth, "Joey, remember nobody's better than you, but everyone's your equal. Nobody's better, but everyone's your equal." It's pretty simple. We're all equal the way I was raised and we should be treated that way. I have to admit, I got my back up a little bit recently about something I saw and was on national television about the race. Some of the national... I don't think they meant anything by it, but I don't think they know how insulting it is. It was, Joe Biden, if elected, will be only the first president who didn't go to an Ivy League school in a long time. Somehow that meant I didn't belong.

Joe Biden: How could a guy who went to a state school be president? My reaction was the same it has been my whole life and I have to admit it and I'm not proud of it, but you close the door on me because you think I'm not good enough, guess what? Like all you guys, I'm going to bust down that door. My guess is a lot of you feel the same way about a lot of slights you've had because of our standing, quote, unquote. I say it's about time that a state school president sat in the Oval Office because you know what? If I'm sitting there, you're going to be sitting there too. Another lesson I learned from my dad and my family heard this all the time. My dad lost a job when coal died up in Scranton. We had to move. He had to go to my grandpa, his father-in-law and say, "Can Gen..." My mom. "Can Gen and the kids stay with you about a year? I'll make it up to you. I got to move to Delaware where there's a job. I'm going to come home every weekend."

Joe Biden: Talk about pride. Well, he used to say, "Joey, remember a job's about a lot more than your paycheck. It's about your dignity. It's about respect. It's about your place in the community. It's about being able to look your kids in the eye and say, honey, it's going to be all right." The dignity of work, what you do matters. You matter. That's why I want to change the tax code. Instead of rewarding just wealth, and I don't want to punish anybody, but instead of just rewarding wealth in this country, it's about time we start to reward work. Under my plan nobody making less than 400,000 bucks and I don't make it and you don't make it. I don't think. In this country will see their taxes go up. But if you make more than 400,000 bucks, you're going to start to pay more. I'm not looking to punish anyone. I just think it's about time the wealthiest and the biggest corporations, most profitable companies began to pay their fair share. You got all 90 of them paying zero. Making billions of dollars. They pay no tax at all. Zero.

Joe Biden: How can that be fair? The president talks all the time about how great the economy is. Well, I don't know what y'all think, but where I come from and a lot of places in this state, it's not so great. In the middle of this pandemic, now, the billionaires in this country have seen their wealth increase by \$800 billion. Let me explain that again. All the billionaires in America during the pandemic, their net worth combined according to studies have increased by \$800 billion. And the rest of us, well, 30 million people are unemployed. 20 million Americans are at risk of losing their home because they can't find the rent payment. Seven plus million Americans are working part time who want to work full time. Evictions are on the rise. And for a lot of families, the kids are at home, not in school. I believe it's the working people of this country that need a tax break.

Joe Biden: And under my plan, they're going to get one. Whether you're buying your first home, paying for health care premium or childcare or caring for an aging parent, you're going to be able to afford it. I've said it many times, during this pandemic, we need to do more than just praise our essential workers, we need to pay them. We need to make healthcare affordable for every American. My plan will lower prescription drug costs by 60%. I'm going to make sure we keep protections for preexisting conditions that Obama and I put in place and make it a lot more affordable to have that healthcare. We need to empower labor unions in this country.

Fair Labor Standards Act didn't say back in the '30s, you can't have labor unions. It said we should promote labor unions. That's what it said. And I will.

Joe Biden: And one more thing. Under my Build Back Better plan, we're not only going to build infrastructure we need in this country with union workers and prevailing wage, we're going to do something else. We're going to rebuild manufacturing in this country and we'll do it by enforcing a real buy American plan. Look, the federal government has spent \$600 billion a year in purchasing power that the federal government has every year from tax dollars and determines how it's used. When I'm president of United States, God willing, American companies with American workers, building American products using American supply chains are going to be the only ones who get the contracts. That means American aluminum for infrastructure, for developing more wind and solar and hydroelectric power, electric vehicles will replace cars in the federal fleet. We have one of the largest fleets in the world, the federal government. They're going to shift them all to electric vehicles and guess what?

Joe Biden: That means you're going to be providing much more lighter frames, more aluminum for automobiles that already if they are aluminum built, they could reduce by 15%, even with a combustion engine. 1.5 million new affordable homes and housing. We're going to build and this is going to require a lot of work and increased work at home. We're going to make sure that we transfer 40 million buildings around America to make them weather resistant so that they are... you change the windows, the doors, the walls, the whole range. Building Back Better means firing up our shuttered foundries and forging ahead towards future that's truly made in America. I want to spend just a few moments talking about those who voted for Donald Trump last time. When I went was out here in the [inaudible 00:22:06] administration, you voted for us and then an awful lot of people in this county changed and they voted for Trump last time.

Joe Biden: I know many of you were frustrated. You were angry. You believed you weren't being seen, represented or heard. I get it. It has to change. And I promise you this, it will change with me. You will be seen, heard and respected by me. This campaign isn't about just winning votes, it's about restoring the basic dignity in this country that every worker deserves. Basic dignity that we all have without winning back the hearts and yes, the soul of America, we're not going to make it. Just a few days ago when I was asked about the death count approaching 200,000, the president said, and I quote, he said, I won't quote him. The president said, "If you take out the blue states run by Democratic governors and just look at the red states, Republican governors are doing quite well."

Joe Biden: Now, of course, it's a simple, factual matter, it's just not true. If you just count all the deaths in the red states, we are number two in the world in death just behind Brazil. But more fundamentally, reflects on the part of Donald Trump that he has a deeply flawed and divisive view of the United States, this nation and the job he holds. Think about what he's saying. He's saying, if you live in a state like Wisconsin, Michigan, Pennsylvania, states with Democratic governors, you're not his problem. He has no obligation to you. He's not responsible for you as president, your family or your wellbeing. I don't see the presidency that way. I don't pledge allegiance to red states of America or blue states of America, I pledge

allegiance to the United States of America. One nation, indivisible under God. For real. I'm running as a proud Democrat, but I'm not going to govern as a Democratic president, I'm going to govern as president.

Joe Biden: I get criticized for saying that sometimes with some in my party, but that's not what I'm going to do. I'm going to fight as hard for those who supported me as those who did not support me. This is not a partisan moment for God's sake. This has to be an American moment. In the next few weeks, we have a chance to put anger and division and the darkness that overtaken this country behind us. We've got to put it behind us. I know I've been criticized since I entered the primaries about, I say, I want to unite the country. We have to unite the country. This is not who we are and we can. We've done it so many times in our history. We've begun to a new. If we get control of this virus, we can. We can reward work. We can fix the healthcare system.

Joe Biden: We can be a safe and just nation. We can deal with the existential threat of climate change which aluminum is going to be a gigantic part of. We can be what we are at our best, one nation. One nation, one people, one America. You just have to remember who in God's name we are. This is the United States of America. In our long history, there's been nothing we've been unable to do, nothing we've been able to overcome when we've done it together. And I'm confident going all over this nation, we can do it together. The American people are hungry. We have to bring the nation together. That's going to be my primary job. And I want to thank you all. God bless you for what you're doing. May you all stay safe and may God protect our troops. Thank you so much, Mr. Mayor. Thank you. And thank you ma'am. Appreciate it.

Joe Biden Racial Equity Discussion Transcript

September 23

[Rev](#) › [Blog](#) › [Transcripts](#) › [2020 Election Transcripts](#) › Joe Biden Racial Equity Discussion Transcript September 23. Joe Biden made a campaign visit to Charlotte, NC on September 23 where he participated in a racial equity discussion with Chris Paul. Read the transcript of the event [here](#).

Joe Biden: Hello, hello, hello, hello. My name is Joe Biden. I'm trying to get a job with Chris. He is Mr. President. He's president of the union. Mr. President, I was kidding him. You know, the hardest thing, only thing harder than being president of a union is being the mayor of a beautiful city.

Joe Biden: Folks, thanks for taking the time to be here today. I really appreciate it. And we even have an astronaut in our house and I tell you what, that's pretty cool. Look, first of all, I want to thank Chris and the mayor for being here, and all of you for being here. You know, these are tough times. Over 200,000 Americans have passed away. Over 200,000, and the number is still rising. The impact on communities is bad across the board, but particularly bad for African-American communities. Almost four times as likely, three times as likely to catch the disease, COVID, and when it's caught, twice as likely to die as white Americans. It's sort of emblematic of the inequality that exists and the circumstances that exist.

Joe Biden: One of the things that really matters to me, is we could do ... It didn't have to be this bad. You have 30 million people on unemployment, you have 20 million people figuring whether or not they can pay their mortgage payment this month, and what they're going to be able to do or not do as the consequence of that, and you've got millions of people who are worried that they're going to be thrown out in the street because they can't pay their rent. Although they've been given a reprieve for three months, but they have to pay double the next three months when it comes around.

Joe Biden: How people going to do that? And the way, in fact, the Democratic House and the Senate passed, stepped up and passed a significant amount of money to help people get through the process, including keeping businesses open and the like. Well, guess what? They insisted there being a thing called an inspector general, somebody watching where every dollar went. The first thing the president of the United States did is fire that inspector general. There is no inspector. He's fired. Fired. And so you got 40% of, only 40% of the money intended for small businesses going to small businesses. Only 40% of it. 60% has gone to the Mar-a-Lago crowd.

Joe Biden: In addition to that, we find ourselves in a circumstance where the idea that we're going to continue to provide for unemployment insurance for people is very much in doubt, although the House just passed a package today. My generic point is, that the University of

Columbia pointed out, that if in fact the president had acted, even though we know now he knew exactly how bad the pandemic was back in February, he's on tape with Bob Woodward saying he knew how bad it was, and he didn't say a thing. He didn't say a thing.

Joe Biden: If he had spoken, as I said, they said at Columbia, one week earlier, 37,000 more people be alive today. We're going to have another influx of cases, just between now and January, it's expected that we're going to have somewhere between, depending on which estimate you take, between 138 and 178,000 more deaths. And if people just do what we're doing here, and when you're at a social distance, as I am, you can take a mask off, but wear a mask. They estimate that would save about close to 89, 90,000 people. And so it's about being responsible. It's about being responsible. And we're not being very responsible.

Joe Biden: But what I want to talk to you about today is that we have to break a cycle. The cycle that exist is that the African-American community by and large finds itself at the bottom of the economic heap, businesses and others, when things are good. When things get bad, they're the first ones in the hole. And when things get better, they're the last ones out. In addition to that, we have a criminal justice system that needs significant repair. And we're just only beginning, slightly, to make some progress now.

Joe Biden: And thirdly, if you're a business person, let me put it this way. Every person out there wants an opportunity to make it for their family. My dad used to have an expression, "Everybody's entitled to be treated with dignity." And then he said, "Joey, a job is about a lot more than a paycheck. It's about your dignity. It's about respect. It's about your place in the community. It's about being able to hold your head up. It's about being able to look your kid in the eye and say, 'Honey, everything's going to be okay.'"

Joe Biden: For too many people, particularly in the African-American community, they can't say that. That's not able to be done. So one of the things that I want to talk with you about today, is how do we build wealth? Because ultimately, ultimately the African-American community only is going to have its place equal to everyone else when they're in a position to be able to build wealth, be able to build wealth. And that goes for everything from access to being able to purchase a home, access to jobs, access to just being able to have an even shot. And that's what I hope we're going to talk a little about today.

Joe Biden: It goes to education, as well as access to education, access beyond. Everything from a lot of poor whites and African-Americans, poor African-Americans and Hispanic live in Title I districts, meaning that they live in school districts that have very low tax base. And right now we spent \$15 billion a year to compensate for that low tax base. I increased that to \$45 billion. What it does, it keeps teachers in schools because we're short teachers significantly. 125,000 teachers short right now. Be over half a million by 2023. In addition to that, we find ourselves in a circumstance where we used to have in our schools, in the old days, used to have one ... Right now we don't have any, we virtually have no school psychologists in our schools. And so teachers come in to school and they're expected to solve every problem. Well, there's one school psychologist for every 1,507 kids in school. It should be closer to one to 500. We can

do that by increasing the money I just talked about from 15 to 45. And send every single child that's three years old, four years old, and five years old, not to daycare, but to school. All the studies of the great universities in this state and every other have pointed out in the last eight years, that'll increase by 58% their chances of going all the way through school, no matter what the ZIP code they come from, no matter where they are, and be able to do it without getting themselves in trouble.

Joe Biden: And then we're going to talk about, I think a big issue here is access to apprenticeships and access to community colleges and college, and the student debt requirements that are there. Hope we can talk about that. But I want to talk about basically one-

Joe Biden: Hope we can talk about that, but I want to talk about basically one big important thing. How do we change the dynamic? This is a gigantic opportunity. As bad as things have gotten, the blinders have sort of been taken off the American people now. They look out there, and we have the pandemic, unemployment. We have race relations that are just been drawn into focus and everything from police brutality to lack of access. But the American people have all of a sudden, average people have gone, "My Lord. Holy mackerel. I didn't know it was this bad." A lot of them didn't know. A lot did. But a lot didn't know it was this bad. And talking to ... Well, I won't go into it. I'm talking too much now in my opening statement, but here's the point.

Joe Biden: The point is, I believe we have a gigantic opportunity, a gigantic opportunity to fundamentally change the systemic racism and the systemic problems that exist in our system. And I think we have to do it, but only one way to do it. We've got to show up and vote. But I believe the American people are not going to be turned off. I believe no matter what the administration does to try to make it hard to vote for everyone, not just people of color, but everyone, no matter what, I think they're going to vote. You see what's happened in Virginia, early voting. They have four hour lines in the first day, and we're over 40 days out. People are going to show up and vote. They will not be dissuaded.

Joe Biden: And so that's why I'm optimistic. I was asked by one of the foreign leaders when I was overseas, when I was the vice president, they said, "Can you define America for me?" I said, "Yes, I can, in one word. Possibilities. Possibilities." We're the only country that believes anything's possible. But it's about time we make it possible for everybody? That's what this is all about. I think we got a gigantic opportunity in the year 2020 to make these changes. And with that, as my mother would say, I'm going to hush up and take any questions you all have. And I've got to get out of the way here.

Mayor Vi Lyles: The first question we're going to ask, our hometown star, [inaudible 00:02:03].

Chris Paul: Far from a star, but appreciate it. My first question, you sort of spoke about education. And for me, I'm the only person in my family to go to an HBCU. And you, right down the street from Johnson C. Smith, North Carolina is known for having a lot of HBCUs.

My question would be, there's a lot that's not properly funding, sort of going under, so what would you sort of like to see, or what could you do for the historically black colleges and universities?

Joe Biden: I was kidding Chris inside. I was saying as long as I can say what the best HBCU is in America, Delaware State University. But that's another issue. That's a joke, but it's not a joke. They're great. That's how I got my start, by the way. I went to University of Delaware. But the reason I got involved in politics in the first place is because of what was going on in my state in terms of segregation and in terms of Dr. King being assassinated. Part of the, major part of our city was burned to the ground. That's how I got engaged. And a lot of my support came out of that HBCU.

Joe Biden: Look, right now, one thing all the data shows is that, given an opportunity, an equal opportunity, there's not a single thing that an African-American can't do that a white American can do, that a Hispanic American, an Asian American ... I mean, not a single thing. And so what's happened? It's about access to opportunity and access to good jobs. Now, an awful lot of universities like, great university like UNC or Wake Forest, a lot of schools, they have endowments, and the endowment allows them to provide for the circumstance to bid for these major federal initiatives that allow them to bring into the school a technology or a program that is able to bring in outside sponsors, as well as government sponsors, and then have students work in those areas.

Joe Biden: For example, cybersecurity. Cybersecurity is a big deal, but you have to ... And as a future, there's going to be millions of, over time, good paying jobs in the area of cybersecurity. But because the HBCUs, for example, most of them don't have the economic ... They don't have the endowment to be able to build the facilities that can attract the environment, the government funding, as well as private endowment. They don't get to set these up. For example, when I was vice president, we went down to Roanoke and we provided funding for an HBCU to have a cybersecurity proposal. They did it. They got the contract. And now what they're doing are training young women and men who'll get out and good starting jobs, jobs where you can end up being paid more than a hundred grand a year. And they're fully, totally, thoroughly capable.

Joe Biden: What I've done is I've proposed, and we'll get this done ... I proposed a 10-year program for \$70 billion for HBCUs, \$70 billion. And that \$70 billion will be available through the HBCUs based on their competition to get access to it, but everyone will qualify, every HBCU. And they'll be able to do the kinds of things that other universities do.

Joe Biden: For example, Delaware State University is a great university. The president of the university is a young man who used to work for me in my Senate office. Now, brilliant guy. He's a doctorate. The end result of it is though when the University of Delaware makes an application for dealing with solar energy, because it has a significant base, it gets this significant injection of technological capability, or, for example, light metals. They took over an old facility, it used to be a Ford facility long, long time ago. They took over a facility used

to be a Chrysler facility and got shut down. And now what do they have at that facility? They have people in that facility who are now doing metallurgy that relate to making lightweight aluminum and metal decks for aircraft carriers. Well, it's a multi-million dollar and will end up being a billion-dollar project. And so the people who get to work on that, the very students in that university get to work on it, they're the ones that are going to go out and get these great jobs. So that's the first thing I'm going to do for HBCUs.

Joe Biden: Secondly, we have to look at, and we have been looking at, the idea that we have to bring in HBCUs to engage in more of what we are doing in terms of our national dialogue. And for example, I kid ... Two of the guys that are on my co-sponsors of my campaign, African-Americans, they've talked about themselves as Morgan men. I'm a Morgan man. Well, there's a lot of great universities including right here, but we have an opportunity to provide for, you're able to get to those universities. How can you do it? Well, I'm going to see to it that any family, anyone who comes from a family that makes a total income of less than \$125,000 a year gets free college education. They don't get in. If they get in and qualify, they pay nothing to go to college.

Joe Biden: Secondly, there are also programs that exist now that if you provide for the work, that you will volunteer to do something in the public interest, and you do it for five years or more, you can deduct \$10,000 a year up to \$50,000 off of that debt you have. And you have an awful lot of young African-Americans that have graduated. The average debt is about \$19,000 a year. Well, it's hard as hell to get started. Hard to get started when you have that debt hanging over your head. The average debt is even higher. It's up to \$28,000 a year, someone graduating from a four year school.

Joe Biden: And that's why the economists had predicted prior to, and I'll end with this, I'm telling you too much, but because I'm pretty passionate about this. What happens is that if, it was pointed out before the COVID crisis, that we're going to have an economic slowdown because the entire generation, this from 9/11 generation through to the generation now, and coming out of this, this god-awful circumstance we're in, they, in fact, are not going to have the wherewithal because of student debt to be able to borrow the money to buy a home, buy a new vehicle, buy an apartment, and spend the money and capital, where a significant portion of our economy is driven by consumption, by consumption.

Joe Biden: (And this generation, this whole new generation from 9/11 on, that in fact is, they're not in a position to be able to do it. So there's a whole lot of reasons that economically this will benefit. This isn't just draining money. And by the way, I pay for every one of these things by the way, I deal with the tax structure. But that's another story. So that's a piece of what I think we can and should be doing with HBCUs. And secondly, I will, in my administration, elevate, elevate the standing of HBCUs by the people in my administration as well.

[...]

Q&A session.

Joe Biden Train Tour Speech Transcript

Cleveland, Ohio September 30

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Cleveland, Ohio September 30

Transcript of Joe Biden's remarks during a 'Whistle-Stop Tour' visit to Cleveland, Ohio on September 30—his first speech after the first presidential debate. Read the transcript of his campaign speech here.

[...]

Tiffany Davis: [...] Ohio is ready for Joe Biden. With that, it is my honor to introduce and welcome back to Ohio, the next President of the United States, Joe Biden.

Joe Biden: Hey everybody. I have to tell y'all, it's great to see you.

Joe Biden: Hello Cleveland. Don't jump. Folks, I was reminiscing as we drove to the station, I spent the bulk of my adult life driving to an Amtrak station. I commuted every day from Wilmington, Delaware to Washington DC when I got elected as a young Senator, right after my wife and daughter were killed, and I didn't plan on staying in the Senate, but I agreed I'd stay for six months, a long time ago, and I started commuting and the fact is they tell me I've logged more than 2,100,000 miles on Amtrak. So it's good to be here. It's not as fast as the helicopter, but I made a lot of family and friends on Amtrak. So I'm looking forward to getting on the train with you guys.

Joe Biden: I want to start off by saying that it's great to be in Ohio and with my so many friends, members of Congress, local elected officials. It's an honor to be here with Tiffany. I know how hard it is for her. And I say I know, I was in the position of her children. My dad went through the same thing, Mr. Mayor. Back in Scranton, Pennsylvania, he lost his job. And I remember him walking up the stairs, making what I call that longest walk a parent has to make to tell a child that he's going to have to leave. My dad didn't have an eight hour ride. He only had a three hour ride, three and a half hour ride. He moved to Wilmington, Delaware. Took a couple of years before he could bring us back down to Delaware, come home every weekend, but to make sure that we're all together again. It's a hard slog. A lot of people have made that. And Tiffany, you're a wonderful, wonderful mother, teacher, and the way you talk about your husband, he and I have something in common. We both married way up. I want to say that my dad, when he was, I apologize to Congressman Lamb, he's heard me say this a lot, but my dad, when we moved back to Delaware, moved to Delaware, would say all the time to his children,

my siblings and I, he'd say, "Joey, a job's about a lot more than a paycheck. It's about your dignity. It's about respect. It's about being able to hold your head up. It's being able to look your child in the eye and say, it's going to be okay. That's what a job is about." And Tiffany, when I think about your husband taking that job eight hours away, although it's a hundred years ago, I think about my dad, and I imagine your husband has the same stamina, and you do, as my mom and dad did.

Joe Biden: The fact is that last night's debate, and this election, is supposed to be about you, Tiffany, about you and all the people I grew up with in Scranton, and people in Youngstown, and Claymont, Delaware, and all the people who make a difference. Does any President, does your President understand at all what you're going through, what so many other people are going through? Question is does he see you where you are and where you want to be? Does he care? As he tried to walk in your shoes, to understand what's going on in your life? Or does he just ignore you and all the folks all over America who are in a similar situation? I think he's more than ignoring us. I look at things from Scranton's perspective, he looks at from Park Avenue. I think he basically looks down on us. He judges us.

Joe Biden: The fact is that I think that when he called our military, and I see we got some veterans here too, thank you for your service man, but when he called our veterans who lost their lives and served suckers and losers, I thought it was one of the most despicable things that I've ever heard a President say. Guys you are soldiers or a veteran, you served your country, like you did, like you did Connor, like my son did. What he does, he lies to you. He lies to you about exactly what's happened. Does he lie to you when, like this president did to your husband, that all the workers at GM plant in Lordstown were going to be in good shape. You remember what he said?

Joe Biden: And you said it to me, he said, "Don't move. Don't sell your house because no Ohio factory will shut down in Donald Trump's America." He doesn't pay his fair share, don't worry about that. He doesn't pay his fair share in taxes. He says that makes him smart. What does that do? What does that make you, Tiffany, make me, and millions of other hardworking Americans, decent people who pay our taxes? Are we the suckers? Are we stupid because we go by the rules? He's too weak to beat the pandemic. Cost him more than 200,000 American lives. That's upended every part of our lives and hit working people particularly hard. Your businesses are closed and schools aren't back to normal because Donald Trump hasn't done his job.

Joe Biden: He hasn't pulled Congress together to provide real relief for working people, moms, and dads, and business owners. The fact is Congress has passed a significant recovery bill, but he's too busy being in a bunker, or in his golf course to call them into the White House to work out an agreement. He told FEMA to cut off funding for school PPE, masks, and protective gear, because it's not a national emergency. His response during the deadly pandemic is to try to take your healthcare away by asking the Supreme Court to strike the Affordable Care Act in its entirety. Wipe it out.

Joe Biden: ... the Affordable Care Act in its entirety, wipe it out, taking us back to a time when insurance companies could deny you coverage for preexisting conditions. Now, because of COVID, lung scarring or heart problems is a consequence of having survived COVID. That could be the next pre-existing conditions affecting millions of people. Taking away Medicare benefits for seniors. Throw your adult kids off your healthcare insurance.

Joe Biden: Think about his plan for your social security. The social security actuary said that if he follows through on his plan for social security, social security will be quote, "Bankrupt by 2023." It clear that he not only cares about Wall Street and the super wealthy and the Fortune 500, he thinks they built this country. That's why he wants another \$30 billion tax cut for the hundred wealthiest billionaires in the country, who have already made \$ 30 billion during this pandemic. So they'll pay a lower tax rate than you do as a teacher, a factory worker, a firefighter, a nurse. He gave a tax giveaway for corporations and they moved jobs overseas to sell goods back to the United States. Here comes the train that he tried to make sure didn't continue to run.

Joe Biden: That's the commuter. All right. But folks, look, he let big corporation jump in front of the line to get the recovery aid that Congress had passed while small businesses are struggling to say open. In the end, his measure of economic health is the stock market. In four years as president, he's broken his promise, he's forgotten the forgotten Americans he said he was always going to fight for.

Joe Biden: Well, I never will forget. I know the middle class working people built this country and I measure our economic success by what families are talking about around their kitchen tables this morning. Some of them with an empty chair because they lost a family member. The ones I saw every night on my train ride from Washington to Wilmington, Delaware, as I said after my wife and daughter were killed when I was first elected, I started going home every single night so I'd be there in the morning to get my kids, Beau Hunter and Ashley ready for school. Actually, Jill, God love her, she came into our life five years later and made things good.

Joe Biden: For 36 years, I said, I took that 250 mile round trip journey each day. I'd get to know the train engineers, the conductors, the fellow passengers, and at night, I'd see the pinpoints of lights in the homes in the cities and towns along the way from Washington to Wilmington and wonder what those families are talking about after they put their kids to bed. My guess is the same thing that all Americans across the country are talking about today, asking questions as profound and as ordinary as, will we be okay? Will we be able to keep our insurance? What are we going to do?

Joe Biden: Folks, this election has a choice between Scranton and Park Avenue values, between Cleveland and Park Avenue values, between Alliance and Park Avenue values. But it's also about something deeper. Can these parents look their kids in the eye and say, " Honey, everything's going to be okay." These are the conversations I'm going to be having today in this whistle stop tour through Ohio and Pennsylvania, talking to folks about how I'll get the

virus under control, lay out the plan, bringing Congress together to provide relief and resources to schools and business so we can reopen our economy safely and strongly with a real plan and real leadership.

Joe Biden: Talking to folks about how I'd create good paying jobs, union jobs, to support working families and build our economy back. Not just back, but build it back better. I'll protect your Medicare and social security and how I'll fight to protect pensions, including fixing [inaudible 00:31:13] employer pensions so that many union women and men in Ohio, Michigan, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, Iowa, Minnesota, Delaware, all across this country, are able to keep what they earned and deserve.

Joe Biden: I'll fight for American jobs with the dignity of work and make the wealthy and corporations began to pay their fair share. I'll protect your right to healthcare and build on and improve the Affordable Care Act and I'll always tell you the truth. I'll always care about you, whether you vote for me or not. If elected, I'm not going to be a Democratic president, I'm going to be an American president. Whether you voted for me or not, I'm going to be your president and I'll never forget the people, the working people of this country, because that's what I've come from. That, given just half a chance, the American people can do anything. Just like you, Tiffany, and your husband, you've stood up. You can do anything. I want to make something absolutely clear. There's overwhelming reason for optimism. Reverend, as you said, there's overwhelming reason. We just have to unite. The country is ready to do that. We're better positioned than any nation in the world to own the 21st century, we just have to do it and do it together. So I leave you Rev and thank you for your invocation by saying, God bless you all and may God protect our troops. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you. Keep the faith. We're coming back. Thank you.

Joe Biden Train Tour Campaign Speech Transcript

Alliance, Ohio September 30

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Joe Biden visited Alliance, Ohio on his ‘Whistle-Stop’ campaign tour on September 30. Read the transcript of his remarks here.

Joe Biden: ... I just want you to know that I appreciate the opportunity to be here and appreciate the opportunity to move on. Alliance started as a place where people came together and it’s what we so badly need to do now in this country, is begin, again, to come together. We rode today with some remarkable Ohioans and whose families are here, Tiffany Davis and her husband, Tom, and her kids and Jacqueline, [Komar 00:00:25] and her husband, William, and their daughter and grandson, and [Dave Worshack 00:00:35] and his wife, Kathy, and their children.

Joe Biden: It was an honor to get a chance to meet them and to spend a little time talking about their circumstances. How Tom who worked online at Lordstown is now making that eight hour drive to Kentucky so he can keep a job and make a living, and Jacqueline who taught high school math at Maple Heights for years, and now worries, what’s going to happen to William if they lose the protections that are available through Obamacare for preexisting conditions? And Dave who’s fighting like hell for his coworkers after management announced the Akron plant was going to close this year. Like millions of hardworking Americans, they’re not looking for a handout, they’re just looking for a fair shot to be seen, to be understood, to be heard.

Joe Biden: They remind me of my dad. I was from another Valley, a little further East, the Lackawanna Valley, Scranton, Pennsylvania. My dad had a job in Scranton and when coal died and everything started to close up, we ended up in a circumstance where my dad did what you’re doing old buddy, only he didn’t have to do it for eight hours, what made that, what I called the longest walk a parent ever has to make, up a short flight of stairs and say, “Honey, I’m not going to be home during the week. I’m going to have to move down, in this case, to Delaware.”

Joe Biden: That was only about a three and a half hour ride at that time, not an eight hour ride. He did that for well over a year, and finally was able to get us to ... We had to move. There was no work. My dad, it just reminds me of what he used to always say, and I apologize the press hearing me say this many times, but it’s a fact and it’s relevant. My dad used to say in Wilmington, Delaware, when we finally were able to purchase a home, move on an apartment and get going again. My dad would say, “Joe remember, a job is about a lot more than a

paycheck. It's about your dignity. It's about respect. It's about your place in the community. It's about being able to hold your head up. Be able to look at your kid and say, "Honey, it's going to be okay." "Well, the fact is I don't expect the government to solve my problem," he'd say, "But I do expect them to at least understand the problem."

Joe Biden: That's what last night's debate was about, this whole election is about, does your president have any idea and understand what you're going through? And if he does, does he care about it? Is he able, as my mom would say, be able to walk a mile and your shoes, if you wanted to know me, they're able to do that? Or does he just ignore you, look down on you, lie to you, like this president did when he told Ohio workers that, "Don't sell your house, don't sell your house because no more factories are going to close." What I saw last night was all about him. He didn't speak to you or your concerns or the American people even once.

Joe Biden: Donald Trump broke his promise. He said he was running for the forgotten American. As soon as he got elected, he forgot them. I'll never forget. You know, I understand what you do. Wall Street did not build this country. CEOs did not build this country, hard working average American people, given half a chance, built this country. The middle-class built country and unions built the middle class. I tell you what, I never forget that where I came from. A measure our successes as a nation is not how well the stock market is doing. It's what families are able to talk about and what they deal with at their kitchen table.

Joe Biden: Many of the people who will hear this today woke up this morning at a kitchen table where there was one less, was an empty chair or one less chair, because they lost someone. 205,000 dead because of COVID. Over 7 million infected. It's just ... And what happened last night? Did you hear a word from the president about any of that? Look tables like the one that we saw last night are ones that were set by Trump. For 36 years, as I said, I took a 250 mile round trip on Amtrak every day to commute from Wilmington to Washington. I got to know the engineers, the conductors, the folks in the food service card.

Joe Biden: At night as I'd ride home and going between Washington and Baltimore, I see those lights on and those homes along the tracks, middle-class homes, three bedroom split-level types that I grew up in, and I'd often wonder, "What are they talking about? What are they dealing with? What's going on in their heads? What was it like what's going on at my house? "No, honey, you got to ride on those tires for another four or five, 6,000 miles. We can't afford new ones right now." Or who's going to tell her? Who's going to tell him they can't go back to that school because we just don't have the money? Or what are we going to do?

Joe Biden: I can remember my father, we lived in a three bedroom house with four kids and a grandpop. I can remember the walls were thin. I can remember my dad rolling around at night. I could hear him. Our room was next to him. I remember asking my mom one day, "What's the matter with dad?" She said, "We just lost the insurance. We have no health insurance." So look, these are the things that people are worried about. My guess is that the same thing is happening everywhere in America. The question people are asking is, is it going to be okay?

Joe Biden: Folks, this election, in my view, is between Scranton and Park Avenue, between Alliance and Park Avenue. It's about whether or not the parents are going to look their kids in the eye and going to be able to say, "It's going to be okay." That's what we talked about on the way down here on the train. We talked about it all along this whistle stop tour because I'm coming into places where people are hurting, where people have lost their jobs, but where there used to be real opportunity. This is all about, in my view, how we're going to support working families to give people an equal shot, just so they can be able to have a chance to be able to just make a decent living.

Joe Biden: And folks to protect your pensions, your healthcare, to make the wealthy and corporations pay their fair share. To me, that's what this is all about. It's a trade-off. Do we allow corporate America to continue to pay [inaudible 00:07:21] pay no tax at all while you're having your healthcare taken away in the name of, "We can't afford it." Do we allow billionaire to get another \$30 billion tax break So they pay a lower rate than you pay if you have a job as a school teacher? Do we allow that? Or do we invest in our schools? What should we be doing right now? And what should we be doing for the last five months?

Joe Biden: The president, instead of being in the sand trap in his golf course, should be in the White House and the Oval Office, inviting Democrats and Republicans to be there with him and to settle, settle how we're going to make sure we can bail out the small businesses that are going under. Make sure people can keep their insurance, making sure we have the ability to open our stores and our schools safely. It costs money to do that, but what's he doing? He's doing nothing.

Joe Biden: By the way, I find it fascinating. They had time at the very end of this election to hold a hearing on a Supreme Court justice, but the Senate does not have time to deal with making sure schools and businesses have the PPE they need, the protective gear, does not have the sanitary conditions available to them and the money to pay for them to open up, does not have the capacity and so on. It's kind of amazing, isn't it? They have time to rush through a nominee after an election has already started, but no time to deal with the everyday concerns about the American people.

Joe Biden: Look, let me conclude by saying, notwithstanding where we are right now, I am extremely optimistic. I'm optimistic because the American people know this is not who we are. They're ready to get up again. They're ready to come back. We just have to give them a shot. So we're better positioned than any nation in the world to take back this 21st century, we're ready to do it, but we're going to only do it if we do it together. If I get elected president, I'm not going to be the Democrat president, I'm going to be an American president. I'm going to represent you whether you vote for me or you vote against me. This is about the United States of America, our place in the world and the security and wellbeing of people just given an equal chance, an equal chance to have a shot at the American dream that's been denied them right now.

Joe Biden: Thank you very much for listening. I'm happy to take questions. I don't even know where to start. I guess I'll start and work my way a little bit. Yes?

[...] Q&A

Joe Biden Train Tour Campaign Speech Transcript

Greensburg, PA September 30

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Joe Biden visited Greensburg, Pennsylvania on his ‘Whistle-Stop’ campaign tour on September 30. Read the transcript of his remarks here.

Frank Spencer: Good evening. My name’s Frank Spencer and I’m the general vice president for the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America. General president McCarron isn’t able to be here today so it’s my honor on behalf of our 550,000 men and women that we represent, to endorse Joe Biden for president and Kamala Harris for vice president. You’re welcome Vice President.

Frank Spencer: Leaders stand up for what’s right even when it’s hard, that’s Joe Biden. Leaders tell the truth, even when it’s inconvenient, that’s Joe Biden. Leaders understand that the strength of our country is tied to the strength of the middle class. That means strong unions, protection for workers and a fair tax policy. Joe Biden knows that. Joe stands with working Americans and knows the value union brings to our communities. Joe stands with working carpenters and because of that, we’re proud to stand with Joe Biden, the next president of the United States. Thank you.

James Callahan: Good evening. My name is James Callahan, I’m the general president of the Operating Engineers. 400 members strong, 400,000 members strong and it’s our honor to have the next president of the United States tour our great Local 66 training center that underscores what we do in labor. And it wasn’t a far reach to explain to someone like Joe Biden, what working Americans do. I want to thank Jim Kuntz, the president and vice-president of Local 66, my secretary-treasurer Brian Hickey, who’s flown in from Chicago to underscore and relay to Vice President Biden that we at our general executive board, wholly endorsed him and Senator Harris for the next ticket of the president and vice president of the United States.

James Callahan: As Joe has said to us many a times, he understands what a paycheck does for working people, not a dividend check for people that are just waiting for a dividend check on their savings or their investment. He understands that people live check to check and the guidance that go with that. And the way that this administration, current administration wants to tear that down. We wholeheartedly endorse as the next president of the United States, Joe Biden. Thank you very much.

Joe Biden: Better not touch it. Hello everybody. It’s great to be here. I just want the record to show that Jim promised, if I get elected president of United States, I can go down to the Houston facility and work and try to drive any this machinery I get a shot at. I used to have a license to drive tractor trailers, but I tell you what, I’m looking at that sucker, that big Caterpillar. That’s a good one. But I’m not sure I want to try that crane, man, that looks awful. That looks awful tough. I know. Well, I’ll tell you what, it’s great to be here.

Joe Biden: There was an old expression when I was growing up in Scranton, you go home with them that brung you to the dance. And labor brought me to the dance a long, long time ago. They're the ones who are the operating engineers and the carpenters. Early on, first time that I ran, people who laid the tracks and the pipelines, who operate the cranes and shape the skyline, who build the foundations of everything we rely on. Labor as I said, brought me to the dance, not an exaggeration. And the only reason I'm standing here today as a candidate for president, if it hadn't been for labor back in 1972, when I was a 29 year old kid, just after Labor Day, I was losing the election. I think it was 54 to 19 going into the election. And then labor came on board. Carpenters across the board, just up and down, operating engineers, the steel workers and we ended up winning by an overwhelming margin of 3,200 votes statewide when Nixon won the state was 68% of the vote. I don't forget.

Joe Biden: My dad used to have an expression for real. He said, "The only way to deal with the abuse of power, Joey, is with power. And the only people can take on major corporate interests and the oligarchs who are abusing power, the working men and women are organized labor." That's not an exaggeration. The only ones. The only ones. And that's why I've been so supportive of labor my whole career. I've never forgotten everything that they've done for me, you've done for me, but not just for me, but for the country. You are literally not figuratively, the backbone of America. The military is the spine of America, you're the backbone of America. An awful lot of you served in the military as well. You're the ones who actually built this country, not Wall Street bankers and CEOs. You built the country and you're going to build it and you're going to build it back better than it was before.

Joe Biden: And I want thank Jim. I want to thank President Callahan and his team as well as the folks in Local 66 for welcoming me here today and giving us an inside look at everything you're doing to rebuild and energize Western Pennsylvania. I'm from Eastern Pennsylvania. I'm from up in Lackawanna County in that valley and a lot's going to happen here. I am so confident. I really am that we're not only coming back, we're going to come back big. I mean hardworking folks. I want to thank Vice President Frank Spencer and the carpenters for all they do as well. I'm honored, the trust you've placed in me and I want to thank you a lot for it. And if I have the honor of becoming president, I'll be fighting for you every single day. And I promise you, hear me now, you will have a seat at the table at the White House. No fundamental decisions will be made without you sitting in literally not figuratively. Literally, that's a word. You have my word on it.

Joe Biden: And folks, I've been on a train today. I've traveled, it's kind of like going back home. I traveled over 2,100,000 miles over 40 years on Amtrak going back and forth every single solitary night to see my kids. A 250 mile round trip. But we came today, we on an Amtrak train, do a whistle stop tour. We started off in Cleveland, across Ohio, into Western Pennsylvania. And riding the rails reminds me of when I would take the train home from Wilmington to Washington and back every night. And I used to go back when you get through round the beltway, going into Baltimore, you go through a number of middle class neighborhoods like houses like I grew up in. Three bedroom split level homes, that kind of thing.

Joe Biden: And I used to literally, when we'd have debates on the floor of the Senate, look out that window and I'd sit there and I'd see the lights on and the homes we were passing just like we saw coming from Cleveland into Pittsburgh and Pittsburgh to here. And I'd wonder, do they have the same kind of conversations at that table that my mom and dad had at our table? Are they having the same kind of conversations the guys I grew up with, the women I grew up with had? No honey, we can't get four new tires on the car. We can't afford it, we got to wait another month. Literally not figuratively, literally. Or, I know we need a new hot water heater. We can't afford it. We got to wait. It's going to take a little while longer.

Joe Biden: You have vast majority of the middle class saying before we got into this recession. If they got an unexpected bill for \$400 in a month that they didn't expect, they'd either have to borrow the money or put it off. They're neighbors I grew up in. You're the only ones that saved them from people from having to do that if in fact you're able to have work. Folks, I knew all those families inside and those families and on that route today. I didn't know their names, but I know what's on their minds. What their concerns were. They're not looking for a handout, all they're looking for is a hand up. My dad used to say, "Joe, I don't expect the government to solve my problems, but I sure in heck expect them to understand my problem." We're not understanding the problems of the vast majority of Americans today. All they're looking for as a fair shot and a little bit of dignity and a little bit of respect instead of being looked down on so that the parents could look their kids in the eye and say, "Honey, everything's going to be okay."

Joe Biden: My dad used to have that expression. After we left Scranton, he had to move to Delaware and commute every day for over a year and finally be able to get us down. Not every day, once a week, come back every week. And finally, we got apartment in Claymont Delaware. A little steel town, has no more steel now. And then we finally ever got a home four years later. But it's what a lot of people we're still going through. There's a stark difference from what I saw last night on the debate stage. An entitled self-serving president who inherited everything in his life and squandered it. A president who calls his own supporters, according to some staff members, his own supporters, disgusting. Who thinks that folks who put their lives on the line for our country in the military are losers and suckers. It's despicable.

Joe Biden: I've dealt with guys like Trump my whole life. The guys who might let you park the cars at their country club, pick up a few bucks but even if you had the money, wouldn't let you join the country club because of your religion or because of your background. Guys who stiff contractors, building their hotels and their golf courses, just to put a few more bucks in their pocket, seems to take some joy in it. Guys who think the rules don't apply to them. Guys and make tens of millions of dollars and pay \$750 in federal taxes in a year.

Joe Biden: Donald Trump sees things from Park Avenue. I see him from where I grew up in Scranton and Claymont. My mom, Jean Finnegan Biden had a backbone like a ramrod, all five foot one of her. And my mom used to have an expression. I really mean it. I used to be a stutter and it's when you're a stutter you're used to bullies. It's easy to make fun of somebody who talks like that. That's how I learned to fight. Joke used to be, Biden's like shoe leather. You

can beat him, but he's going to hurt you. You have to stand up to these folks. Well, my mom would say, "Joey, look at me, look at me. Remember, nobody is better than you, nobody, but everybody's your equal." And she meant it. She meant it. As I said, my dad's expression when we moved to Delaware was he'd talk about how a job is a lot more than about a paycheck. It's about your dignity. It's about respect. It's about your place in the community.

Joe Biden: Those values shaped my whole life. If you look back on my career, you notice it shaped my whole career, my Build Back Better plan. It shaped my views as president what I'll do. It's all about giving communities like Greensburg and New Alexandria and Claymont and Scranton and places in parts of Cleveland I just came out of, giving women and men who work on pipelines and construction sites a fair shot. We're going to invest \$2 trillion in infrastructure, including more than 50 billion in one year to get to repairing our schools, our highways, our bridges, revitalizing our locks and our dams, making our inland waterways the finest in the world. That's what attracts businesses. That's what brings employment. You talk about how much my plan costs. Well, guess what? Those investments are going to create millions of high paying jobs. Building a modern infrastructure and a durable energy future. And I promise you this, in my administration, collective bargaining, now hear me, collective bargaining will be sacred. It's a guarantee. A guarantee. And union apprenticeships, union apprenticeships will be sacred. Last thing we need is corporate America taking over apprenticeships programs like they tried to do.

Joe Biden: We're going to stand up for prevailing wage and benefit productions and the Davis Bacon Act. I guarantee. You may recall the president, he used to like to surprise me at State of the Union addresses says, "And Sheriff Joe will take care of the Build Back." we didn't call it Build Back Better, it was Recovery Act \$800 billion. Not a single project was not prevailing wage. It's a guarantee, every single solitary project we built. And so folks, we're going to level the playing field for you and for your families. We're going to have wages and benefits. We're going to lower healthcare cost, prescription drug prices. We're going to take on the opioid crisis for real, with effective treatment. Making four years of public college universities, apprentice programs, tuition free, anybody making less than \$125,000 a year if they go to a state university, they go to a community college it's automatic. If they're in an apprentice program, it's going to be free.

Joe Biden: My wife has an expression. She's a community college professor, "Any country that out educates us will out compete us." The cost is staggering for people having to carry the burden. And we're going to do it without asking anyone who makes under \$400,000 a year to pay one more penny in taxes, guaranteed, my word on it, because what we're going to do, we're going to get rid of the God awful \$2 trillion tax cut that Trump passed. 1.4 trillion of it going to the top 1%, a significant portion of that going to the top 1/10th of 1%. We're going to start rewarding work, not wealth. We're going to make sure corporations began to pay. The Fortune 500 companies, 91 don't pay a single penny in taxes and some of them make multi-billion dollars. How about your taxes? You pay nothing in taxes?

Joe Biden: We're not going to punish anybody, everybody's going to pay their fair share. Look, a lot of people around here voted for Donald Trump last time. I get it. I understand why. I've been asked many times in recent years, "How do we get to a place where the people who teach our kids, take care of our sick, build our bridges, operate our cranes, who race into burning buildings and don't ask who's in the other end there, whether you're black or white or Muslim or Christian, people who in fact grow our food, how do we get to a place where they don't think we don't see them? Or hear them? Or respect them?" Well, I see them. I hear them. I respect them. I know them. They're family and it's going to change. It's going to change with me. Look, this is not a partisan moment. This is an American moment. And I mean that seriously. Think about it.

Joe Biden: We have a chance to put the anger and division that has overtaken this country behind us. We can be what we are at our best. One people, one America. We just need to remember who in God's name we are. This is the United States of America. Think about this. Never once in our history, when we've set our mind to it, have we not been able to accomplish whatever we set our mind to do when we've done it together. There's not a single thing we can't do. And with your help, I'm going to get elected. And with us working together, I promise you. I promise you, it's going to be a different America. We again, reward work not just wealth. Where people are treated with decency.

Joe Biden: I'll conclude by saying, a president's words matter, no matter how good or bad a president is, the words they utter matter and can take us to war. They can bring peace, they can make the market rise or fall, they can change people's lives. And this president has breathed hate and division under the rocks here. Hate only hides. It doesn't go away. And it matters what presidents say. And you heard what he said last night, when he was asked by the moderator, "Will you condemn white supremacy?" And he fuddled around didn't say anything. I said, "How about the Proud Boys?" And he said, "Well," the context he likes he said, "just tell them to stand down and stand by." Go online. Look up Proud Boys they've got a new emblem now, literally. It says, "Stand down and stand by." Implying that if he loses the election, something may have to be done. I promise you that won't happen. The American people are going to speak. They're going to speak in large numbers and nobody is going to get in the way of our democratic process going forward. Nobody, period.

Joe Biden: This is the United States of America. We're not as some tin horn, dictator shepherded, third world country. This is the United States of America. I want to thank you all for your endorsements. I really mean it. Means a lot to me personally, just on a personal level I appreciate it. God bless you all and may God protect our troops. Thank you so very much.

Sept. 30th Joe Biden Johnstown Pennsylvania (Whistle-stop)

Joe Biden Train Tour Campaign Speech Transcript

Johnstown, PA September 30

[Rev](#) › [Blog](#) › [Transcripts](#) › [2020 Election Transcripts](#) › Joe Biden Train Tour Campaign Speech Transcript Johnstown, PA September 30: Night After Debate

Joe Biden visited Johnstown, Pennsylvania as the last stop on his ‘Whistle-Stop’ campaign tour on September 30. Read the transcript of his remarks here.

[...]

Brian Smith: I’m proud to serve my members on the job every day and I’m proud of my wife’s and my military service. We come from a long family history of military reserves. We have the strongest military in the world, because we understand that our military is only as strong as our weakest link. The same goes for our unions, brothers and sisters. And we need a Commander in Chief that will strive that unity and strengthen our country, instead of creating division, only weakening our collective power. I know who will be that leader for working people and that is Vice President Biden. And I say welcome, to the great city of Johnstown. Thank you. (silence)

Vice President Joe Biden: Love Johnstown. It’s good to be back. It’s good to be back. Well, thank you. I tell you what, I first came to Johnstown and it was all Democrat. And guess what? Johnstown and this county’s going to be Democrat again after this election. [crosstalk 00:07:38] It’s good to be back, man. I’ll tell you what. It’s been an incredible day. We started this morning in Cleveland, Ohio, where just last night I had a truly unique experience of debating whatever his name was, Donald Trump.

Crowd: Boo.

Vice President Joe Biden: Oh, man.

Crowd: How was that, Joe?

Vice President Joe Biden: And from there, we’ve been to communities all across Ohio and Western Pennsylvania. We’re finishing up right here in Johnstown tonight. I want to thank the lieutenant governor, for being here. We call lieutenant governor’s wife [inaudible 00:08:20] governor. So, governor, thanks for being here and thank your wife as well and all the local elected officials and leaders for joining us today. And, Brian, thank you for your years of service and your wife’s service to our country, the United States Navy, and for sharing your stories with us. Last night, the President of the United States was reminded that he said that our veterans were losers and suckers.

Crowd: Boo.

Vice President Joe Biden: No, I'm serious about this. Like your family, my son spent a year in Iraq. It's about ready. That's a good thing. It's still running. That's a good thing. But wait, he came back decorated with the Bronze Star and the Conspicuous Service Medal. I thought it was despicable, that Donald Trump referred to everyone, from my friend and colleague and my competitor, John McCain, straight through to my son and others. It's despicable. The man doesn't deserve to be Commander in Chief of the world's best military. But I want to thank the good people at Amtrak, who've been keeping me moving today. Quite frankly, my whole career. I started by taking the train, when I got elected as a 29 year old kid, to the United States Senate.

Vice President Joe Biden: I started going back and forth every single day, so I could be home in Wilmington every night with two young boys as a single dad after I lost my wife. Two hours each way, nearly 250 miles every day, so I could be there for breakfast with the boys. It wasn't Ozzie and Harriet stuff, it was just sort of cornflakes. But at least I got to be there to play with my daughter, kiss them good morning, go home and kiss them goodnight. That train brought me back to my home base every single night, to my family. It kept me grounded. It kept me connected. It meant I always remembered what and who really mattered in my life. And riding that train all those miles every day, and I spent as the conductors informed me, over 2,100,000 miles on Amtrak.

Vice President Joe Biden: They said, "Biden, they named a station after you." They should have named the whole damn road after me all those times. All kidding aside. But seriously, it's a true story. I'd ride home at night after a debate with the United States Senate, about a fair tax policy, or about healthcare, or about unions that I was fighting for. And I look out... I really mean this. I look out like I did coming from Cleveland today. I look out at all those home I pass, those middle class neighborhoods like I was raised in. I was raised in, like a lot of you I expect, a three bedroom...

Vice President Joe Biden: I was raised, like a lot of you I expect, in a three-bedroom home, split level house, four kids, mom, dad and a grandpop living with us. I tell you what, I wonder if you're having the same conversation that my mom and dad had when we were growing up, sitting there, wondering, "Honey, we need four new tires on the car. We can't afford it. We've got to wait another couple months before we can get them." Who's going tell them, we might not have the money to help them go back to the university this semester? Who's going to say it? Maybe we're going to have to worry about whether or not they're turning the electricity off because we're behind on our bill because of job change, or I lost my health insurance.

Vice President Joe Biden: Those are conversations that people are having today. The fact of the matter is, the vast majority of people in the middle class, over 50% said if they got a bill for \$400 and it was unexpected in one month, that they could either borrow money or sell something to pay it. I think about their struggles and their words. I think about their hopes and their dreams. I talked to the other passengers on the train, and I got pretty friendly with some of the conductors. I learned about their lives and their families. It was

a constant reminder that every single person has their own unique story, their own journey. In my experience, everyone is just looking for a chance. It's not a guarantee. It's a chance to get ahead, just a fair shot, an equal opportunity to pursue their dreams.

Vice President Joe Biden: That dream gets further and further out of reach for so many folks here in Johnstown, my hometown of Scranton, Claymont where I was raised. It's getting harder and harder. That's what I've seen today at every stop on that train, from the folks who join me on this trip. I've spent time with a dedicated school elementary teacher from Lawrencetown, Ohio, who spoke about how the GM Plant ... Remember, the President said, "Don't sell your homes. Everything's going to be okay in Lawrencetown. Everything's going to stay." That GM plant closed and guess what? It devastated the whole community. About how her own husband had to accept a transfer to a plant in Kentucky, an eighth-hour drive each way, only home on the weekends, just in order to maintain his healthcare and his pension. Now, he drives 16 hours every weekend, just to see her and the kids.

Vice President Joe Biden: I listened to an incredible young woman, a mother of four at home, a health aide and a nursing student. Talk about how worried she is that no one is looking out for the caregivers in this country, the people who, so many of them have literally risked and given their lives so that we'd be okay, especially during this pandemic. I saw steel workers and iron workers whose union brothers and sisters built Pittsburgh's famous bridges, proud operating engineers who keep the engines of our economy pumping. I heard from union members who've gotten a raw deal so many times and so many more at every stop that I made, just hard working people like all of you, folks who played by the rules and paid their fair share their whole lives, folks who never asked for a single thing to be given to them, just a chance to earn it.

Vice President Joe Biden: Folks, it couldn't be a more stark difference from what I saw last night on that debate stage, a self-entitled, self-serving President who thinks everything is about him. He thinks that, if he just yells louder and louder, throws out lie after lie after lie, he'll get his way. He thinks you'll forget. Well, he picked the wrong guy. I don't forget. I don't forget that in February, he's on tape acknowledging he knew how serious this pandemic was. He knew how quickly it would spread, that thousands of people would be killed, but he forgot to say a single thing. He kept it secret. He was more worried about the stock market collapsing than about the over 205,000 people who've died.

Vice President Joe Biden: He didn't say a word. What did he tell us? He said it'd be gone by Easter. It will go away in the warm weather. He told us it will just go away like a miracle, and then maybe if we injected bleach in our arm, we may be okay. He thinks we'll forget about how badly he mismanaged this pandemic that cost us more so far than 205,000 lives and counting, almost 30 million people on unemployment insurance. He thinks we'll forget the reason our businesses and our schools are closed is because he took no responsibility. He's a complete failure. He didn't get the people the PPE, the resources

they need to be able to reopen safely. He didn't speak to you or the American people about the concerns. Not even once last night did he say a word about anything.

Vice President Joe Biden: Seriously, think about it. Not once, because not only the trail of broken promises, lies he told communities like Johnstown and all across the industrial Midwest, it's more than that. Just as I said last night, when he heard that 1,000 people a day were dying, what was his comment? He said, "It is what it is." That's because he is who he is. Then, when he ran, he told us how much he cared about people like my family and yours, the places we come from. His staff reported him saying, this is about three weeks ago, the truth is, he said that he in fact, thinks that we're all losers. He doesn't respect. No, behind closed doors, it's been reported that he called his own supporters, working class folks that the Democrats along the way began to forget about, what he called them, his supporters, quote, "Disgusting."

Vice President Joe Biden: He's the same guy who lets you earn a couple bucks parking cars at his country club, but even if you had the money, he wouldn't allow you to join. They look down the nose at working families trying to do it right. It's been confirmed by multiple sources that he thinks that those of us who signed up and put our country, put our lives on the line, our veterans, as I mentioned earlier, are just suckers and losers. I mean this from the bottom of my heart. It's absolutely despicable. I'll tell you. By the way, six of his generals, who work for him, all say he's not worthy of being President of the United States of America, his own generals.

Vice President Joe Biden: I'll tell you right now, that's not how I was raised. It's not how you were raised. It's not how the vast majority of Americans who break their neck every day just wanting to get a fair shake were raised. By the way, Donald Trump can only see the world from Park Avenue. He cares only what the super rich and connected thinks. He only sees value in stock portfolios. I don't own a single share of stock. I have the dubious distinction, when I got elected ... Maybe that's why he doesn't like me very much. I've been listed as the poorest man in Congress for 36 years. You think I'm joking? I'm not proud of it. It's true. I think you're supposed to earn money while you're in politics.

Vice President Joe Biden: In addition to that, when I got elected to the Vice Presidency, the headline in the paper saying it's probable no man has ever assumed the office of the Vice President with few assets than Joe Biden. I don't think they were speaking intellectually. Guess what? His only metric is how the economy is doing, his Dow Jones. It doesn't matter if communities like Johnstown are still hurting, and he doesn't have a plan to help you or get back on your feet or deliver relief to the people who most need help. He's too busy planning for his next big tax giveaway. It's a true story. Billionaires made \$300 billion more in this pandemic, fact, and now you know what his new tax plan is? He's proposing another \$30 billion tax cut for billionaires by reducing what they call capital gains to 15%. They'll be making billions and paying a lower rate than a firefighter, a school teacher, a school teacher and a firefighter together, a lower rate. The 100 richest folks in this country, are in fact, own more wealth than about half the population. It's time, when nearly 30 million people are on unemployment, 100 million people, he's trying to take away your healthcare. 100 million people with pre-existing conditions, he's going to court a week after the election to try to eliminate the Affordable Care Act.

Vice President Joe Biden: By the way, if this, if I tried, if we made a movie about this, they'd think it's just all fiction. It couldn't be possible. In the middle of this pandemic, when you have seven million people infected, 40,000-

Vice President Joe Biden: ... million people infected. 40,000 a day becoming infected. 750 to 1000 a day dying. And his one goal is to take away healthcare. Not a joke, not a joke. 10 million people have already lost the healthcare provided by their employers because their employers have gone out of business. 10 million, and 20 million people, if he gets his way, and I think it's on November 7th, 8th, 9th, or 10th, I go to the Supreme Court.

Speaker 2: November 10th, Joe.

Vice President Joe Biden: They'll lose, 20 million people will lose their health insurance.

Speaker 3: Doesn't matter, Joe.

Vice President Joe Biden: More than a hundred million people with pre-existing conditions will in fact be charged more for their coverage. What's going to happen is, in addition to that, when they eliminate the Affordable Care Act, we're going to be able to charge women more money running from the same procedures men getting charged for. Not a joke. And that's what the law he wants to eliminate will do. Pregnancy will become again, not a joke, a pre-existing condition that you can charge a great deal more for. Folks, we can't let that happen. He's too busy trying to salvage his foundering re-election campaign to understand that people don't want a superficial temporary tax cut on their withholding tax because [inaudible 00:25:42] take it out of social security. You know what the social security actuary said? "If this plane goes through, social security will be totally bankrupt by 2023."

Vice President Joe Biden: I know this sounds ridiculous. Remember I told you, Paul Ryan was there. They wanted to cut Medicaid and cut social security. That was in their budget. That's what they want to do. I don't know where these guys come from. Look, I've dealt with guys like Trump my whole life, guys who look down on us because they got them out of money, inherited it, guys who think they're better than you, guys, who, as I said, might let you park the car at a country club they own but never let you join or come in, guys who inherited everything you've ever gotten and then squandered it. I see the world from where I grew up in Scranton. Not a joke. You see it from a different perspective of Johnstown or any time we stopped in today. It's filled with people who are busting their necks to do right by their families every day. They aren't worried about the stock market. They're worried about putting food on the table every night. They're worried about making the rent. 20 million people are worried they won't be able to pay their mortgage payment this month. 20 million.

Vice President Joe Biden: My mom used to always say, Jean Finnegan Biden from Scranton, she said, "Joey, remember, look at me, Joey, nobody is better than you, but everyone is your equal." He doesn't get that. When my dad had to leave Scranton when there were no jobs and we moved to Wilmington, he didn't have to commute like the

woman I met today, her husband, eight hours each way, but he had to commute back and forth to Wilmington every weekend and that was only a three and a half hour drive each way. But when we got to Delaware and finally were able to buy a house three years later, my dad used to say, “Joe, the job’s about a lot more than a paycheck. It’s about your dignity. It’s about respect. It’s about your place in the community.” That’s what was missing today. Providing dignity to the work we do.

Vice President Joe Biden: Those are the values that shaped my life, and when it gets down to it, I think this whole campaign gets down to Park Avenue versus Scranton. Park Avenue versus Johnstown. Trump may think there ought to be a different set of rules for him and his rich buddies, rules that get them out of taxes, get them out of responsibilities, get them out of consequences for every one of the mistakes they make. But I don’t think so. I think it’s about time to start rewarding work and not wealth. And I think it’s about time that families get a break and the super wealthy and corporate America start paying their fair share. We’re still going to do well, even if they pay their fair share. But here’s what I know. Donald Trump will never understand. Wall Street didn’t build this country, CEOs didn’t. The middle class built America and unions built the middle class.

Vice President Joe Biden: That’s why my plan is about helping communities like Johnstown and Scranton and Claymont, places I grew up, to build that better. I’m here today to say to you, I’ll do as President what Donald Trump hasn’t. I’ll fight for you. Not for the corporations. You, your jobs, your family. Now we’re going to build back better. It’s all about injecting life and capital back into places like Johnstown. It starts with a simple proposition. Buy American. The federal government spends \$600 billion of your taxpayer’s money every single year on everything from military equipment to steel railings to buildings to highways, cars and trucks in federal fleets. While I’m President, we’re going to make sure that every one of those products, every single piece that goes into any of those contracts is made and built in America. I’m serious. We can do this. [inaudible 00:30:24] send jobs overseas. Any company in my administration that off shores jobs will pay a 10% penalty, and any company that brings jobs back or reopens the closed factories like those around Johnstown will get a 10% credit and an incentive to build back.

Vice President Joe Biden: We’re going to direct billions of dollars in revitalization funds and competitive grants to help places like Johnstown compete for new businesses and startups. We’re going to make four years of public education, two years of community college free for families making less than under 25 grand. We’re going to lower healthcare costs by increasing subsidies for your premiums so they’re lower, slashing the cost of prescription drugs by literally as much as 60%. And you say, “How do you do that, Joe?” Well, we’re going to do a system that sets up an expert panel of 25 people for every new drug that comes on the market. You have to go before that group of experts, they’ll set the price based on your investment, just like you do for your utility, and you cannot raise that price ever again beyond the cost of medical inflation.

Vice President Joe Biden: We're going to take on the opioid crisis [inaudible 00:31:47] effective treatment, and for substance use disorders. We're going to do it all without raising a penny in taxes for anybody who makes less than \$400,000 a year. If you make more than \$400,000, I'm going to raise your taxes. So raise your hand. No, maybe you didn't believe me that I could do that without raising taxes on the middle class. But hat's before you found out that the billionaire Donald Trump only paid \$750 in income taxes. If Trump's Park Avenue pals start paying their fair share we'll have more than enough money to finally build an economy that works for everybody. So I promise you this. I see you. I hear you. I respect you. I grew up with you. And the families of those more than 200,000 Americans that have died in this pandemic will be heard and respected by me.

Vice President Joe Biden: I'll work like crazy to get this pandemic under control so we can get our economy working again, for everyone to get back our lives. We're a nation in incredible pain right now. So many empty chairs around the dining table at night because somebody's been lost to the family. So many businesses closed, doors closed forever because the money that the Congress voted to get to small businesses went to his friends, his rich friends on Wall Street. So many proud people on unemployment for the first time in their lives, not able to get the kind of unemployment insurance that we initially passed in Congress. As my wife said, "This is not a partisan moment. This is an American moment." No, I really mean it. We can't afford to go on being divided. We can't afford to have a leader who does nothing but throw gasoline on the anger and hatred that's burning in this country.

Speaker 3: Stop the hate.

Vice President Joe Biden: We have to come together. Look, I promise you all this. I'm running as a proud Democrat, but I will be an American President. [crosstalk 00:34:05] for those who support me as those who did not, I promise you this, I'll fight for you. That's what we need right now, a President who will try to bring us together, who will speak to what is best in all of us, rather than trying to divide us. Put that dog whistle out, and racism. Did you hear that he said last night? When he was asked by the Fox commentator, asked would he condemn White supremacy, which the FBI says is a serious threat to terrorism in America today, he said, "Well, of course, I'm against all bad news." I said, "How about the Proud Boys?" "The Proud Boys," he said, "Well, I'll tell you what. Just tell them to stand down but stand by." Go online. The Proud Boys now have a logo saying, "Stand down but stand by."

Vice President Joe Biden: And they said in the newspaper today that [inaudible 00:35:18] was Vladimir Putin. Not a joke. In fact, threaten that if he doesn't win, there'll be violence. Look, we've got to stop pitting ourselves against one another. We're one people. We're one nation, one America. We need to remember who in God's name we are. This is the United States of America. In our long history, there's been nothing, nothing ever, think about this. In every crisis we've ever had, there's not going to single thing we've been unable to overcome, nothing, when we act together, and we've done it together.

Vice President Joe Biden: ... when we act together, we've done it together. Folks, I am so optimistic about what the country is ready to do. No, no, I really am. I think we're ready to stand up, I think the blinders have been taken off the American people. They understand what's at stake. We can own the 21st century. We are, as Madeleine Albright said, "The essential country." We can and must lead the world again. We've not only led the world by the example of our power, but the power of our example.

Vice President Joe Biden: Why does the rest of the whole follow us? Because of who we are, what we stand for, our example, and it's being trashed all over the world. There was a recent Pew poll done in the major nations of the world, Donald Trump as president, this is not a joke. Check it online. Donald Trump is less respected than President Xi and Putin. Can you imagine that? So folks, look, as I said, this United States of America, we can do anything, and we're about to do it. With your help, the grace of God and the goodwill of our neighbors, as my grandpa would say, "We're coming back." So God bless you all, and may God protect our troops. We are coming back this year. 30 something days. Thank you, thank you, thank you. Thank you, thank you.

Oct. 2nd, 2020 Joe Biden Grand Rapids Michigan

Joe Biden Grand Rapids, Michigan Speech Transcript

October 2

[Rev](#) › [Blog](#) › [Transcripts](#) › [2020 Election Transcripts](#) › Joe Biden Grand Rapids, Michigan Speech Transcript October 2

Joe Biden spoke during a campaign visit to Grand Rapids, Michigan on October 2 after testing negative for coronavirus. He said he hopes the President and First Lady have a “quick and full recovery” and urged everyone to wear masks and practice social distancing. Read the transcript of his campaign speech here.

Matt Hoffman: [...] Thank you again for listening to Michigan workers and welcome Mr. Vice President.

Joe Biden: Hey folks. Good afternoon. Before I start, let me explain the delay. We wanted to make sure that we’re doing everything by the numbers. And so I got two COVID tests this morning, one in Delaware, and one by the former White House doc who came up and everything’s cleared. We want to make sure everything was clear before I came. We were supposed to have an event after this at a headquarters, but based on the crowd size and an indoor, it was concluded by the docs that best not to do it. But I want to thank all of you. I want to thank Matt. And Matt, you’re dead right. You were putting yourself on the line and a lot of other people did all across this country in your union. And I want to thank David way, Secretary-Treasurer of local 951, for having me here today.

Joe Biden: Look, I’d like to start by acknowledging which I sure all of you do as well. Sending my prayers for the health and safety of the first lady and president of the United States after they tested positive for COVID-19. My wife, Jill and I pray that they’ll make a quick and full recovery. This is not a matter of politics. It’s a bracing reminder to all of us that we have to take this virus seriously. It’s not going away automatically. We have to do our part to be responsible. It means following the science, listening to the experts, washing our hands, social distancing. It means wearing a mask in public and means encouraging others to do so as well. It means having masking mandates nationwide. The director of the CDC, Center for Disease Control, Dr. Red field said, and I quote, and he held up a mask. He said, “These face masks are the most important, powerful public health tool we have.”

Joe Biden: Then he held the mask up again and said, “This face mask is more guaranteed to protect me against COVID than a vaccine.” Leading scientist from the University of Washington tell us that we can save more than 100,000 American lives in the next 100 days alone if everyone wore a mask in public. So let me repeat that because it’s so important. We can save 100,000 lives in the next 100 days, according to the head of the

CDC, if everyone wears a mask in public. So be patriotic. It's not about being a tough guy. It's about doing your part. Wearing a mask is not only going to protect you, but it also protects those around you. Your mom, your dad, your brother, your sister, husband, wife, neighbor, coworker. Don't just do it for yourself, do it for the people you love, the people you work with. The seriousness of this virus also underscores that we need regular testing with results turned around rapidly and that's available to everyone.

Joe Biden: It's not just the folks in the White House or who travel with me that deserved regular testing, it's folks in the meatpacking and food processing plants, grocery store workers. Every single American deserves safety and peace of mind. And it means we need transparency. Those who test positive need to participate in contact tracing so that everyone who they may have exposed can get tested themselves. That's how you stop transmission for any epidemic. Is basic. We need to take the science of fighting this disease seriously if we're going to save lives. And above all the news is a reminder that we, as a nation, need to do better in dealing with this pandemic. Taking these steps is how we'll protect ourselves. And just as important is how we will protect one another. Hope that all those who are fighting this virus, including the first family and so many Americans today recover and recover soon. My prayers are with the families of the more than 200. I think it's seven now. 207,000 Americans who've died from this virus.

Joe Biden: Many haven't got up this morning. The breakfast table with an the empty chair of someone they lost and they loved. We understand. And there's more than 7 million Americans who are have been infected. That includes folks here in Grand Rapids and all across Michigan, especially all of you or that you have with UFCW who are on the front lines of this pandemic and on the front lines of this economic crisis. UFCW workers who have always been on the front lines of fighting for dignity and respect you deserve. I know it's been tough. This morning, September jobs report came out. The last one before election day. I'm grateful for all those who were able to get their jobs back to work again, but it was fewer jobs than we had hoped for. Millions of families, millions are still wondering when it will be their turn to come back from the brink. And the signs according to national press are not encouraging. Once again, the pace of job gains is slowing down. Once again, we're seeing temporary layoffs turn permanent.

Joe Biden: This month marked the largest single month increase in long-term unemployment since we started keeping records in 1948. There are now an additional 781,000 Americans who have been trying to find work for at least six months. They've been looking for work for at least six months and haven't found it. And in the past, that's a sign for permanency for them. We're still down 647,000 manufacturing jobs nationwide since the crisis started. All told, we are now 30 million workers who have either lost hours, lost paychecks or lost their jobs entirely. Participating in labor force participation fell last month and remains sharply down since this crisis began, especially for women. There's another roughly 700,000 people who have dropped out of the labor force. Stopped looking for a job. The vast majority were women demonstrating once again how this economic crisis has been especially tough on women and families in This country. This will be the

first presidency in modern history to leave office with fewer jobs than when it came into office.

Joe Biden: Michigan has lost more than then 361,000 jobs since the beginning of 2017. In fact, factories were already closing before COVID like the Knoll plant here in Grand Rapids. They announced back in January, they were shutting down and cutting 210 local jobs. Manufacturing has already slipped into recession last year. The net loss of auto manufacturing jobs you saw here in Michigan. And that economic pain was only amplified by the pandemic. Your schools and local businesses are closed like all places around America. More than 26 million unemployment claims were filed by Americans last month. 46 million Americans have exhausted their emergency savings and essential workers here in Grand Rapids won't forget how the UFCW members saw their jobs turned suddenly into a life and death task. Folks, today's report reinforces another painful trend. A continuing of what economists call a K-shaped recovery. And K means that letter going up. That's those who on the top, it keeps going up while everyone else in the middle is going down and below. We're seeing things get worse.

Joe Biden: It means essential workers, UFCW workers who sacrificed to keep us going through the pandemic and continuing are being left behind by the most unequal recovery in modern history. Because while workers are struggling, this is a fact, the top 100 billionaires in America have done pretty well. Just the top 100 of them. They've made up more than \$30 billion this year in the last nine months. And everyone else, though you keep hoping, you get the bottom of that K-shaped recovery. You get the downward slide. You're left to figure out how you're going to pay the bills and put food on the table. How to balance doing your job with being a teacher to your kids because their school has gotten remote. You're asked to risk your neck because you can't work from home when the risks for COVID are kept outside because you work at a meat packing plant or an assembly line or the checkout counter. I do understand this is a scary time, an uncertain time.

Joe Biden: I understand it and I see you because I see the world from where I grew up in Scranton, Pennsylvania. A lot like Grand Rapids. It's filled with an awful lot of good people busting their neck every day, do the right thing for their families. In Scranton my mom used to have an expression. She said not just in Scranton, but from the time we left there. She said, "Joey, nobody's better than you Joey, but everybody's your equal." My dad's constant refrain after he lost a job in Scranton when there were no more work and he had to move to Delaware. He moved away for a little over a year and come back every weekend to see us. The time we finally, a couple years down the road in Delaware, got to finally be able to buy a home. My dad used to use this expression. He said, "Joey, a job's about a lot more than a paycheck. It's about your dignity. It's about respect. It's about your place in the community." These are the values that shaped my growing up and I suspect most you.

Joe Biden: It shaped my whole life. So I know and understood from the very beginning of consciousness about this, that Wall Street and CEOs didn't build this country, the middle-

class built this country and unions built the middle class. That's why I've laid out a comprehensive agenda, not just to rebuild our communities, but to make bold investments so we can build back and bill back better. And independent analysis actually from Wall Street, Moody's, projected that my plan will create 18.6 million jobs. 7 million more than the administration's economic plan and \$1 trillion more in economics growth than the president's plan. That's not coming from a liberal think tank, that's coming from Moody's. Here's how my plan works. I'm going to raise taxes on people only making over 400. Anyone making less than \$400,000 a year won't pay a penny more. But I'm going to ask the very big corporations, the Fortune 500 and the wealthy to pay their fair share for a change. That means raising the corporate tax rate, which was in the mid 30s and now is 21% back to 28%.

Joe Biden: That means making sure that no big company gets away with paying zero taxes as 91 Fortune 500 companies do today, making billions of dollars. Zero taxes. How many of you pay zero taxes? Means making sure the wealthiest Americans don't get to pay at a lower tax rate because they're making money on their investments, but they pay at the same rate that they pay for their salary. These changes in the tax code will raise the money, it'll allow me to invest in working people and growing the middle class. Which is when I announced I was running, I said, that's the reason. To rebuild the backbone of this country. Hardworking folks in the middle class, we're going to invest in creating millions of good paying jobs, union jobs. By the way, my plan has been thoroughly analyzed by a whole bunch of folks. Take infrastructure, building roads, bridges, highways, ports, airports will put millions of people to work in good paying union jobs and create the foundation for growth in this country.

Joe Biden: Clean energy. Just upgrading 4 million buildings and weatherizing 2 million homes will create at least 1 million good paying jobs. Leading in the world on electric vehicles and building 500,000 electric charging stations on our highways will create 1 million new auto jobs here in this state. The manufacturing and technology in those areas, making sure the future is made in America, made in Michigan with good union jobs. The federal government spends \$600 billion a year of your tax dollars. 600 billion a year to purchase everything from military equipment to steel, to cars, to trucks, to federal fleets at \$600 billion. When I'm president, we're going to make sure we finally make good on a commitment made a long time ago that these products, all these contracts, that the president of United States and the federal government can award, make sure those products are made by Americans in America. Making sure that, that's done.

Joe Biden: It's estimated that we'll create 5 million new manufacturing jobs and technology jobs. For small businesses, we're going to make sure small businesses come out on the other side of this terrible circumstance with access to capital and the ability to deal with the debts that have been accumulated during this pandemic. And we'll make investments to increase incomes as well. \$15 minimum wage. No one should be in a position to have to work two jobs just to get above the poverty line. We're going to bring back jobs from overseas to America and direct billions of dollars in revitalization funds

and competitive grants to help communities like those in Western Michigan compete for new business startups. For our essential workers, we're not just going to praise you, we're going to pay you a good wage to ensure you have a strong benefits.

Joe Biden: We're going to ease the burden of the major cost in your life. Healthcare. We'll build on the Affordable Care Act through a new health insurance option, a not-for-profit public option which will give private insurers a real competitor. We'll increase subsidies for your premiums so they're lower. So you can afford the plans with lower deductions and lower out-of-pocket expenses. That plan alone will cost over \$700 billion over 10 years, but it's paid for by eliminating those tax cuts. For a 40 year old making \$50,000 a year, your monthly premium will go down by a third. We'll take on the pharmaceutical companies with a plan that slashes the cost of prescription drugs for up to 60%. Medicare will be able to negotiate prices for drugs fundamentally lowering those prices. And childcare. A lot of you're dealing with that now. How do you go to work if you have work and take care of your kids or an aging relative that's in trouble?

Joe Biden: We're going to make high quality childcare affordable and accessible. Every three and four year old will have access to free quality preschool. We're going to make sure that low and middle-income families will never have to pay more than 7% of their income for caring for a young child. In education beyond high school. We're going to make sure that four year college tuition of a state university is tuition free for any family making less than \$125,000. Community college would be free and programs and training will be free as well. If you buying your first home, you'll have a \$15,000 help to get there. These are all things that people have been talking about for a while. We're going to protect social security, increase the benefits for millions of seniors.

Joe Biden: The president's talking about eliminating the withholding tax. Well, that's wonderful except for one thing, the actuary of social security said if that plan goes through social security will be bankrupt by 2023. Folks, I promise you, we can do this. Let me close by saying this. I know a lot of people around here are tired of feeling overlooked and disrespected. I get that. The people I met this week taking a train through Northeastern, Ohio and Western Pennsylvania. People like the dedicated elementary school teacher from Lordstown, Ohio, whose husband, when Lordstown shut down accepted a transfer to Kentucky eight hours away each direction in order to be able to keep his healthcare and his pension after the GM plant closed. Folks who worry about healthcare. Will the Affordable Care Act still be there for them? Why? Why they ask. Will I be among the 100 million Americans who could lose the protections for pre-existing conditions like asthma and diabetes?

Joe Biden: Where once again, women will be able to charge a higher premium just simply because they're a woman. Where insurers no longer have to allow you to be able to keep your kids on a healthcare plan until age 26. What will happen to your Medicare benefits, your social security? Will they still be there when you retire? I'm asked many times in recent years, how do we get to the place where people who stock our shelves, pack our

food, teach our kids like my family, take care of my wife, take care of our sick, who race into burning buildings and pick up the garbage off our streets. Who did. How do we get to the place where you all don't think we see you anymore or hear them and most importantly, respect them? That has to change. I know it can. I come from those neighborhoods. We can get this pandemic under control so we can get our economy working again for everyone. But this cannot be a partisan moment, it must be an American moment.

Joe Biden: We have to come together as a nation. I'm running as a Democrat, but I will run and govern as an American president. Whether you voted for me or against me, I will represent you. And those who see each other as fellow Americans who just don't live in red states or blue states, but who live in and love the United States of America. That's who we are. And there's never been a single solitary thing America's been unable to do. Think of this. Not once. Not a single thing we've not been able to overcome when we've done it together. So let's get the heck up. Remember who in God's name we are. This is the United States of America. There's nothing beyond our capacity. I want to say, God bless you and God protect the first family and every family who's dealing with this virus and may God protect our troops. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you.

Joe Biden Campaign Speech Transcript October 3

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Joe Biden gave a virtual campaign speech for his 2020 presidential election run on October 3. He said he doesn't want to attack President Trump following his COVID-19 diagnosis. Read the full transcript of his speech here.

John: -offs and thousands of others could lose their jobs soon. Race relations are at an all time low. These are the dark days that we have ever experienced. But, there's a light at the end of the tunnel, a chance to turn things around and get our country back where it belongs. It will happen one month from today on November 3rd when we have a chance to elect a man who has always been with us, a working class guy from Scranton, Pennsylvania, who will restore decency and honesty to the White House. It is my great honor to introduce the next President of the United States of America, my friend, Joe Biden.

Joe Biden: Well, John, you are my friend, Mr. President. I want to say good afternoon to everyone, and it's great to see you all. I'm here today above all else to say thank you. Thank you, President Costa and the entire executive board for the chance to speak with you all today. And thank you for being one of the first juniors to endorse me last year. You stepped up for me and I won't forget it. And I thank you for the bravery and commitment you show to your jobs and to the people you serve every single day. A lot of people don't get it. You're in the front lines of this pandemic. And as we've all seen too clearly this week, COVID-19 is still a threat to our health, as well as our economic security. We have to do so much more to step up to get this virus under control.

Joe Biden: We need to take science, the science of fighting this disease seriously if we're going to save lives. That means making sure essential workers, and you all are that and more, folks like you get to, and the people who are doing all of the work on the buses, subway system, keeping the country moving every single day, you have to make sure you get all the PPE you need. You need it for job safety, and for our safety, to be able to continue to transport people. We need a nation-wide mask guidance so that no one gets on a public transportation unit without a mask. When they turned that request down, the Department of Transportation, they made a gigantic mistake. It's everyone's pay ... It's not something that has taken away someone's freedom. It's a patriotic duty to wear a mask. You do it not just to protect yourself, but to protect one another.

Joe Biden: It's essential. You should be worried about the person next to you, in front of you, your husband, wife, mother, father, friend, neighbor. It's essential. And it can save, as the experts have told us, up to a hundred thousand lives just between now and the end of the year, where it's estimated by the University of Washington, as many as 200,000

more people will die from COVID unless we do something. 89 ATO members, as you've already ... We just had a moment of silence, lost their lives to this virus. It's heartbreaking. Think of the families that get up this morning and there's an empty chair at the table. It's unacceptable. We all know. I know what it's like to have that kind of loss. It's unacceptable. Even before this pandemic, we knew that your jobs were dangerous. You face harassments and threats of violence and so much more.

Joe Biden: So, we need to put in place the protections and precautions to keep you safe in your work. You're there every single day for the people who depend on you. You deserve leadership in government who will be there for you, will fight for you, prioritize your health, your safety, and in the process, prioritizing everybody's health and safety. You're the ones who fight for the right to organize and bargain collective. And I promise you, the National Labor Relations Act way back in the '30s, everybody thinks that said, okay, now we can have unions. If you go back and read it, it said we should encourage unions, encourage unions. That's what it was intended to do. My dad used to have an expression. He said the only way to fight the abuse of power is with power. Power. And the only power we have to fight back is unions, unions who understand that Wall Street didn't build this country.

Joe Biden: Middle class built this country, and unions built the middle class. That's not hyperbole. That's a fact. And I'll be a president who sees you, respects you, and that's my promise to you. I've been running on support for public transit my entire career. Our transportation workers were with me since my first Senate campaign back a hundred years ago in 1972 when I was a 29 year old kid, and I won by 3,200 votes in no small part because you guys came out for me. Enhancing and upgrading our public transportation structures is an essential part of my build back better plan to get us out of this recession. But I also know that people need help right now. You need help right now. With so many fewer people riding public transit right now, we need to make sure that state and local governments have the funding they need to keep you running.

Joe Biden: Thanks to your leadership, the Cares Act secured \$25 billion in emergency operating aid for transit. But I think we need to do more. We need to do more than just thank you. We need to pay you. Excuse me. This pandemic has taken the blinders off so many Americans. It's shown us so clearly just how much we depend on you and all essential workers and how much we owe you. I'm not just saying that. That's a fact. So, I'm going to say thank you. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you for all you do for this country. And I know there's so much more to say, but I know you have questions for me, John. And I'd just like to say again, thank you, and I'm happy to take a few questions.

John: Thank you, Vice President. Yes, we have two questions. The first question is, for transit workers, the current President's failure to manage COVID-19 crisis has cost our members their lives. As mentioned, we have lost 89 ATU brothers and sisters to this horrible virus. A recent ATU survey found that 50% of employers have not provided bus operators with the basic personal protection equipment, PPE like masks and gloves.

Without federal government help, transit agencies have been forced to bid against each other for PPE. And as a result, securing the lifesaving equipment has been difficult.

John: The President has said that the federal government is not a shipping clerk. It's every state and every transit agency for themselves. Defying all common sense, the first few critical weeks of this pandemic, Trump's Department of Transportation remarkably said on its website that PPE is not recommended at this time. Even now after the CDC recommended wearing face covering in a public setting where other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain, the DLT has still not mandated masks on transit vehicles. So my question is, as a result, passengers with Coronavirus keep getting on the bus, infecting other passengers and transit workers, and there is no end in sight. So, how would you handle things differently?

Joe Biden: Fundamentally differently. And I'm in a little bit of a spot here because I don't want to be attacking the President and the First Lady now because they now have contracted Coronavirus, and Jill and I pray for their quick and full recovery, but our thoughts are with the families and the members you've lost as well. We have to bear the grief of an empty chair, an empty kitchen table chair, of not being able to turn and ... I find myself when I lost folks in my family, you just tend to go. And you realize, no, it's never coming back. This isn't about politics. More than 200,000 Americans have died from COVID. 7.3 million have been infected. 30 million have lost paychecks, hours, or their jobs entirely. And throughout it all, you've kept the nation running. You've kept people connected.

Joe Biden: You put others before yourselves, and whether they understand it or not, and I think average Americans do now, we can't thank you enough. It's always been essential, even if the rest of the country is just learning what an essential worker really is. Now look, here's what else is essential. Getting you the support you need to do your job. It's not enough just to praise you. We have to protect and pay you. We have to work as hard as you, as hard work as you do for your communities. And here's what I'll do as President. Number one, call on every single American to wear a mask when they're around other people outside their households. That includes when they ride public transportation, buses, trains airplanes. Yesterday, the transportation department, stupidly in my view, rejected a petition to require just that, wear a mask when you're on public transportation.

Joe Biden: If I can say something here, this is not about freedom. It's about patriotism. You wear a mask to protect the person next to you. You wear a mask to protect the bus driver. You wear a mask to protect the person you're sitting next to on the bus. And to reject the chance to do the easiest thing possible to save lives, I find it appalling. I promise you my Department of Transportation will insist on it. Two, get protective gear to every worker on the front lines. It's unconscionable that for so long Washington left our states, cities, and transit agencies to bid against one another. If that's not the President's responsibility, what the heck is his responsibility? Not my fault. I have no responsibility.

Go to your mayor, your governor, your employer. It's unconscionable that seven months in so many transit employees still aren't provided enough PPE to keep you safe on the job.

Joe Biden: By the way parenthetically, it's not just you guys he doesn't care about. They don't care about much of anybody. They started off promising they were going to give school teachers and school children masks to go back to school. Then, famous said, "No, it's not an essential requirement." Not essential. As President I'd use the full power of the Defense Production Act to get PPE out to every single transit worker, hospital, job site, and school in this country, and I'd appoint a supply commander to make sure it's distributed fast and fairly. It's within our power to do this, John. We can do this. And the idea that they're kicking it off to the, "No, talk to your governor, not my responsibility," come on. I don't know. If that's not a responsibility of a President in the middle of a crisis, I don't know what in God's name a responsibility is.

Joe Biden: Thirdly, we've got to fix the testing fiasco. Surging tens of millions of test kits where they're needed most provide free testing and treatment and vaccine when it's available for everyone, and make sure politics plays no role in vaccine approval. Period. I've actually told some governors, John, I probably shouldn't say this, but you know me, told some governors, "Don't endorse me. Don't endorse me because you'll pay a penalty. You won't get what you need from the federal government in terms of his covert crap." Not a joke. My word. Not a joke. We aren't blue states and red states. We're the United States. United States. If you elect me President, I'm going to be President for all Americans. I'm running as a Democrat proudly, but I'm going to make sure I'm President for the people who voted against me as much as those who voted for me.

Joe Biden: This division of our country is just devastating. Thirdly, or fourthly, I'm going to enforce tougher safety standards and get schools and businesses clean safety guidelines and resources, implement them. Tell people to stay healthy when they ride with you. And I'm going to fight to get you the hazard pay you deserve. And by the way, it's not just about getting you masks. We also have to protect you. Look at the people. Look what's happened to your drivers. A guy getting off a bus and says goodbye, and he slits the driver's throat and kills him. Look what's happening. We got to get you the protective gear. Not only that, we've got to get you separation. We've got to get plastic and coverings around the drivers. You've got to make sure that you have separation. There's so much we can do.

Joe Biden: And it doesn't cost that much. It doesn't cost that much. But even if it did, it's an obligation we have. I really mean it. I find this one of the most despicable things that I've encountered in my whole career. When the administration was told that there's a thousand people a day dying of COVID, the response was, "It is what it is." It is what it is? It is what it is because they are who they are. That's why it is what it is. We can change this. I promise you on day one, I will.

John: Thank you, Mr. President, Vice President. You kind of touched on, Joe, my second question. And that is, what is your plan to save transportation services in this country? Transit systems are running out of money. School bus contractors and motor coach companies are going out of business. Right now, we are facing layoffs all across the country. And the safety situation on the bus right now is terrible. Our members, they serve as mass police.

Joe Biden: That's right.

John: [inaudible 00:14:45] regulations while trying to drive a bus at the same time. Even before the pandemic, our ATU brothers and sisters had been getting attacked behind the wheel.

Joe Biden: Yep.

John: Slapped. They get punched, spit on, held up at gunpoint, and stabbed. So Joe, I know you had brought a little bit of this up. We've been fighting for safe buses and the industry to make changes, but what are your thoughts on these transport ... What are your thoughts on these, and transportation funding on safety issues?

Joe Biden: Well first of all, we have to come together to beat the virus. Every path forward starts there. That's how we get people back on the train, back on the buses, back on the school buses, back to go. They're getting their lives back. And it's how we keep our transit system solid. But along the way, one of the most urgent things we have to do is get emergency fundings out to states, cities, and transit authorities now. Now. Because of the ATU working with the House, you were able to work hard to see the 25 billion in aid that was included in the so-called Cares Act, those first pieces of relief legislation. But I know it's not enough. Tens of thousands of transit workers have already been laid off. Tens of thousands. And I said for months, the Republican Senate needs to step up and pass another economic relief package right away so painful cuts don't make this crisis worse.

Joe Biden: You may remember, John, when we went through this with the single-most significant recession in American history short of a depression, when Barack and I came into office and we were inherited the Bush recession. I was asked to manage the Recovery Act, which was \$80 billion. Excuse me, \$800 billion. And the first thing I was able to do is get over \$140 billion to the states and localities so they didn't have to lay off transit workers. They didn't have to lay off school teachers. Didn't have to lay off firefighters. They didn't have to lay off police officers, because all the cities and counties have to work on balanced budgets. That's why the founders said we didn't have to balance budgets nationally to be able to compensate when things got bad. Well, House passed the package twice. It's time for Mitch McConnell to do his job and save millions more hardworking Americans that don't lose theirs.

Joe Biden: By the way, we said, “The states are going to go bankrupt.” He said, “Let them go bankrupt.” Well, we need better protection to keep you safe as well during this COVID crisis, as we discussed, but go far beyond. I’m never going to forget the bravery of Thomas Dunn, who was so viciously attacked while driving his route in Tampa last year. But somehow, still steered his passengers safely to roadside before he died. He warned about driver’s safety months before, but was left unprotected. As President, I promise you I’ll fight to get past the Transit Worker and Pedestrian Protection Act to get barriers installed to stop that kind of assault, to reduce blind spots, to make so many other things possible for you. It’s ridiculous. Like I said, I just had my license to drive a school bus when I was in law school. I can tell you what. It was hard just working out what the kids were doing behind me.

Joe Biden: I can’t fathom today. I can’t fathom today driving a bus or running a subway without having more protection. I promise you I’ll invest a record amount in infrastructure, dramatically increasing the funding for public transit to help power our recovery. That includes improving transit bus lines, helping cities and towns and small new light rail networks, investing funds in low-income communities. Somewhere between 60 and 70% of the American people who live in inner cities, their jobs are outside the city and they don’t have vehicles. They need transportation to get to their work, to improve their neighborhoods, to improve their schools. Look, this is a crisis, and we have a real opportunity to build back better. And you all, your dedication is going to get us there. But here’s the thing. Can I go on another minute, John, because I think this is pretty important?

John: Yes.

Joe Biden: Look. What people don’t get, you guys get it, is if we invest significantly in transit, I want to invest about three quarters of a trillion dollars in transit overall, because it does two things. One, it gets people off the highways. And if you know if you have long distance transit, if you can get there as fast in a train or on a rail as you can in a vehicle, people leave their cars and get in the rail. That will save billions of gallons of oil over time and deal with pollution. Light rail in cities. I’m going to say something. One of your executive vice-presidents from Detroit, one of the things I was able to do in addition to getting our 200 buses in Detroit, we put in a light rail system. Why? Because an awful lot of those people there worked in the hospitals outside of town. And then in town, they could get back and forth to work.

Joe Biden: It saved the city, and has significantly increased the capacity to do more in the city and outside the city. We’re in a position that if we invest in rail, light rail, if we invest in buses, and we’re going to change the way buses run, we’re going to have buses that run. We’re going to get electric buses down the road. We’re going to own the electric market in vehicles, both in buses as well as automobiles, creating well over a million new jobs. Not a joke. And by the way, the Wall Street guys looked at my numbers and what I was talking about and acknowledged my plan will create seven million more jobs than the President’s, and increase by \$1 trillion economic growth, because we have to start using

our brain. We can both deal with climate, employment, and health if we in fact move in a direction to focus heavily on transit.

Joe Biden: If I can give you one little example, and I know the folks who are ... That's a slightly different operation, but Amtrak. In order to build, if we eliminated Amtrak on the Northeast Corridor, we'd have to build eight new lanes of I-95 from Washington to New York. One mile of I-95, the cement and all that's needed, is \$20 million. \$20 million. Imagine what would happen if we didn't have rail, and imagine what would happen if we had high-speed rail. Imagine what would happen if all these towns and cities had light rail that could get people to and from work. It would save them money, save them opportunities, provide more opportunities for them. I know I'm going on too long, but this transportation is such an incredible part of our economic recovery. And by the way, we've got to make sure you start to get paid what you deserve. Paid what you deserve.

Joe Biden: But first and foremost, I promise you I'm going to get you all the PPE that's necessary. That's a promise. Secondly, we're going to make sure you are safe on your transportation system where you are operating it. And that means plexiglass. That means mirrors. That means a whole range of things we can change in order to deal with this. And because I tell you what, you're the guys and women I grew up with. You're the people who make it run. Like I said, I'll end where I began. I view things from Scranton, not from Wall Street. I view things from the folks I was raised with. A trolley line ran by my house. It was a great equalizer for everybody. We're in a situation where we can change things drastically for the better and help everyone across the board. The wealthy will do just fine when we do better.

Joe Biden: Everybody does fine. Everybody does fine. But most important, your personal safety is critical. And I really mean it. I give you my word. So thank you, John. Thank you for your help. And thank all of you. In case you see me looking to my left here, that's where all of you are up on the screen. There's about 500 of you on a screen up here. So hello. Hello. Hello. Hello. And I'm looking at ... Where was a beautiful little baby being held by a dad a moment ago? Anyway, that's awful punishment to make a kid have to watch me on television here on a Zoom, but thank you very much. Appreciate it.

John: Mr. Vice President, you didn't go on too long. Actually, it was great to hear someone that gets it and someone that actually felt like they know our job. I haven't heard that in a long time.

Joe Biden: We can do so much, John. We are in position. If we win this thing, we're in a position to change the country. I really mean it. I really mean it. There's gigantic hope out there. I'm confident. There's so much we can do. And transportation is such a critical part of it all. The overall infrastructure, the overall economic recovery, making sure people ... Anyway, I am going on too much, but I love you guys. Thank you.

John: Thank you, and I just wanted to say some closing remarks. Vice President Biden, thank you for joining us today. Our members learned a lot about your views on the key issues that matter most to them. We hope you will stay safe and healthy and go on to win back this country. Brothers and sisters, thank you for joining us today for this special event. Early voting has already begun in many states. If you're going out to the polls, be safe. If you are voting by mail, get your ballot in. Despite what you are hearing from the other side, voting by mail is totally fine. However you do it, just vote. Vote as if your job is on a line because it is. Vote as if your health is on a line because it is. Vote as if our way of life is on the line because it is. Get out and vote for this courageous, honest, and decent man who will lead our country back from the brink, Joe Biden.

Joe Biden: We can do this, folks. I promise you.

John: Thank you. Thank you, Joe. And have a good evening.

Joe Biden: Putting on my mask.

John: Thank you everybody. Be safe. Brothers and sisters, I hope you enjoyed. Please vote. We need to change this.

Joe Biden Miami Campaign Speech Transcript

October 5

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Joe Biden spoke during a campaign event in Miami, Florida on October 5. Read the transcript his speech remarks here.

Joe Biden: Good afternoon, everyone. It's great to be back in Miami. And thank you, Esther. I told you our family has been, unfortunately, this considerable consumer of healthcare. Please all sit down. Of healthcare and I've learned from personal experience as my sons, my daughter, my wife, family has learned if there are any angels in heaven, they're all nurses, male and female. Docs let you live and nurses make you want to live. I really mean it. They're there at the tough times. And by the way, thank you for your service in the military, but also thank you for the beginning of this pandemic.

Joe Biden: Being a surgical nurse wasn't easy when there wasn't the PPE available to all of you as you walked into those operating rooms and dealt with all the problems. I know my son-in-law's a physician surgeon in Philadelphia and the stories at the beginning of this process, when we should have had everything available. So thank you not only for your skill and your courage, but your bravery and doing what you've done. And I want to thank you for the care dedication that you went on, all your fellow SEIU members, all your nurses that show up and struggle with illness or coping with the loss of a loved one in terrible times.

Joe Biden: So many of you had to hold a phone to a patient's ear to say goodbye to a family member because they couldn't be there. They couldn't see them in the hospital as they passed. Now, I want to thank Victoria, Victoria for sharing her family's journey with us today. Victoria and I were talking a little bit earlier. I was in South Asia speaking with a president and he asked me what made America unique? And I said immigration because it's the history of this country. And he looked at me funny. He said, why is that?

Joe Biden: And I said, because almost everybody who's come here, other than those who came in chains 400 years ago came because they're escaping something, and it took enormous courage. I really mean this. Think about it, enormous courage to leave everything they knew, everything that was familiar, sometimes leaving family members to get on a boat, a plane, train, whatever the means was to be able to leave and start a new life. And to do that, you have to have optimism, courage. You have to be resilient. You have to be willing to believe you can make things change for the better.

Joe Biden: That's what's built this country, immigration. We are, not figuratively, it's a phrase used to not often fully appreciated, a nation of immigrants. That's why we're the most unique and strongest nation in the world. It's family like yours and Esther's that have made this country what it is through the hard work and faith and perseverance. The richness and beauty of Miami is built from the connections of family, culture, values that we share with our friends throughout the Caribbean and Latin America. Earlier this afternoon, I visited Little Haiti.

Joe Biden: Had been some years since been there when the earthquake occurred and I came to deliver some assistance to the Haitian community, as well as making sure we had temporary protective status granted. It's a cultural complex and now here at the site name for one of Cuba's most celebrated poets and thinkers. This city is living proof of the incredible strength that we draw from families and communities from every culture choosing America. So thank you, Victoria, for choosing us and I'm really honored that you're going to vote for me in your first election.

Joe Biden: I promise you I will not let you down. I promise you I will not let you down. And let me also say at the top, my prayers continue to be with the president and the first lady for their health and safety as they like so many American families are dealing with COVID-19. I was glad to see the president speaking and recording videos over the weekend. Now that he's busy tweeting campaign messages, I would ask him to do this, listen to the scientists, support masks, support a mask mandate nationwide, require a mask in every federal building and facility and interstate travel, urge every governor, mayor to do the same.

Joe Biden: We know it saves lives. His administration just rejected a mask mandate for public transportation on Friday. The CIA came along and said, we need to be protected and they said, no. I believe that was wrong and not very rational experts say that universal masking could save between now and January 100,000 lives. Let me say that again. Between now and January, mandatory masking could save 100,000 lives. I backed that mandate months ago. He should back it now. Since the president entered the hospital on Friday, since Friday, more than 100,000 more people have been diagnosed with COVID.

Joe Biden: And this week, at least 5,000 more will die. Cases and deaths are climbing in many states. I hope the president's recovery is swift and successful, but our nation's covered crisis is far, far from over. Today, my prayers are with the families of the 210,000 Americans who died from the virus. All those families who got up this morning and there was an empty chair at the breakfast table, tonight, an empty chair at the dinner table where one should be, husband, wife, son, daughter, mother, father. And nearly 7.5 million Americans-

Joe Biden: And nearly 7.5 million Americans have been infected with the virus to date. This pandemic and economic collapse has hit the Hispanic communities, particularly hard. Nationally, the infection rate among Hispanics is almost three times higher than white,

non Hispanics. More than 40,000 Hispanics have died from COVID-19, devastating families and close knit communities of loved ones. And here in Florida, where Hispanics make up about one quarter of the population, they make up 37% of the COVID deaths.

Joe Biden: Nearly 3 million Hispanics are unemployed. If you break that down, that last data, unemployment for Hispanic women and Hispanic youth actually went up last month. One in three Hispanic, small business owners have taken a hit and many are likely to have to close permanently. Some economists are calling this what they call a K shaped recovery. It means those at the top, they keep going up, their income. But everyone from the middle and lower-income, it keeps going down, keeps getting worse. Means that essential workers, so many of whom are Hispanic, have sacrificed to keep us going through this pandemic are being left behind by the most unequal recovery in modern American history. Because while workers are struggling, this is a shocking statistic, but it's true, the top 100 billionaires in America have done pretty well. Just since the COVID crisis they have made an additional \$300 billion. The top 100 additional made an additional \$300 billion. Everyone else though, they got the bottom half of that K, downward, a downward slide.

Joe Biden: You're left to figure out how you're going to pay your bills, put food on the table, pay the rent, or if you're lucky enough to own a home, will you have enough money to pay the mortgage? How to balance doing your job with being a teacher to your kids, because their school has gone remote. You're asked to risk your neck if you can't work from home, while the risk of COVID are mostly kept outside, because you're one of our first responders, a union nurse like Ester or on an assembly line, or working in a customer service or tourism industry or at a checkout counter or police office, firefighter. I know this isn't an easy time, but I also think this pandemic has just helped us rip off the blinders in this country as how inequitable so many things are. People didn't even realize, and so now they've seen it.

Joe Biden: I truly believe we have a tremendous opportunity to turn this moment of crisis in a moment of great progress for the country. That's why I've laid out a comprehensive agenda, not just to rebuild our communities, but to build them back, make bold investments in them so we can build back better than before the crisis.

Joe Biden: An independent analysis, President talks about... he loves talking about Wall Street. He never talks about Moody's on wall street that pointed out, they did a detailed assessment of my economic plan and his. And here's what Moody's concluded. They projected my economic plan will create 18.6 million jobs, 7 million more jobs in the president's economic plan will in four years and \$1 trillion more in growth than the president's plan.

Joe Biden: And here's how it works. I'm not going to raise taxes on anyone who makes less than \$400,000 a year. You won't pay a penny more. I guarantee you. But I'm going to ask the big corporations and the super wealthy to begin to pay their fair share. It's not punishment. It just about time you start paying your fair share. The money we raise from

making sure they pay their fair share will allow me to invest it in working people on a growing middle class.

Joe Biden: When I announced I said I wanted to rebuild the backbone of this country. Working folks, the middle class. They weren't built by wall street. It was built by labor. Advance racial equity across the economy to make sure everyone is included in the deal this time. We're going to invest it in creating millions of good paying jobs, union jobs in manufacturing and technology, making sure our future is made in America. In infrastructure, building roads, bridges, highways, ports, and airports like I was able to do when I ran the Recovery Act for our administration, putting billions of dollars in the Port of Miami, creating so good, hard working people with good decent union jobs, able to accommodate the new supertankers coming through the canal, generating some stability.

Joe Biden: My plan will make sure Hispanic communities benefit from hundreds of billions of dollars in investments, to fill the cracks in the sidewalks, install broadband, close the digital divide, create spaces to live, work, and play in safely.

Joe Biden: And clean energy. We upgrade 4 million buildings, weatherize 2 million homes. We'll create, at least, the estimates are at least 1 million good paying jobs and save us millions and millions of barrels of oil. We're going to meet the threat of climate change and invest in strengthening climate resilience, where we are already dealing with an existential threat of climate change. I don't have to tell you in Miami, don't have to tell you in South Florida or in my state, which has the lowest sea level, lowest degree of height from sea level than any state in the nation. Stronger, more frequent hurricanes, rising tides, flooding. And no matter where the president says, maybe you should consider dropping an atomic weapon on a hurricane coming our way is not a good idea. It doesn't work. Look, that's not some distant future in Miami or South Florida. You're dealing with it right now. What do you have to do to get knocked in the head to understand it?

Joe Biden: We're going to make sure the small businesses could come out the other side of this crisis with access to capital and the ability to deal with their debts. My plan will get \$50 billion in capital flowing to small businesses, which would get repaid in employment and taxes, especially minority owned small businesses and make another \$100 billion in low interest loans available to those businesses to get back on their feet and stay alive, because you know as well as I do, and ethnic communities, they are the heartbeat, they're the center of a community. Whether it's a grocery store, a beauty shop, the barbershop, the hardware store, the essence of a community. We're going to make investments to increase incomes as well. It's long past time. I've worked with Governor Cuomo to get it done in New York and other governors across the country. No one should have to work two jobs to be able to be 40 hours a week, so they're above the poverty rate. \$15 should be a minimum wage in the United States of America, period.

Joe Biden: And for our essential workers, we're not just going to praise you, we're going to begin to pay you a good wage, be sure you have strong benefits. We're going to ease

the burden of the major costs in your life. What are they? Healthcare. We're going to build on the Affordable Care Act, which gave 4 million Hispanic people in this country health insurance, by adding a new health insurance option, a not for profit public option. We're going to give private insurers a real competitor. We're going to increase subsidies, so your premiums are lower and you can and afford plans with lower deductibles and lower out-of-pocket expenses.

Joe Biden: We're going to take on the pharmaceutical industry, a plan that slashes the cost of prescription drugs by 60%. You think I'm making these numbers up. If we just let Medicare negotiate independently for all the drugs they purchase, I promise you the rates are going to fall through the floor. Affordable and accessible.

Joe Biden: Every three and four year old will have access to free quality preschool. All the studies at great universities and all the ones around the country have shown that no matter what zip code a child comes from, no matter what background, if they go to preschool, not daycare, preschool in school at three, four, and five years old, they increase exponentially, over by over 50% a prospect they'll go through all 12 years and many beyond.

Joe Biden: And we'll make sure, sure that low and middle-income... and by the way, the total cost of that... it's called Title 1 program. We now spend \$15 billion for in school districts that don't have high tax rates. Well, guess what? You change that to 45. You can put every one of these kids in school, pay the teachers legitimate rate and make sure that you have school psychologists and social workers in those schools. We're going to make sure that for childcare, for someone under the age of five or six, no one ever has to pay more than 7% of their income for their young children to get quality childcare, because you truly want to reward work in this country. We have to ease the financial burden of the care that families are carrying. Even before the pandemic, and many of you know it and many of you are doing it, millions of working families faced enormous financial and personal strains, trying to raise their kids and care for their parents or loved ones living with a disability.

Joe Biden: It's going to sound strange, when I first got elected, when I was 29 years old to Senate, right after I got elected, my wife and daughter were killed. My two sons survived after hospitalized for a long time. I needed help do my job. I could not possibly afford childcare. Even though I was making a really good salary of \$42,000 a year, more than I'd ever made. And I couldn't afford it. Being a single mom or dad or a family that has two people working with young children, it's incredibly costly. And by the way, and the professional caregivers out there, home health workers, childcare workers, were more often women, women of color and immigrants, and too often underpaid, unseen and undervalued. That's why my build back better plan will elevate the compensation, benefits and dignity of caregiver-

Joe Biden: ... Back Better Plan will elevate the compensation benefits and dignity of caregivers and workers and early childhood educators. That's what we're going to do. It's also going to invest in education beyond high school. If you qualify to get into community college, you'll automatically be able to go, and you'll be able to go for free. If you are qualified to get into a four-year public school in your state public college, and your family makes less than \$125, 000 a year, you get to go free. If you're buying your first home, you're going to have a tax credit up to \$15,000 to get there. What happened after the Great Recession in this one? An awful lot of you range in age from the millennials have started off back after 9/11, all the way to the people graduating this year... Are not in a position to do that, because your jobs have been postponed or non-existent. But providing an opportunity, I can get you into the system.

Joe Biden: We're also going to protect Social Security, increase the benefits for millions of seniors. We're going to do that all in a partnership and lockstep with the Hispanic community. And by the way, the President's proposal to eliminate the tax you pay when you get your paycheck for Social Security, without any means by which to replace it, the actuary at social security said Social Security will be bankrupt by 2023. They've never liked it to begin with. So look, success and prosperity of the Hispanic Americans is indispensable to the success and prosperity of the United States, and of all America. It's that simple. Hispanic families are responsible today for \$2.6 trillion of our gross domestic product, and growing. If that was a standalone economy, a country all by itself, it would be the eighth largest economy in the world. Think of that.

Joe Biden: Now imagine how much more that would grow if everyone had access to the tools they need to succeed. By investing in Hispanic communities, we're making the smartest possible investment with the greatest possible returns that our nation could make, period. We also need to rebuild our ability to work with our partners throughout the Western hemisphere to realize the enormous potential of this region in the world, to confront those leaders who continue to oppress the rights of their people. We should be leading the international effort to confront the massive humanitarian crisis in Venezuela. Maduro, who I've met, is a dictator, plain and simple, and he's causing incredible suffering among the Venezuelan people to maintain his grip on power. The Venezuelan people need our support to recover their democracy and rebuild their country.

Joe Biden: That's why I would immediately grant temporary protective status to Venezuelans as President. So the Republicans in the Senate can't keep blocking it like they did again just last week. I'll make sure we're supporting neighboring countries that are being overrun with immigration because of Maduro, like Columbia, which are caring for millions of Venezuelans who've fled their country in desperation. I'll use sanctions as one of the tools for a comprehensive strategy that includes humanitarian assistance, international pressure, and support for democratic actors in Venezuela to force the regime to embark on the road to a free and fair election. We also need a new Cuba policy. The administration's approach is not working. Cuba is no closer to freedom and democracy than it was four years ago. The fact there's more political prisoners, the secret police are

as brutal as ever, and Russia is once again a major presence in Cuba in Havana... For my entire career, I strived for democracy and human rights, for freedom of the press, assembly and religion against dictators of the left and the right. As President, my policy will be governed by two principles.

Joe Biden: First, Americans, especially Cuban-Americans, are the best ambassadors for freedom in Cuba. Second, empowering the Cuban people to determine their own future is central to a national security interest in the United States. I think it's unconscionable that the current administration is deporting hundreds of Cubans back to a dictatorship. There are almost 10,000 Cubans languishing in tent camps along the Mexican border because the administration's anti-immigration agenda. That's the administration actively separating Cuban families by not processing visas, through restrictions on family visits and remittances. I think we have to reverse that. The bottom line is that President Trump cannot advance the democracy and human rights for the American people when he has embraced so many autocrats around the world, starting with Vladimir Putin.

Joe Biden: Folks, we can do this. We can reach for more as a nation. We can rebuild. We can rebuild the backbone of this country and finally bring everybody along. America's always done best coming out of crisis. We're the only nation it's always come out of every crisis better than we went in. We can build a new administration that reflects the full diversity of our nation, including Hispanic communities. And Hispanic voters, especially in Florida, can help put our nation on a new path forward. And here in Florida today as the deadline to register to vote ends today... If you haven't registered, go out right now because it is an obligation. Every vote will make a difference. Check and make sure your family and friends are registered, and then make sure everyone has a plan to vote.

Joe Biden: If you can vote by mail, vote by mail. If you can vote in person, vote in person, if you can vote early, vote early. You can vote early in person starting on October 19th in many places in Florida, including right here in Miami. Just make sure you vote. Together we can win. We can't let this pandemic change everything. We've got to get it under control so we can get our economy working again for everyone. We can come together as a nation. I'm running as a Democrat. Proud of it, but I will be an American President, not a democratic President with a capital D. I'll fight as hard for you and your family whether you vote for me or whether you vote against me because there's nothing we can't do when we do it together. Folks, I've been other more optimistic about our chances as a nation in the 21st century than I've been my whole career. There's not a single solitary thing that's beyond our capacities as a nation. I mean that sincerely. The most talented workers in the world... We're the most incredible system in the world. We have a people, who when they stand together, have never, ever, ever, ever failed. Every time I'd walk out of my grandpa's house up in Scranton, Pennsylvania, he'd yell, "Joey, keep the faith." My grandma, when she was alive, would yell back, "No, Joey, spread it." Let's go spread the faith. Take back this country. We're so much better than this. God bless you all, and may God protect our troops. Thank you. Thank you.

Oct. 6th, 2020 Joe Biden Gettysburg Pennsylvania

Joe Biden Gettysburg Campaign Speech Transcript October 6

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Joe Biden gave a campaign speech in Gettysburg, PA on October 6. Read the transcript of his remarks [here](#).

Joe Biden: Thank you all for being here. Thank you. I appreciate you being here on this gorgeous day in a magnificent, magnificent setting, until you think about all the lives that were lost here. Please, all have a seat.

Joe Biden: On July 4th, 1863, American woke to the remains of perhaps the most consequential battle in American soil. It took place here on this ground in Gettysburg; three days of violence, three days of carnage, 50,000 casualties, wounded, captured, missing, or dead, over three days of fighting. When the sun rose on that Independence Day, Lee would retreat. The war would go on for nearly two more years, but the back of the Confederacy had been broken. The Union would be saved. Slavery would be abolished, government of by and for the people would not perish from the earth, and freedom would be born anew in our land.

Joe Biden: There's no more fitting place than here today in Gettysburg, to talk about the cost of division. About how much it has cost America in the past, about how much it is costing us now, and about why I believe in this moment, we must come together as a nation. For President Lincoln, the Civil War was about the greatest of causes. The end of slavery, widening equality, pursuit of justice, the creation of opportunity, and the sanctity of freedom.

Joe Biden: His words would live ever after. We hear them in our heads. We know them in our hearts. We draw on them when we seek hope in hours of darkness; "Four score, and seven years ago, our fathers brought forth on this continent, a new nation, conceived in Liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal." Here on this sacred ground, Abraham Lincoln, re-imagined America itself. Here, a president of the United States spoke of the price of division, and the meaning of sacrifice.

Joe Biden: He believed in the rescue, redemption, and rededication of the union. All this in a time, not just of ferocious division, but of widespread death, structural inequity, and fear of the future. And he taught us this, a house divided could not stand. That is a great and timeless truth. Today, once again, we are a house divided, but that my friends can no longer be. We're facing too many crises. We have too much work to do. We have to bright a future to have it shipwrecked on the Shoals of anger and hate, and division.

Joe Biden: As we stand here today, a century and a half later after Gettysburg, we should consider again, what can happen when equal justice is denied, when anger and violence and division are left unchecked. As I look across America today, I'm concerned. The country is in a dangerous place. Our trust in each other is ebbing. Hope seems elusive. Too many Americans see our public life, not as an arena for mediation of our differences, but rather they see it as an occasion for total, unrelenting, partisan warfare.

Joe Biden: Instead of treating each other's party as the opposition, we treat them as the enemy. This must end. We need to revive the spirit of bipartisanship in this country. A spirit of being able to work with one another. When I say that, and I've been saying it for two years now, I'm accused of being naive. I'm told, "Maybe that's the way things used to work, Joe, but they can't work that way anymore." Well, I'm here to tell you they can, and they must if we're going to get anything done.

Joe Biden: I'm running as a proud Democrat, but I will govern as an American president. I'll work with Democrats and Republicans. I'll work as hard for those who don't support me, as those who do. That's the job of a president; the duty to care for everyone. It was a lot of Democrats and Republicans to cooperate with one another is not due to some mysterious force beyond our control. It's a decision. It's a choice we make.

Joe Biden: And if we can decide not to cooperate, we can decide to cooperate as well. That's the choice I'll make as president. But there's something bigger going on in this nation than just our broken politics. Something darker, something more dangerous. I'm not talking about ordinary differences of opinion, competing viewpoints give life and vibrancy to our democracy. No, I'm talking about something different, something deeper. Too many Americans seek not to overcome our divisions, but to deepen them, we must seek not to build walls, but bridges. We must seek not to have our fist clenched, but our arms open. We have to seek not to tear each other apart, we seek to come together. You don't have to agree with me on everything, or even on most things, to see that we're experiencing today is neither good nor normal.

Joe Biden: I made the decision to run for president after Charlottesville. Close your eyes, and remember what you saw. Neo-Nazis, white supremacists, and the KKK coming out of the fields with torches light, veins bulging, chanting the same anti-Semitic bile heard across Europe in the '30s. It was hate on the march, in the open, in America. Hate never goes away, it only hides. And when it's given oxygen, when it's given an opportunity to spread, when it's treated as normal and acceptable behavior, we've opened a door in this country that we must move quickly to close. As president, that's just what I will do. I will send a clear unequivocal message to the entire nation, there is no place for hate in America.

Joe Biden: (11:20) It will be given no license. It will be given no oxygen. It'll be given no safe harbor. In recent weeks and months, the country has been riled by instances of excessive police force, heart-wrenching cases of racial injustice and lives needlessly and senselessly lost, by peaceful protesters, given voice to the calls for justice, by examples of

violence and looting and burning that can not be tolerated. I believe in law and order, I've never supported defunding the police.

Joe Biden: But I also believe injustice is real. It's a product of a history that goes back 400 years, the moment when black men, women, and children first were brought here in chains. I do not believe we have to choose between law and order, and racial justice in America. We can have both. This is the nation strong enough to both honestly face systemic racism and strong enough to provide safe streets for our families and small businesses. The two often bear the brunt of this looting and burning.

Joe Biden: We have no need for armed militias roaming America's streets, and we should have no tolerance for extremist white supremacy groups, menacing our communities. If you say, "We should trust America's law enforcement authorities to do the job," as I do, then let them do their job without extremist groups acting as vigilantes. If you say, "We have no need to face racial injustice in the country," you haven't opened your eyes to the truth in America.

Joe Biden: There've been powerful voices for justice in recent weeks and months, George Floyd's, six year old daughter, who I met with, who looked at me and said in her small child's voice, "Daddy changed the world." Also, Jacob Blake's mother was another. When she said, "Violence didn't reflect her son and this nation needed healing." And Doc Rivers, the basketball coach, choking back tears when he said, "We're the ones getting killed. We're the ones getting shot. We've been hung. It's amazing [inaudible 00:13:49] we keep loving this country and this country does not love us back."

Joe Biden: I think about that. I think about what it takes for a black person to love America. That is a deep love for this country. That has for far too long, never been recognized. What we need in America's leadership that seeks to deescalate tensions, to open lines of communications, to bring us together, to heal, to hope. As president, that's precisely what I will do. We paid a high price for allowing the deep divisions in this country to impact on how we deal with the Coronavirus. 210,000 Americans dead, and the number's climbing. It's estimated that nearly another 210,000 Americans could lose their lives by the end of the year; enough, no more. Let's just set partisanship aside, let's end the politics and follow the science.

Joe Biden: Wearing a mask is not a political statement. It's a scientific recommendation. Social distancing isn't a political statement. It's a scientific recommendation. Testing, tracing, the development and all approval and distribution of a vaccine, isn't a political statement. It is a science-based decision. We can't undo what has been done. We can't go back. We can do so much better. We can do better starting today. We can have a national strategy that puts politics aside and saves lives.

Joe Biden: We can have a national strategy that will make it possible for our schools and business to open safely. We can have a national strategy that reflects the true values of

this nation. This pandemic is not a red state or blue state issue. This virus doesn't care whether you live, or where you live, what political party you belong to, it affects us all. It will take anyone's life. It's a virus. It's not a political weapon.

Joe Biden: There's another enduring division in America that we must end, the division in our economic life. That gives opportunity only to the privileged few. America has to be about mobility. It has to be the kind of country where an Abraham Lincoln, a child of the distant frontier, can rise to the highest office in the land. America has to be about possibilities.

Joe Biden: The possibility of prosperity, not just for the privileged few, but for the many, for all of us. Working people on their kids deserve an opportunity. Lincoln knew this. He said that the country had to give people, and I quote, "An open field and a fair chance. An open field and a fair chance." That's what we're going to do in America. We're going to build together. We fought a civil war that would secure a union that would seek to fulfill the promise of equality for all.

Joe Biden: And by fits and starts, our better angels had prevailed again, just enough, just enough against our worst impulses to make a new and better nation. And those better angels can prevail again, now. They must prevail again, now. 100 years after Lincoln spoke at Gettysburg, the vice president, Lyndon B Johnson also came here, and here's what he said.

Joe Biden: He said, "Our nation founded soul and honor in these fields of Gettysburg, we must not lose that soul in dishonor, now, on the fields of hate." Today, we're engaged, once again, in the battle for the soul of the nation, the forces of darkness, the forces of division, the forces of yesterday are pulling us apart, holding us down and holding us back. We must free ourselves of all of them. As president, I will embrace hope, not fear. Peace, not violence. Generosity, not greed. And light, not darkness. I'll be a president who appeals to the best in us, not the worst.

Joe Biden: I'll be a president who pushes toward the future, not one who clings to the past. I'm ready to fight for you and for our nation every day, without exception, without reservation, with a full and devoted heart. We cannot, and will not, allow extremist and white supremacist to overturn the America of Lincoln and Harriet Tubman, and Frederick Douglass, to overturn the America that has welcomed immigrants from distant shores, to overturn the America that has been a Haven and a home for everyone, no matter their background.

Joe Biden: From Seneca falls to Selma, to Stonewall we're at our best when the promise of America is available to all, we cannot, and we will not allow violence in the street to threaten the people of this nation. We cannot and will not walk away from our obligation to at long last, face the wrecking on race and racial justice in this country. We cannot and

will not continue to be struck in the partisan politics that lets us, this virus, thrive, while the public health of this nation suffers.

Joe Biden: We cannot and will not accept an economic equation that only favors those who have already got it made; everybody deserves a shot at prosperity. Folks, duty and history call presidents to provide for the common good, and I will. It won't be easy. Won't be easy. Our divisions today are long standing, economic and racial inequities have shaped us for generations, but I give you my word. I give you my word. If I'm elected president, I will Marshall the ingenuity and Goodwill of this nation to turn division into unity and bring us together because I think people are looking for that. We can disagree about how as we move forward, we must take the first steps. It starts with how we treat one another. How we talk to one another. How we respect one another.

Joe Biden: In the second inaugural Lincoln said, "With malice toward none, with charity for all, with firmness in the right, as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we're in to build up the nation's wounds, bind up the nation's wounds." Now, we have our work to reunite America. To bind up our nation's wounds. To move past shadow and suspicion. And so we, you and I together, we press on, even now. After hearing the second inaugural address, Frederick Douglas told President Lincoln, "Mr. Lincoln, that was a sacred effort." We have to be dedicated to our own sacred effort. The promise of Gettysburg and the new birth of freedom was in hand.

Joe Biden: I think it's at risk. Every generation that's followed Gettysburg has been faced with a moment when it must answer this question, will they allow the sacrifices made here to be in vain, or be fulfilled? This is our moment to answer this essential American question, for ourselves and for our time. And my answer is this, it cannot be that after all this country has been through, after all that America's accomplished, after all the years, we have stood as a beacon of light to the world.

Joe Biden: It cannot be that here and now in 2020, we will allow the government of the people, by the people, and for the people to perish this earth. No, it cannot. And it must not. We have it in our hands, the ultimate power. The power to vote. Its the note instrument ever devised to register our will in a peaceable and productive fashion. And so we must. We must vote. We will vote. No matter how many obstacles are thrown in our way, because once America votes, America will be heard.

Joe Biden: Lincoln said, "The nation is worth fighting for." So it was. And so it is, together as one nation under God, indivisible. Let us join forces to fight the common foe of injustice and inequality, hate and fear. Let's conduct ourselves as Americans who love each other, who love our country, who will not destroy, but will build. We owe it to the dead who were buried here at Gettysburg. We owe that to the living, and to future generations yet to be born.

Joe Biden: You and I are part of a covenant, a common story of divisions overcome and hope renewed. If we do our part, if we stand together, if we keep faith with the past and with each other, then the divisions of our time will give way to the dreams of a brighter, better future. This is our work. This is our pledge. This is our mission. We can end this era of division. We can end the hate and the fear. We can be what we are at our best, the United States of America. God bless you all. And may God protect our troops. Thank you. We can do this.

Oct. 8th, 2020 Joe Biden Phoenix Arizona

Joe Biden & Kamala Harris Campaign Event Phoenix, AZ Transcript October 8

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Joe Biden and Kamala Harris held a campaign event in Phoenix, Arizona on October 8. It was the first stop of the “Soul of the Nation” bus tour. Read the transcript of their remarks here.

Kamala Harris: Vote like your life depends on it, because right now, it really does. And yesterday, Arizona, vote by mail ballots were shipped to homes across this state. And in-person early voting has started, including at the new McDowell Square voting center, just about a mile from here. So be a first week voter. A first week voter. And there are four ways to vote in Arizona. You can vote by mail. You can drop off your ballot at a dropbox. You can vote early in person, or you can vote in person on election day. And to learn more, go to, [iwillvote.com/az](https://www.iwillvote.com/az) and make a plan. Write down when, where, and how you will vote. And tell everyone you know to do the same, because Arizona’s future, America’s future, is in your hands. So let’s elect Joe Biden as the next president of the United States of America. And ladies and gentlemen, I introduce to you the great Joe Biden.

Joe Biden: Hello, Arizona. It’s great to be back. It really is. It’s great to be back. Thank you, Kamala. Thank you, [Vanessa 00:03:08]. Appreciate it very, very much. And we met backstage, and the first instinct we all had was to hug each other. And we went, “No, no. We got to stay 12 feet apart.” But folks, I want to give a special thanks to Ruben Gallego for being here. And you’re a big deal, man. I’m serious. And I notice he did something that... This is what we call, in our business, a busman’s holiday, coming to hear another politician speak, and having to put a tie on when he shows up without a tie. But thank you very much. I appreciate it, pal. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you. And the president and COO of the Southwest Regional Council, Pete Rodriguez. Where are you, Pete? Is he in here, or is he back in his office? Wherever he is, I want to thank him-

Speaker 2: Not in here.

Joe Biden: Not here now? Well, also so Fabian Sandez, president of the local 1912. And you’ve all been with me. We were talking, Kamala and I, coming down the hall, and we said... Not a joke. It was just purely coincidental. She said, “I love the carpenters.” She said, “The first outfit that endorsed me when I ran for attorney general for-”

Kamala Harris: DA.

Joe Biden: "... the DA in San Francisco, were the carpenters." And I said, "I remember mine well, a guy named Cal [McCullough 00:00:15:29], president of the Carpenter's Union from New Castle, Delaware, one of the 350 year old city on the Delaware River was the first one to endorse me as well." And so, you've been with me my whole career, and president Doug McCarron has been a long time friend. We've worked together a long time. 520,000 carpenters. That's an incredible army to have behind you. And you are, I'm telling you. You have, my whole career, and I hope you know I've had years as well. There's an old expression when I was growing up in Scranton, Pennsylvania. It said, "You go home with them that brung you to the dance." Well, the carpenters brought me to the dance, and you're going home together. You're going to have a seat at the table.

Joe Biden: Folks, people who shaped the skyline, who build the foundations, everything rely on, the carpenters. Labor brought me to the dance. And the only reason I'm able to run for president is because, standing here today, because of labor. I've never forgotten everything you've done for me and you've done for the country. I really mean it. I get in trouble for saying this, but it's true. You're the backbone of America. You're the spine of America. You're the ones who actually built the country, not Wall Street, bankers, and CEOs. You're the ones who are going to rebuild it again. You're going to build it back better, for real. Kamala and can't thank you enough. And folks, I don't know if you caught it, but the senator had a heck of a night last night. I tell you what, you got to give me a great credit for knowing how to pick them. Right? I couldn't be prouder. She's like a younger sister.

Joe Biden: I couldn't be prouder to be running alongside such a leader with remarkable character and vision. And who always, always, always is looking out for the people, always somebody else, not her. Always. And I want to tell you something, Kamala and I are about to kick off a tour, visiting businesses in this community. Small businesses in this community and all communities are more responsible for more jobs than... In the community, local small business owners... They're busting their necks, than the major corporations. You add it all up, for real. Small businesses create more jobs in America than the major corporate entities. And this community has found itself having to go through some really challenging times, and I need not tell the congressman that. He's forgotten more about it than most people know.

Joe Biden: And like Chef Silvana. Chef Silvana owns two restaurants here in Phoenix. She had both. When they were struck by COVID, she had to close one of them down. And she's working hard to keep the other one afloat, Barrio cafe, which we're going to be visiting later this afternoon. But it isn't easy. The loan Silvana was able to secure back in the spring because of the legislation passed by the Democrats in the House, helped her for a little while, but it wasn't nearly enough. She's scraping by week to week, trying to look out for her 10 employees, some of whom have been with her for decades. And on top of that, she's facing, and I have permission to say this, she's facing a terminal disease. Silvana had to cancel her own health insurance after finishing a round of treatment recently just to make ends meet. It's devastating, and it's heartbreaking, and it's wrong.

Joe Biden: Every American should be upset about what Savannah is going through. I think you all are. I know I am. Because I know, we know, it didn't have to happen. If they had just done what you passed, just move forward. And then, I'll talk about it in a minute. But Silvana's story is increasingly common story for Arizona workers and small business owners. Too many Arizonans are facing hard times right now. They're trying their best, but it never feels like it's enough. You're not looking out for a handout. They're just looking for a fair shot. Just want an even shot. That's all they're looking for. And that's how my dad felt when he couldn't find work in Scranton when coal died, he had to move on. I remember him taking us, what I call the longest walk any parent has to make up a short flight of stairs to tell their kid, "Honey, I'm sorry, but you can't go back to St. Paul's. You can't go play in that little league anymore. Dad's lost his job. There's no job here. I'm going to have to move."

Joe Biden: I remember him taking us to our grandpop's house. Me, and my brother, and my sister, and my mom was certainly going to have another child. And we all went home. I thought about how hard it must've been for my dad. So many people in this town have done the same thing. Have to go to his father-in-law, the father of four boys and a girl, and say, "I have to ask you a favor." I know how much pride it cost him. "Can you take care of them for a year? I'll be back. I promise. I'll come home every weekend." It was only 159 miles, but it seemed like the end of the world. But he went down, and by the time he was able to get a good job, a job enough to get us an apartment in a place called Claymont, Delaware. Because he had been raised in Wilmington, Delaware. He ended up, then, getting a good job, a decent job, managing a car dealership. He worked hard to build a decent middle-class life. And it wasn't easy for him. He had an expression. He'd always say, and really, I mean this sincerely... He said, "I don't expect the government to solve my problems, but I sure in hell expect them to at least understand my problems. Just to understand them." And America, I think, deserves a president who understands what the American people are going through, who sees who you are, what you want to be, who cares about your health, your prosperity, your dream, your American dream. You're facing real challenges right now. And the last thing you need is a president who exacerbates them, who ignores you. And I'm going to say it. I've been saying for a while. It's my perspective from Scranton. A president who looks down at us, who thinks that if you put your life on the line for the nation, you're a loser, a sucker.

Joe Biden: ... line for the nation, you're a loser, a sucker. As we were talking about with Cindy, my Beau, my son Beau who just passed, not just, passed away, now it's going on five years, it seems like yesterday, won the Bronze Star and [inaudible 00:22:16] Service Medal. He was a volunteer. [inaudible 00:22:20] but he volunteered. He had to get an exception to be able to go to Iraq for a year. And I promise you, he wasn't a loser. He wasn't a sucker. He, like all the veterans we met with this afternoon alongside Cindy McCain, they're Patriots. They're people understand that being an American is about recognizing there's some things bigger than yourself.

Joe Biden: Cindy's husband, John McCain, who I had the great privilege of him asking me to do his eulogy, we used to argue like hell. We were like two brothers. We'd fight like hell, but we always, always, always ended up together. And that's how it used to be. It used to be that way across the board. He wasn't a loser. They're all heroes. And you know what? They deserve better than a president who will say anything to deflect responsibility for any mistake he makes. I don't know whether you noticed, he recently said that, they asked him where he got the COVID, he said, "I probably got it from Blue Star parents." They're people who lost a child in battle. He said, "Because they like to get close to me and hug me. I don't know how to say no."

Joe Biden: Look, we've paid too high a price already for Donald Trump's chaotic, divisive leadership. More than 210,000 Americans have lost their lives to this virus. We lose more every single day. Now, these 6,000 Arizonans have been lost. I mean, 6,000 gone, gone. More than 220, 000 Arizonans have been infected with COVID. 122,000 jobs in Arizona still haven't come back. Nine times more Arizonans are on unemployment each week than before this crisis hit. But businesses like Silvana's restaurant are closing, schools aren't back to normal, because Donald Trump can't focus on what matters. When the House passed the so-called Heroes Act, that's that second big package they passed to get people on their feet again some time ago, but the President and Mitch McConnell did nothing to move the legislation.

Joe Biden: A lot of cities and states are going bankrupt because they have to balance their budgets. Our founders are pretty smart. The reason they wrote the Constitution the way they did is the Congress, the Senate, the House, the government could deficit spend in order to compensate for being able to make sure we got out of the hole. Trump is spending more time, I've been calling on this, as you probably know for the last four months, he should get out of his bunker and out of the sand trap from his golf courses. Not a joke. I mean, think about it. He never once, I've been around a while, he never one single time tried to bring Democrats and Republicans together in the White House to try to get a settlement. Not once. You can't name me a President in the lifetime of any of you that refused to deal that way in the middle of a crisis. But the leadership of Congress together to resolve the issue is something that wasn't on his watch.

Joe Biden: And on Tuesday, Congressman, I'm sure you were probably not surprised by it, but on Tuesday he announced he's walking away from negotiations to provide additional relief for working people, mom and pop businesses, schools. Just go down the line. On October 8th, exactly two months since the Emergency Small Business Program was closed, two months of small business owners in Arizona and across the country waiting and hoping for just a little bit of help to be able to stay open, more than 400,000 small businesses are permanently closed nationwide, 400,000, millions are struggling to hang on. The legislation has already been passed. It's there. I handled what they called the Recovery Act when we inherited a great recession. I had the ability to deal with \$800 billion spent in 18 months. All the outside groups pointed out less than two-tenths of 1%

waste or fraud. But do you know what we did? We provided \$ 148 billion to the cities and states so you didn't have to lay off cops, firefighters, sanitation workers.

Joe Biden: You didn't have to lay off nurses, close down county hospitals. You kept it open. And America got through it and began to generate the longest period of recovery in modern history. How many more have to go under? How many more dreams have to be extinguished because this President threw in the towel? Instead of focusing on your needs, he's still trying to take away your health care. I mean, think about that. Just think about it. I'm not, but if I were a playwright, I'm writing a play, you're in the single solitary outfit on Broadway that would take it, because it sounds like ridiculous fiction, in the middle of a pandemic, when already 10 million Americans have lost her employer based insurance because the employer went under, he's trying to take away insurance from another 22 million people who got it for the first time in the pre-existing conditions that the Senator talked about.

Joe Biden: He's in the Supreme Court right now asking you to strike down the Affordable Care Act, the entirety of it, take away Medicare benefits for seniors. People don't realize how deep this goes, and taking us back to a time when insurers could deny coverage because of a pre-existing condition. I want you to understand this. Women's rights, I'm not talking about the right to choose now. Women's rights, do you realize, before we passed, Barack and I passed the law, pregnancy was considered a pre-existing condition. Not a joke. Insurance companies were allowed to charge more for a woman for the same exact medical procedure than a man would have. Same one. And look what's happened. Minority communities were devastated. But he's done beyond that. He's vowed, and this isn't even get much attention because so much chaos is going on, he vowed to "terminate the funding source for social security." That's the holding tax you pay for social security, six and a half percent. He wants to terminate it so it makes it look like you got more in your paycheck.

Joe Biden: But the actuary at the Social Security Department said, "If he does that, social security will be bankrupt by the middle of 2023. Benefits for more than a million Arizonans rely on the whole idea of a dignified retirement." The fact is President Trump can only see the world from Park Avenue. He thinks that Wall Street built America. That's why he let big corporations jump in on the front lines and get the recovery money that the Congress helped pass while small businesses struggled to stay open. But people don't know because it's so complicated, so much is happening. The Congressman can tell you. There was an Inspector General that they appointed, meaning somebody who had independent capacity to look into anything that was being done on the money being spent. I had an Inspector General overlooking the \$800 billion I was responsible for. Twice every two weeks, I met with him in detail so we knew exactly where the money was going.

Joe Biden: What's the first thing the President did? He fired the Inspector General. Think about that. 40% of all the money that was supposed to go to small businesses in the first time around went to the Mar-a-Lago crowd. The wealthy. I mean, if this wasn't so true,

I'd be reluctant to say it because it sounds so bizarre. This President has forgotten the people he said he'd fight for it. I'll never forget because I see the world from where I grew up in Scranton and Claymont, a little steel town. I know that the middle class, working class built this country, and unions built the middle class. And I measure economic success on what families are talking about sitting around their kitchen tables, about having a decent job and benefits, about keeping their small business dream alive, about the conversations that took place this morning. But we need four new tires. The tires are bald on the car. We've got to wait. We can't afford to get them. Can't do it. Who's going to tell her she can't go back to the community college because we just can't borrow any money anymore?

Joe Biden: Or you have 20 million people today, 20 million people including here in Arizona, who are worried about whether they can pay this month's mortgage payment. 20 million. And look at all the people who are worried they're going to be thrown out in the street because they can't pay their rent. These guys provided for all that. But nothing. Being able to look your kids in the eye. My dad would just said, "Joey, a job's about a lot more than a paycheck. It's about your dignity. It's about respect. It's about your place in the community. It's about being able to look your kid in the eye and say, 'Honey, it's going to be okay,' and mean it. And mean it."

Joe Biden: It would be okay. And mean it, and mean it. Well, that's what Kamala and I are focused on, to say to our kids, "Honey is going to be okay." That's what we're talking about. We're going to get this virus under control. We're going to reopen safely and strongly creating good paying jobs and working to end this era of rancor and division. Because if we're going to get anything done, we have to do it together. I've been saying this since I announced and people thought I was being naive. They said, "Oh, you got a lot of things done, Joe, before, but that was the past." Well, guess what? If we can't bring the country together, we're dead. This is a democracy. It depends on a consensus. You've got to bring people together.

Joe Biden: It's somewhat maybe presumptuous of me, but I made a major speech. I worked really, really hard on for a long time in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. And I did it two days ago. And I talked about, in Lincoln terms, that we have to bring America together. We can't hold grudges. I'm running as a proud Democrat with a capital D, but I will be an American President, not a Democratic president. I'll work as hard for those who didn't support me... I promise you and look at my record... As those who did support me. Because the fact is that's the job of a President. It's a duty to care for everybody, not just who voted for you. After all we've been through, all America's accomplished, all the years we've stood as a beacon to the world, we cannot allow ourselves to remain divided.

Joe Biden: We have the ultimate power in our hands. You know what that power is? That little sticker you have on, the power to vote. Really, you can still register here in Arizona to vote. Early voting has already begun. And the vast majority of Arizonan's vote by mail. And those mail-in ballots will start arriving in the next couple of days. So Kamala and I are saying to you, the best thing you can do is return your ballot quickly. Don't risk delays.

Return that mail in ballot as soon as you can and make sure your voice is heard, because if your voice can overcome and go out and vote, your voice through your vote can overcome every one of the challenges we face.

Joe Biden: And by the way, you know what they're setting up. They're setting up the argument that these votes aren't going to matter. You saw what happened today. The FBI arrested a group of militiamen who had a plan to go in and to kidnap the governor of Michigan. You'll see it in the news tonight, the governor of Michigan. Remember those guys with the assault rifles standing in her driveway? And the President is saying things in my debate with him, like "To the proud boys and all white supremacists group, stand down, but stand ready." This is serious stuff. We can't just win by a vote.

Joe Biden: We've got to all turn out. We can be better than we've seen. We can be what we are at our best. If we all get out and vote. And on our best we're the United States of America and all can decide. It's not some prosaic thing. The fact is America's never, never, never, never, ever failed. We've stood up together. We're the only nation in the world that's come out of every single crisis... war or economic crisis... stronger than when we went into the crisis. So folks, I'm more optimistic today about America's chances at home and in the world than I've ever been.

Joe Biden: I've been around a long time. I've worked with a lot of Presidents. I really mean it. We have a chance. A chance not only to improve our country, but to change the world. We have the most powerful military in the history of the world, but that's not why the rest of the world repairs to us. It's not the example of our power. It's been the power of our example that has the rest of the world follow us. And that example is being trashed around the world. As the Senator said last night in the debate, it's true. 17 major countries of the world are asked what leaders did they admire the most and trust the most? The Pugh Foundation, I think. You know what they said? More people trusted Xi Jinping of China and Putin of Russia than the President of the United States. That was profound security as well as economic impact.

Joe Biden: So folks let's not quit. There's no quit in America. We have never, ever, ever, ever, ever quit. And if we need you to stand up at any time in our history, we need you now. Thank you for being here. God bless you and may God protect our troops. Thank you.

Oct. 9th, 2020 Joe Biden Las Vegas Nevada

Joe Biden Las Vegas Speech Transcript October 9

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Joe Biden gave a 2020 campaign speech in Las Vegas, Nevada on October 9, 2020. Read the full speech transcript [here](#).

Joe Biden: ... a widow and a dear friend of an American hero, John McCain. We also saw the resilience and the goodness of decency of the American people. They're not looking for a handout, they just want a fair shot. My dad used to have an expression when he lost his job up in Scranton. When I was in grade school, my dad would say, and we had to move in with my grandparents. When he went down south from Scranton to Wilmington, Delaware looking for a job. And he used to always say that, "The fact is Joey, I'm not looking for government to solve my problems but I hope like hell they can at least understand my problems." He finally got a job, we could afford to buy a small home. He worked hard to build a decent middle class life. It wasn't easy for him, but he had an expression.

Joe Biden: As I said, a job joy about a lot more than a paycheck. It's about your dignity. It's about respect. It's about your place in the community. It's being uable to look your kidney eye and say, "Honey, it's going to be okay." You deserve a president who understands what you're going through. Who sees you where you are and where you want to be. The last thing you need is a president who ignores you, looks down upon you, who just doesn't understand who in God's name we are. That's President Trump. His reckless personal conduct since his diagnosis. The destabilizing effect it's having on our government is unconscionable. He didn't take the necessary precautions to protect himself or others. And the longer Donald Trump is President, the more reckless he gets. How can we trust him to protect this country?

Joe Biden: Governor, you've seen how he picks fights with states and pits them against one another. Look, what's happened. More than 210,000 Americans are dead. 420,000 have been hospitalized. We lose anywhere from 700 to a thousand people every single day in America, worse than any country in the world. More than 7.5 million Americans have been infected. And we're still counting. And here in Nevada, there have been more than 82,000 cases in total. More than 1,600 deaths. 80% of those deaths have been seniors over 60 years of age. Black, Latino, Asian American, Native-American communities are especially hit hard. Nationally, the infection rate among Latinos is almost three times higher than that of white non-Latinos and the death rate as well as three times higher. More than 40,000 Latinos have died from COVID-19. My heart goes out to all those families

who got up this morning and there was an empty chair around the kitchen table. Or go to dinner tonight and the person that should be there is gone.

Joe Biden: They've lost part of their soul. They've lost part of their life. It's all about family. With you and I it's all about family. Losing family is a devastating thing. We can do so much better. My heart goes out to everyone struggling with the economic crisis caused by the neglect, the simple neglect of this President. Nearly 11 million jobs lost since the beginning of this crisis. And they still haven't come back, including 136,000 jobs here in Nevada. Temporary layoffs have turned to permanent layoffs. Record growth last month and a number of Americans facing long-term unemployment. And the problem of long-term unemployment, once you get beyond a certain point, history shows us that they never get a job again.

Joe Biden: All told, there are now 30 million workers who either lost hours, lost paychecks, or lost their jobs entirely. Roughly 700,000 people have dropped out of the labor force last month. And the vast majority were women. We're still down 647,000 manufacturing jobs nationwide since the crisis has started. And our balance of payments deficit is going up. And here in Nevada, the unemployment rate is 13.2%, the highest in the nation because of President Trump's negligence. The hospitality industry has hit particularly hard. The culinary union, has recently said publicly that 50% of their members are still out of work. Tourism in June was down 70% from a year ago. The result? President Trump will be the first president in modern history since Hoover to leave office with fewer jobs than he had when he came into office. Here in Nevada, after seeing over 200,000 jobs created in the last seven years of the Obama-Biden administration, Nevada has actually seen jobs go down under the Trump presidency. He's leaving us with what he calls, he says is a V-shape recession.

Joe Biden: It's a K-shaped recession where those at the top keep going up and the middle-class and everyone else keeps going down, getting worse. Means essential workers who sacrificed to keep us going through this pandemic are being left behind by the most unequal recovery in modern history. You get this, the top 100 billionaires in America have done pretty well. Just in the pandemic, the top 100 billionaires have made an additional \$300 billion, top 100. But you get the bottom half of that K and it's a downward slide. You're left to figure out how you're going to pay your bills, put food on the table. So much food insecurity in America, in this state. How to balance doing your job with being a teacher for your kids because of the negligence of the President, they can't go back to school because they haven't provided the wherewithal for schools to open.

Joe Biden: You're asked to risk your neck because you can't work from home where the risk of COVID are kept outside. That's because you're a police officer, a firefighter, a nurse, or you're working on an assembly line in customer service or a checkout counter, or here in Vegas in hospitality. If you're a housekeeper, a casino worker, the ones who built this very stage. Governor Sisolak, your members of Congress are doing everything they possibly can to help turn things around. Governor, you've been focused and

responsible. You followed science and put public health and safety. You made tough calls that saved lives. Working around the clock so we can reopen schools and the economy safely. Your members of Congress, have done the same.

Joe Biden: And the House passed what they call the HEROES Act months ago. Would have provided billions of dollars to help states keep first responders on the job. The safety measures needed, the PPP needed to open our schools and businesses but Donald Trump and Mitch McConnell, Republican leader did nothing to move the legislation. Nothing in June, nothing in July, nothing in August, nothing in September, things getting worse and worse and worse. And as people struggled and suffered, what did they focus on? If this wasn't so serious, you'd think I'm making it up. What they focused on is more tax cuts for the wealthy, not a joke. They're proposal adds another \$30 billion tax cut for millionaires and billionaires. Cuts in funding. Cutting the means by which we fund the Social Security system, leading the actuary of Social Security to say if they do it, by 2023, mid-2023, there'll be no money for Social Security.

Joe Biden: And a relentless effort to eliminate, as Alejandro said, the Affordable Care Act, which provides healthcare coverage for 22 million people, over 100 million with pre-existing conditions. This is going on at the same time he's already cost 10 million people their health insurance because their companies have gone bankrupt. It's unconscionable. Instead of focusing on our needs, your needs, he's trying to take your healthcare away. He's literally before the Supreme Court as I speak to strike down the entire Affordable Care Act, take away that healthcare for 20 million Americans. That's 282,000 Nevadans. Take away federal protections for preexisting conditions, 1.2 million Nevadans. And complications from COVID like lung scarring and heart damage could well become the next pre-existing condition. Striking down the Affordable Care Act would toss out the rule that allows our children to be covered on their parents' insurance policy until age 26. Take us backward when insurance companies could change a woman more for healthcare than a man for the same procedure, just because she's a woman. Take away Medicare benefits for seniors. Increase their drug prescription costs.

Joe Biden: And just as he vowed to "terminate" as I said earlier the funding for Social Security. The idea that in just a few years could put at risk 410,000 Nevadans that rely on a dignified retirement because of Social Security. And during all this, not once did President Trump call a high-level meeting of Democrats and Republicans to the White House to resolve these issues. I've served with a lot of presidents, never, no matter how good or bad you thought they were did they fail to try to bring parties together in the White House to reach a settlement. You know why? He spent so much time hiding in the bunker in the White House or on the bunker of his golf course, playing hundreds of rounds of golf.

Joe Biden: And then this Tuesday, what'd he do? He said, "End the discussions." He wasn't even starting them. No more negotiations. No more negotiations. And now today he says, "Well, I'm back." One thing for sure, Donald Trump shows no urgency to deliver hardworking Americans, like the family I grew up in. Like all of you. What they need now

desperately. For exactly two months since the emergency small business program that your congresspeople voted, for has closed down two months of small business owners in Nevada and across the country, waiting, hoping, for just a little extra help to be able to stay open. Now we have more than 400,000 small businesses have been permanently closed.

Joe Biden: By the way, the largest employers in America are small businesses. Millions more are struggling to hang on. How many more will go under? How many more dreams will be extinguished because of the selfishness of this President and the Republican leaders in Congress? Make no mistake, if you're out of work, if your business is closed, if your child's school was shut down, if you're facing eviction, as millions are, over 20 million Americans worry about whether they're going to be able to pay their mortgage next month. None of that seems to matter to Donald Trump. You're a firefighter, police officer, who depends on state and local budgets. He's turned his back on you as well, because they've got to balance their budgets. They're being laid off all over America.

Joe Biden: When Barack and I were elected, we inherited the worst recession short of the Great Depression in history. He put me in charge of what's called the Recovery Act. \$800 billion. We passed and needed to get out into the economy within 18 months to prevent a depression. We did it with less than two tenths percent of waste or fraud. And I was able to see to it that the states in order to keep moving, keep teachers, firefighters, first responders, all employed. I was able to get \$140 billion in aid out to the states. Right here in Clark County, I was able to bring to \$1.2 billion to keep your economy going. We have that ability now.

Joe Biden: The House has already passed a similar piece of legislation. And we started the longest sustained recovery in American history. But you know what Mitch McConnell said about help with the states. I'm not making this up. He said, "Let them go bankrupt. Let them go bankrupt." What in the hell is he talking about? Folks, we're so much better than this. We can turn this crisis into progress. We contain this virus and fully reopen our economy. We make up 4% of the world's population and we have 20% of the world's deaths. If we just follow the science, expand testing and tracing, social distance, washing our hands, implementing nationwide mask mandates. Don't politicize the race for a vaccine, Mr. President. Just have a plan for safe and equitable distribution.

Joe Biden: On the economy, bring the Congress back together to pass real relief to help people who've lost their unemployment checks as well. And then implement a comprehensive agenda that I've laid out to make bold investments so we can build back better. He keeps talking about the Republicans. Some Republicans, a lot of them are acknowledging and supporting me, but a lot of them also are talking about, "Well, Biden's going to spend all this money." Well, guess what? The independent analysis put out by Moody's, a Wall Street firm did a detailed analysis of my recovery plan and the President's. And here's what they said, it's off of Wall Street, that my plan will create 18.6

million jobs in four years. 7 million more jobs than the President's plan. And \$1 trillion more in economic growth than the President's plan.

Joe Biden: Democrats know how to get things done. Here's how my plan works. It's not going to raise a penny in tax for anyone making less than \$400,000 a year. Not a penny. And how am I going to pay for all this? I'm going to ask the big corporations and the wealthy to start paying their fair share. You realize that the Fortune 500 companies, 92 of them making billions of dollars, don't pay a single penny in taxes. It's wrong. Donald Trump paying \$720 in taxes? Come on. The money we raise by eliminating the \$1.3 trillion of his \$2 trillion tax cut that affects the super wealthy and corporations, we're going to invest in working people. We're going to grow the middle class to make sure everyone's included on the deal.

Joe Biden: The kinds of investment that will stimulate the economy, including industries like tourism and hospitality. To get back to full employment fast and help build back better than before. It means the analysis shows creating millions of good paying union jobs. Manufacturing and technology. Making sure our future is made in America. We and the President in the White House gives out \$600 billion in contracts per year. Well guess what? While I'm President, it's going to go to no outfit that doesn't make it in America, the whole thing, and sell it in America. I mean it.

Joe Biden: And infrastructure. Building roads, bridges, highways, ports, airports, and clean energy. Upgrading four million buildings and weatherizing, two million homes, creating at least a million good paying jobs in the process. Making the climate safer, saving hundreds of millions of barrels of oil. We'll deal with climate change by creating millions of union jobs that build a climate resilience of our cities and our towns fighting back stronger, more frequent wildfires. Beating heat waves, droughts, hurricanes, and floods. By the way, did you hear what the President said about hurricanes this summer? He was told about how they're coming across the warm water in the Atlantic and the closer they get to the shore, the worse they get. You know what he said, Alejandro? He said, "Maybe we should drop an atomic weapon on them and blow them up." As we say in my religion, "Bless me father for I have sinned." What's going on here?

Joe Biden: Under my plan, small business come out the other side of this crisis with access to capital and the ability to deal with their debts. We're going to get \$50 billion in new capital, especially for minority owned businesses and small businesses. We're going to make another hundred billion dollars in low-interest loans available to these businesses, creating jobs, increasing economic growth and increasing incomes. A \$15 minimum wage. I'm dreaming here. But a \$15 minimum wage for our essential workers. We're not just going to praise you, we're going to pay you with a good wage. Ensure you have strong benefits. We'll ease the burden of the major cost in your life. We'll build the Affordable Care Act, writing new health insurance options, not for-profit public options, which give private insurers a real competitor. We're going to increase subsidies for premiums and lower your costs. Increase plans that will lower deductibles and lower out of pocket

expenses. And we're going to take on the pharmaceutical industry with a plan that will slash costs of prescription drugs by 50%.

Joe Biden: The reason I'm not going to more detail, you've been out here a long time, let's give me one example. If in fact Medicare is able to negotiate for all the drugs they buy and say you're not going to be able to sell them to them unless you pay the price we're suggesting, that would drop by 60% the cost the cost of drugs.

Joe Biden: We'll also make high quality childcare available and accessible. We'll work with the states to ensure that every three, four-year-old will get access to free, high quality preschool. Not, not, not daycare. We're going to make sure low- and middle-income families never have to spend more than 7% of their income to care for young children. Because if we truly want to reward work in this country, we have to ease the financial burdens that created the care for families that are caring for raising a child and an aging loved one. Look at the professional caregivers out there, home health care workers, childcare workers, who are more often women. Women of color immigrants are too often underpaid, under seen and undervalued. That's why my Build Back Better plan will elevate the compensation, benefits and dignity of caregiving workers and early childhood educators. We're also going to triple the funding for Title I schools like the one behind me here, which served high number of children from low-income families.

Joe Biden: We're going to make four years of public college and universities tuition free for any family that makes less than \$125,000 a year. We're going to make community college and job training programs free for all hardworking Americans that qualify. And if you're buying your first home, we're going to provide a \$15,000 tax credit to help you get there. We're going to protect Social Security. Increase benefits for millions of seniors. Look, I'm not going to lay it out, but go to joebiden.com. Go to Moody's, look it up. We pay for all this and we grow the economy at the same time.

Joe Biden: The fact is, President of the United States can only see the world from Park Avenue. He thinks Wall Street built this country and CEOs. I see the world from where I grew up in Scranton, Pennsylvania and Claymont. Communities like some that you live in. I know the middle-class working people built this country. The measure of economic success has been what our families are talking about around the kitchen table. Are you able to look your kid in the eye and say, "Honey, it's going to be okay?"

Joe Biden: How many times do you know somebody... This morning I had to say, look, I know those tires are bald, but you got to ride on them for another 20,000 miles. We just don't have the money. We just can't do it now." Who's going to tell her she can't go back to school because we can't continue to borrow the money to keep her in that community college? There was a discussion that took place around my table and I'm sure yours as well. But if we're going to get anything done, we got to come together.

Joe Biden: I made a speech I worked really, really hard on and thought really hard about before I made it in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, on the battlefield last week. I said at that time that we're facing a crisis, not unlike we did after Gettysburg. I said there that I'm running as a proud Democrat, but I'm going to govern as an American president. The work is hard for those who don't support me as those who do, because after all this country has been through, after all that America has accomplished, after all the years, we stood as a beacon of light to the world we cannot be that here and now, in 2020, we allow the government, the government of the people, by the people, and for the people, to perish from this earth.

Joe Biden: Folks, we have it our hands. And I made this in the bottom of heart, we have in our hands the ultimate power. And what's the ultimate power in a democracy? The power to vote. Here in Nevada, the best thing you can do is vote early and return your ballot quickly. Ballots here in Clark County were mailed two days ago, on Wednesday. You can return your ballot by mail. You can drop it off at a drop box or vote in person during the early vote or on election day. But just make a plan. Seriously, go to iwillvote.com/nv. Make a plan. Don't risk any delays, return that mail and ballot as soon as you can. Make sure your voice is heard.

Joe Biden: We can be better than what we've seen. We can be what we are at our best, the United States of America. I'm confident we can bring Democrats and Republicans together again with him gone. Folks, conclude by saying there has never, ever, ever been anything the United States has been unable to accomplish when we've done it together. Never, never, never. So folks let's stand up and vote and take back this country now. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you. Appreciate it.

Joe Biden Erie, Pennsylvania Speech Transcript

October 10

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Joe Biden delivered a 2020 campaign speech on October 10 in Erie, PA. Read the full speech transcript [here](#).

Joe Biden: Hello, hello, hello, hello. Thank you, thank you, thank you. It's good to be back in Erie. I want to say hello to all of Erie. But mainly Mr. Mayor, City Council President Horton, and all local elected leaders who are joining us here today. And to your next Senator, Julie. We need to turn out and support for Democrats down the line here in Pennsylvania and win back that Pennsylvania state Senate. Folks, look. I want to thank you President McManus for coming out, you've been a good friend a long time. And for everyone at the UA for hosting this incredible training facility. I'm so grateful to have earned UA's endorsement. You have over 355 proud plumbers, pipe fitters, and more behind me than I can possibly thank you for.

Joe Biden: Also, want to thank Rick for sharing his story with us today. And for being part of a conversation this year where he shared a story with America. And Rick, Delaware is thought of as being a great corporate entity, and chemical facilities, and all those things. But we have a \$4 billion, as you probably well know, agricultural industry in the Delmarva Peninsula. It's a big deal and a lot of farmers are being hurt really badly, really badly. Farmers all across the country have been gutted by the president's broken promises and reckless trade war. But our farmers, just like our union members and anyone who actually does an honest day's work, see him and his promises for what they are. Rick, I want to thank you. And I think you put it best in the op-ed you wrote last year. You said, "It's a bunch of hot air and cold wind."

Joe Biden: Folks, this is it. Election's here. The choice couldn't be more stark. The stakes couldn't be higher. So many Pennsylvanians are facing hard times right now. After my debate in Cleveland last week I took a train. That's what I've ridden a lot, an Amtrak train. From northeastern Ohio into Pittsburgh and Greensburg, Latrobe, Johnstown. And I heard the same stories everywhere, I've been hearing all around the country. You're trying your best but it never feels like enough. You're not looking for a handout. You're just looking for a fair shot. That's how my dad felt when we had to leave Scranton after it was no work, when coal died. He was in sales, he wasn't a guy who was in the coal mines. Although my great-grandfather was, they tell me, the first Irish Catholic State Senator ever elected in

the state of Pennsylvania, and he was a mining engineer. But I remember him saying he made that walk, which a lot of you know here in Erie.

Joe Biden: I call it the longest walk any parent has to make up a short flight of stairs to tell his kids we can't play in that ball camp, can't play in Green Ridge Little League anymore. You can't go to St. Paul's, you got to leave. Dad doesn't have a job. I'm going to have to leave. I remember him taking us home, my mom and three children at the time, home to my grandpop's. And I don't know how much pride it must've cost him to ask my grandfather, "Will you take care of Jean and the kids? I'll be back." And he started commuting every weekend 157 miles down to Delaware where he had grown up. We ended up in a steel town called Claymont, Delaware. Then we went to Wilmington. My dad got a sales job and he worked hard. Took about four years to build a decent middle class life and be able to buy a home.

Joe Biden: But it wasn't easy for him, but he had an expression. He said, "Joey, I don't expect the government to solve my problems, but I at least expected them to understand my problems." America deserves a president who understands what people are going through. You're facing real challenges right now. And the last thing you need is a president who exacerbates them. More than 210,000 are dead, as was pointed out. We lose anywhere from 700 to a thousand people a day, dead. The president was told a little while ago... When he was told a 100,000 people a day were dying, you know what he said? He says, "It is what it is." Well, it is what it is because he is who he is. More than 7.5 million Americans have been infected, and counting. 175,000 cases right here in Pennsylvania. My heart goes out to all those families who, like any of us have lost a child's spirit, look at that empty chair at the dining room table tonight where somebody you love used to sit.

Joe Biden: My heart goes out to everyone struggling in this economic crisis. Simple neglect on the part of this administration. There're 11 million jobs lost since the beginning of this crisis and still have not come back. Temporary layoffs have turned into permanent layoffs. We're still down 674,000 manufacturing jobs nationwide since the crisis started, and more than 40,000 manufacturing jobs here in Pennsylvania. The Trump presidency will be the first presidency since Hoover that is going to end up leaving office with fewer jobs than when he came into office. Since Hoover. But President Trump has laid... He talks about this V recovery. We went down real quick, we're coming up quick. Well, that's what you call a K-shape recovery. Those folks on the top of the K are doing very, very well. Recession at the top, those folks, everything's going up for them. But everybody in the middle and below is going down, seeing things get worse.

Joe Biden: It means essential workers who sacrificed to keep us going through this pandemic are being left behind by the most unequal recovery in American history. And it means while the top... This is a fact, which is startling to me when I found it out. The top 100 billionaires, in the middle of this pandemic they made \$300 billion additional dollars. Hear me now? 100 individuals made \$300 billion this year. And what'd the bottom half get? They got the K, they got the slide down. Because the fact is, the President can only see the world from Park Avenue. I see it from Scranton. I see it from Claymont, for real.

You all know what I'm talking about. You all see it from Erie. That's why my program to build back better is focused on working people.

Joe Biden: Think about it. Think about all the people you know who got up this morning and had the following conversation. "Honey, I know we need four new tires, they're bald. But we can't do it now, we got to wait. You got to wait." Or "I know we just lost our insurance, but we're going to be okay. We're going to hang in there." Or having to make a choice, literally a choice, between getting the prescription or putting food on the table. If I said to that 10 years ago you'd look at me like I was writing a fiction story, but that's the truth. Those are decisions people are making today, right now.

Joe Biden: Independent analysis put out by a highly respected Wall Street firm of all things, Moody's from Wall Street firm, projects that my build back better plan's going to create 18.6 million jobs in four years. That's harder now. That's not a liberal think tank, that's Moody's. And it's going to create seven million more jobs than the president's economic plan. And a trillion dollars more in economic growth than the president's plan. And here's how it works, I'm going to raise taxes. I'm not going to raise taxes on anybody making less than \$400K, but you won't pay a penny more. But those making more than that, I'm going to ask them to finally begin to pay the fair share. I'm going to ask the big corporations and the wealthy to begin to pay. 91 of the fortune 500 companies today pay zero tax. You hear me? Zero tax. How many of you pay zero tax? And billionaires are paying at a tax rate... Because it's all investment money, they're paying a lower tax rate than you pay if you have a job as a plumber.

Joe Biden: How can that be? So I'm going to raise. The money I'm going to raise, we're going to allow us to invest in working people and grow the middle-class back, and make sure everyone comes along this time. My plan is about making the kinds of investments that are going to stimulate economic growth. To get it back to full employment fast and help us build back better than before. We're going to create millions of good paying union jobs. I had the honor of being the guy in charge of the Recovery Act when the Great Recession occurred. The president turned to me, he used to love doing it at State of the Union messages. He'd never tell me what he was going to do. And he turns, says "And Joe, sheriff Joe's going to take care of that \$800 billion."

Joe Biden: Well, we got it done less than two tenths of 1% waste or fraud. And we built back the longest expansion in American history. Manufacturing and technology, making sure we're going to make the future made in America. And infrastructure, building: airports, schools, affordable housing, upgrading the water and pipes. Making sure it's sustainable and resilient, built, laid down by union plumbers and pipe fitters here in Pennsylvania and across the country. And clean energy, we're going to upgrade four million buildings with weatherization of two million homes. And it's estimated that'll create one million good paying jobs, union jobs. Union jobs to be filled by men and women like in this local here. Look folks, we're in a situation now where if you take a look at this build back better... I'm going to take a second. But I hope I don't take too many seconds before it rains here.

Joe Biden: Number one, we were talking about it, Mr. President, a little while ago. He promised an infrastructure plan in 2016, '17, '18, '19. He didn't do a damn thing. Not one single bit. He promised to relieve main street slammed by the recession. But guess where that money went, that the Congress passed? It went into the Mar-a-Lago crowd, the wealthy. See, I'm not joking. It didn't go to small businesses. It didn't go to the people that needed it. My plan to revitalize American manufacturing infrastructure says we're going to use by American. We're supposed to be only buying American now.

Joe Biden: Well, I'm going to invest \$2 trillion in infrastructure and clean energy. We're going to raise over \$3.7 trillion by eliminating that tax cut for the super wealthy. And folks, we're going to: fix water pipes, pipelines, replace lead pipes, upgrade treatment plants. We're going to construct 1.5 million new affordable housing units. We're going to build a \$100 billion dollars rebuilding our schools. We're going to retrofit, which we started in our administration, 4 million buildings; including advanced heating and cooling system. There's going to be such a race to job creation for unions that you're not going to believe it, and I really mean this. And by the way, when I did the Recovery Act, which is \$800 billion, not one... We had the largest infrastructure project short of Eisenhower's Interstate Highway Program; since that.

Joe Biden: Not one single solitary dollar went to anything other than a prevailing wage. Had to be a prevailing wage. Look, I'm also going to make sure that corporate America being so kind, wanting to take over registered apprenticeships... You know what that's all about? You guys spend a quarter billion dollars a year making sure that you have apprenticeships that are the best trained people in the world. Well folks, I'm also going to pass the PRO Act. They're spending over \$2 billion a year trying to keep you from being able to organize around the country. That's a promise. And also strengthen labor standards, especially OSHA rules. There's a lot we can do, but it's not enough to praise workers. We got to make sure they get benefited.

Joe Biden: Folks, look, my dad had another expression. After he lost his job, we moved to Delaware. He'd say, "Joey, a job's about a lot more than a paycheck. It's about your dignity. It's about respect. It's about your place in the community. It's about being able to look your kid in the eye and say, 'Honey, it's going to be okay.'" The fact is that every time the word climate change comes up Donald Trump thinks hoax. Every time it comes up, I think jobs. Let me be clear, no matter how many lies he tells, I am not, not, not banning fracking; period. We'll also increase incomes. We're going to see the burden and the cost with an increased 50, we're going to make sure. Not prevailing wage. We can't mandate that, you guys. By the way, I said inside, the other expression my dad had was, "There's only one way to deal with the abuse of power." Which corporate America is exercising now. "It's with power." And the only power we have is union power. You're the guys that keep the ball bearings on the other side of the gate from taking everything, and that's a fact.

Joe Biden: So look, I'll try to move along quickly here. The fact is that we not ease the burden on the major costs in your life. What's the average middle-class person fear most? They're trying to tear down the Affordable Care Act. We're going to build on it, adding a new health insurance option. A not-for-profit public option, which is going to give private insurers real competition. We're going to increase the subsidies so premiums are lower and we can afford plans with lower deductibles and lower out-of-pocket expenses. Because we're going to be able to do that with the money we take back from the super wealthy. We're going to take on the pharmaceutical companies with a plan that slashes the cost of prescription drugs by 60%.

Joe Biden: Look folks, we're going to work with states to ensure that every three, four, and five year old has access to free high quality preschool, not daycare. You send them to preschool, there's evidence of 58% of them will go all the way through. No matter what their background. No matter what poor school, poor neighbor they come from. You start them at age three, they have a 58% better chance of graduating all the way through high school and beyond. We're going to make sure the low and middle income families will never have to spend more than 7% of their income caring for their young. What's the comp... Talk to the women around here. I was a single dad for five years. I couldn't afford help. I thank God I had my mom, and my sister, and my brother to help me with my kids when my wife and daughter were killed.

Joe Biden: We're going to make four year public college and universities tuition free for families making less than \$125,000 a year. And when Erie gets his first new community college to open in Pennsylvania in 27 years, we're going to make sure that it's free for anyone who qualifies to get in. That's a fact. And by the way, that costs a lot of money. That costs \$6 billion a year. That's about as much as we give a tax deduction for race horses. I mean this, we got to have priorities.

Joe Biden: If you're buying your first home? Look at all people who've gotten out of school since the 9/11 generation. Where they got out of high school without a graduation. Where they got out of college, no graduations. Where they thought they had these good jobs waiting for them, but they all got shut down in the Great Recession. And now, what are they doing? They're unable to make that first home down payment. They're out there busting their neck. And a lot of them are college graduates, some of them are beyond that. Some of have their graduate degrees and no jobs, or no access. Well, I'm going to make sure you get a tax credit for up to \$15,000 for your first time home buyer; period. That's going to provide you a down payment. We're going to protect social security, increase benefits for millions of seniors. So he can retire with dignity in some respect.

Joe Biden: Folks look, but if we're going to get anything done, we've got to come together. We're going to have to vote like we've never voted before. Early voting is open here in Pennsylvania. So go vote if you can. And go to IWillVote.com/pa to find out when and where you can vote early. And if you requested a mail in ballot, return it as soon as possible. Make sure you seal it first in the secrecy envelope, and then sign the declaration

on the outside of the envelope before you return it. As I said early this week on the sacred grounds of Gettysburg battlefield, I'm running as a proud Democrat, but I'm going to govern as an American president. I'm going to work as hard for those who don't support me as those who do.

Joe Biden: And I'm so proud in this campaign to have earned the support of so many proud and patriotic Republicans, including Pennsylvania's former governor and secretary of Homeland Security, Tom Ridge. I want to thank him publicly for his endorsement. We may not in everything. We agree on this. This is a moment to put country above party. Because after all this country's been through, after all that America has accomplished, after all the years we've stood as a beacon for the rest of the world. It cannot be that here in the year 2020 we'll allow the government of the people, by the people, and for the people, to perish on this earth; as Lincoln said. We can do better. We can do better than what we've seen. We can be what we are at our best, the United States of America.

Joe Biden: All this division being pushed by this president, all this stuff about encouraging... Here in the debate we had I ask him to condemn the Proud Boys. He said, "Stand back and stand down, but stand ready." What's going on here? This is not who we are. This is not who we are as a country, for real. We can argue like hell, but end of the day we come together. I am more optimistic about America's chances today than I ever been. Why? Because I think the blinders have been taken off, people have realized what's really at stake here. I think we can pull this together. I'm optimistic. I really genuinely am.

Joe Biden: But here's the deal guys, we got to go out and make sure you vote. Because, the only way we lose this is by the chicanery going on relative to polling places. This whole idea... Not a single solitary reasonable person in either party has said mail-in ballots are corrupt. No evidence, but he's trying to make it sound that way. Trying to put people in polling places. The same guys you saw standing blocking people's way in Virginia with banners and rifles slung across their shoulders. Folks, it's not who we are. We're so much better than this. So I say to you all, God bless you all. Let's go out and vote. And may God protect our troops. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you. Appreciate it. Thank you. Where am I going? Am I going this way? Thanks everybody. See you pal, thanks a million. Thank you!

Joe Biden Campaign Speech Toledo, Ohio Transcript

October 12

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Joe Biden held a campaign event in Toledo, Ohio on October 12. Read the transcript of his speech [here](#).

Joe Biden: Well, I'll tell you what. My dad was an automobile man. I got through school, and we got through being able to eat after he lost his job up in Scranton, Pennsylvania. He had to move down to Delaware, because selling General Motors products. So I've known, and my state used to have the largest percentage of auto workers of any state in the nation, because we had a small population and the largest General Motors and largest Chrysler plant outside of Michigan and Ohio. I saw what happened when we got hit very hard. We've lost both those plants.

Joe Biden: Well, let me start off by saying, Mr. Mayor, thanks for the passport into your city, and Marcy, you've been a friend a long time. Thank you for your introduction. There's no more fierce defender. There's no more fierce defender, the people she grew up with, than Marcy. She has never, ever, ever forgotten where she came from. She's tough. She's a straight shooter. She's influential in Congress. She's honest, and she sees you. You're always in her view.

Joe Biden: Tony, Mr. President, I know you're new, and he says, "Piece of cake." So I don't have to worry if I get elected the first 100 days. But all kidding aside, Tony, thank you for hosting us, and thank you, Local 14. [inaudible 00:26:09], thanks for that introduction. All you did for Barack and me when we were running, when we got elected, jumping in and being part of helping us govern, you remind me of something my dad said. He said, "Joey, a job's about a lot more than a paycheck. It's about your dignity. It's about your place in the community. It's about respect. It's about being able to say to your kid, look them in the eye and say, 'Everything's going to be okay' and mean it. That's what a job's about, a decent paying job like the UAW provides."

Joe Biden: This lesson I grew up with, surrounded by hard work and families in Scranton and then in Claymont, Delaware, where we had to move when Dad lost work. There was no work in Scranton, just like here in Toledo, but the times are hard. Unemployment is way up due to the pandemic and the terrible way in which it's been handled. The economic outlook remains uncertain. Across Ohio and the country, folks are worried about making their next mortgage payment or their rent payment, whether or not they can purchase their prescription drugs or be able to put food on the table, literally worried about whether their kids' schools open and be

able to stay open and, if they're not open, how they can go to work, if they have a job, and still take care of their kids.

Joe Biden: They see the people at the very top doing better than they ever have while they're left to wonder, "Who's looking out for me?" That's Donald Trump's presidency, 215,000 dead because of COVID. Experts say we're likely to lose another 200,000 people in the next few months unless we take some serious action. He doesn't know what he's doing, all because this president's only worried about one thing: the stock market. They refuse to follow the science. It's estimated that if we just wore these masks nationally, we'd save over 100,000 lives between now and the end of the year.

Joe Biden: This president knew back in January. He was briefed in detail by the intelligence community how extremely dangerous this COVID virus was, how communicable the disease was. He went on a taped interview with Bob Woodward, a leading journalist. It's on tape. It's been played, telling Woodward that he knew how dangerous the disease was, but did nothing. Ask yourself, "Why didn't he tell us? Why didn't he warn us?" He said nothing. He told Woodward he didn't want it panic the American people. That's why he said nothing.

Joe Biden: We don't panic. America doesn't panic. But Trump panicked. His reckless personal conduct since his diagnosis has been unconscionable. The longer Donald Trump is President, the more reckless he seems to get. Dr. Fauci, the most respected doc on this issue in the world, in the country, he told the president ... You know the president's announcement of his pick for the Supreme Court in the Rose Garden? He's referred to that as a super spreader. All those people got the disease.

Joe Biden: How's he responding? Well, guess what? He's now running an ad you probably saw, a national ad quoting Dr. Fauci out of context. Way back in March, referring to public health officials, Dr. Fauci said, "I can't imagine that anybody could be doing more," end of quote. In the recent ad that's going out nationally, Trump quotes Dr. Fauci is saying that about him, the president. Trump and his campaign deliberately lied, making it sound like Fauci was talking about Trump. Fauci went on to the public air when the ad came out saying, three days ago, "I did not get permission for that quote." He wasn't referring to the president.

Joe Biden: Even after that, Fauci said he didn't say that. The president and the campaign, even after Fauci laid this out, the campaign said, "We're still going to use it, because he did say it, even though it wasn't about him." The point I'm trying to make is it was a knowing lie, like we're being told about everything about this COVID consequences. As a consequence, through his months of overwhelming lying, misleading and irresponsible action on the part of Donald Trump, how many empty chairs were around your breakfast table this morning? Someone you love, somebody you cared about, someone you knew, a family member or a neighbor, missing, missing. Why? Because of negligence.

Joe Biden: Look, I view this campaign, as I've said before and I'll say it again, between Scranton and Park Avenue, between Toledo and Park Avenue. All Trump can see from Park

Avenue is Wall Street. That's why his only metric for American prosperity that he values is the Dow Jones and the index. Like a lot of you, I spent a lot of my time with guys like Trump looking down on me, the Irish Catholic kid in the neighborhood, guys who thought they were better than me because they had a lot of money, guys who inherited everything they ever got and still managed to squander it.

Joe Biden: I have to admit I shouldn't have done it, but I've on record saying, and so I'll repeat it, I still have a little bit of a chip on my shoulder about guys like him. I read some stories after I got the nomination that quote, "If Biden gets elected, he'll be the first non-Ivy League school graduate to get elected in" ... [inaudible 00:07:42] it was 80 or 90 years. Guys, have a seat, man. You know what? Like some state school guy who went to the University of Delaware, I was proud of it. Hard to get there, hard to get through in terms of money. But folks, since when can someone who went to a state university not be qualified to be President?

Joe Biden: Folks, I know what it takes to be President. I sat next to a man for eight years, watching and participating. My mom taught me what you're probably taught by your parents, too. She said, "Joey, nobody is better than you, but everybody's your equal."

Joe Biden: I don't measure people based on the size of their bank account. I don't respect people based on whether they own a mansion. I don't judge them based on whether they belong to a country club. You and I measure people by the strength of their character, their honesty, their courage, their courage. My mom used to say, "The greatest gift of all, the greatest virtue is courage. You're redeemed by your courage." That's what she'd say, and redeemed by your loyalty, honesty, loyalty, things that are bigger than yourself or the neighborhoods we were raised in.

Joe Biden: It's all about family, decency, honor, opportunity. These are the values I learned growing up in Scranton, my guess is you learn growing up in Toledo, wherever you grew up. The people I grew up with in Scranton didn't have any money in stocks. In our house, growing up, every penny my dad made went to paying the bills, keeping the lights on and food on the table. Every penny our friends in Scranton made went to paying the bills and taking care of their families as well. We looked out for our neighbors.

Joe Biden: That's why I have a different measure by which I judge the health of America's economy. I see hardworking women and men who are just trying to earn an honest living and take care of their families, just want an even shot. They're not asking for anything. They're just asking for a fair shot, and given a shot, the American people will never, ever, ever, ever let their country down, never.

Joe Biden: The other expression my dad would have, he'd say, "When you see the abuse of power, there's only one way to respond to it, and that's with power." The only power we have to take on corporate America is union power. That's the only power. I just think back to 2008, when Barack and I were elected and we inherited the worst recession short of a depression in history. The president put me in charge of the Recovery Act, \$800 billion. It was needed to

save our economy from going into depression. We did it with less than two-tenths of 1% waste or fraud. We were able to see to it that Ohio and other states received substantial assistance to address their economic pain and recover and rebuild, to make sure we kept teachers, firefighters, and cops, public nurses on the job. People are being laid off now because you don't have the local money to do it.

Joe Biden: So they didn't have to be fired because of lack of money. That was the federal government stepped up, and it started the longest sustained economic recovery in American history that this guy inherited and then squandered again. But you know what Mitch McConnell said recently about helping the states and cities. He said, quote, "Let them go bankrupt." Well, I heard that before. You heard it, too. Republicans said the same thing about the automobile industry.

Joe Biden: Like I said, I come from an automobile state, an automobile man. The auto industry that supported one in eight Ohioans was on the brink. It was more than ten years ago, but you remember like it was yesterday. It was on the brink. But Barack and I bet on you and the American worker, and it paid off. I argued the American worker was the finest auto worker in the world. Management screwed it up. You didn't. You didn't make the mistake. By the way, it all got paid back. But guess who made the greatest sacrifices? Auto workers. You made the sacrifices to get it back.

Joe Biden: So it's over the many objections of many that we stepped in and rescued the automobile industry, General Motors and Chrysler, saving one million jobs. Then what happened when Donald Trump came to office? Remember what Trump said in 2017 in Lordstown? He said, "Don't move," quote, "Don't move. Don't sell your house." But Lordstown shut down on Trump's watch.

Joe Biden: After a decade in Cleveland, after the debate in Cleveland, I met with an elementary school teacher in Lordstown. Her husband was there as well, one of the workers who lost his job in Lordstown. He had to accept a transfer to a plant in Kentucky, eight hours away, one way, to maintain his healthcare and his pension. He drives 16 hours a weekend to see her and their two kids.

Joe Biden: But Donald Trump's betrayal doesn't stop there. He betrayed union workers at Goodyear when he called for a boycott of buying Goodyear tires because of a personal grudge. He passed a tax bill for the super wealthy corporations that actually provided incentives for companies to move jobs overseas.

Joe Biden: Folks, manufacturing is the backbone of America. But we're in a manufacturing recession because of Donald Trump even before the COVID virus hit. We're down 647,000 manufacturing jobs nationwide since the crisis started, and our balance of payments, meaning we're sending more overseas than coming to us. I mean, we're buying more overseas than we're selling, is higher than it's been a long time. There's still 10,900 lost auto worker manufacturing jobs in Ohio that did not come back. The Trump presidency will be the first

presidency since Herbert Hoover over 90 years ago, first president of modern history to leave office with fewer jobs than he had when he came to office.

Joe Biden: Donald Trump's only plan is more tax cuts for the wealthy. Most of you, if you still have a job, paid more than he paid last year in taxes. \$750? Come on. The system's rigged. We've got to change it. \$30 billion, a new proposal, just for the gains of the 100 richest billionaires in America, 30 billion. Hear me? They made \$30 billion alone in this year, while the rest of the people were getting killed.

Joe Biden: In the middle of this pandemic, why do Republicans have time to hold a hearing on the Supreme Court instead of providing the significant economic need for localities? I'll tell you why. It's about finally getting his wish to wipe out the Affordable Healthcare Act, because their nominee has said in the past that the law should be struck down. His relentless effort to eliminate the Affordable Care Act that provided healthcare coverage for 20 million people who didn't have it, protections for well over 100 million people with pre-existing conditions. We've seen his pledge, quote, "to terminate the tax dedicated to financing Social Security."

Joe Biden: Marcy and I were talking about that. You know what the actuary at the Social Security Department said? If it goes through, this tax, he's talking about, cut on Social Security, it will actually bankrupt, bankrupt Social Security by the middle of 2023. Go home and tell your parents that.

Joe Biden: Not once has President Trump called for a high-level meeting between Democrats and Republicans in the White House. This is going on now. The House already passed back in the beginning of the summer this [inaudible 00:16:29] to be able to reconcile people in real trouble, get help to states like we did. He had once called a meeting between Democrats and Republicans to deliver the new COVID relief package for working families and small businesses that are going bankrupt. He spent too much time and the bunker of his golf course or in the bunker of the White House than he was willing to actually sit to try to work something out.

Joe Biden: Check it out. First president I can ever remember, in the middle of a national economic crisis, did not try to call the parties together. He turned his back on you. I promise you I will never do that.

Joe Biden: Folks, that's why my Build Back Better plan is built around a simple concept. It's time to reward work, not wealth, work. I mean it. An independent analysis by a big Wall Street firm called Moody's, not a Democratic think tank, they did an analysis of my economic plan to revive this country and an analysis of his. Here's what they concluded: that my plan will create 18.6 million jobs in the next four years, 7 million, more than the president's economic plan. It would generate economic growth, an additional trillion dollars more than the president's plan. Look, what these guys don't get is when you do well, when my family does well, everybody does better. Everybody does better. That's the God's truth.

Joe Biden: Here's how my plan works. I'm not going to raise taxes on anyone who makes less than \$400,000 a year. If you make more than 400, beep your horn, because you're going to get a tax raise. Well, I'm going to raise your tax slightly if you're making over 400. But look, you're not going to pay a penny more. In fact, tens of millions of middle class families are going to get a tax cut when they need it most for raising their kids, trying to get affordable healthcare, buying their first home, or saving for retirement.

Joe Biden: But I'm going to ask big corporations and the super wealthy just to begin to start to pay their fair share. I'm going to raise back tax cut he gave for corporate America. They were paying the mid thirties. They're now paying 21. If we just raise the tax back to what it should be, 28%, that generates over \$100 billion. Hear me? That's money. I mean, excuse me, \$1.3 trillion. That's what it raises to help hardworking folks, to allow us to invest in work and people and grow the middle class and make sure everybody comes along this time. My plan will create a million good-paying union jobs, manufacturing and building products and technology that we need now and in the future. We're not investing in research.

Joe Biden: It starts with a pretty basic idea. The federal government every year spent \$600 billion just making sure that we have ships and planes, cars, trains, all the things the government lets contracts for. Well, I promise you this. Every single product, every single contract let will be only let to a company or a firm that makes it in America from beginning to end. Not a joke. It's going to be used to buy American products, support American jobs. We'll invest to build more resilient infrastructure, roads, bridges, ports, 1.5 million new affordable housing units, high-speed broadband in every American household, more important than ever. We're going to rebuild crumbling schools, retrofit four million buildings, and weatherize two million homes, creating one million new jobs, the reason why everyone from the electrical works and every other major union is strongly supporting us. It's all going to be done by certified union labor. Promise.

Joe Biden: You may remember when the president put me in charge of that \$800 billion, not one single contract went out that wasn't prevailing wage, not one. So we're going to end Trump's new incentive for sending jobs abroad. That's what he's done. More jobs are going abroad now. Any company that offshores a job is going to pay a 10% penalty. Any company that brings back a job, reopens a closed factory, like a manufacturing plant, they'll get a 10% credit for their investment. We're going to make trade strategy that fights for every American worker and every American job and actually get results, not Trump's chaotic trade war, erratic tweets, and bluster that's only stiffed American workers and consumers, including farmers. He's let you down. He's let us down.

Joe Biden: I promise you I will stand up to China's trade abuses, and I will invest in the American worker, because I know no one, nobody can outcompete an American worker when they've gotten a fair shot, nobody in the world.

Joe Biden: One more thing: The United States government owns and maintains an enormous fleet of vehicles. We're going to convert many of them to electric vehicles, and you're going

to still need to build these transmissions for a long time to come. But any new jobs in that area are going to go to people who are in the automobile industry, who are in the manufacturing, who are in the UAW are going to be making these new vehicles, sourced right here in America. The government will provide and demand support to retool factories that are struggling to compete. The US auto industry will step up. I'll expand capacity so the United States, not China leads the world in modern new technology.

Joe Biden: We're going to make it easier for American consumers to move to the vehicles of the future by building a network of 500,000 charging stations across the country. We're offering consumers rebates to swap older fuel-efficient cars. We're going to move in a direction that technology is taking us and making sure UAW leads the way in how we do it. Together, this will mean one million good new jobs in the auto industry.

Joe Biden: Folks, it's an example of how we can do anything. I'm more optimistic about what we have a chance to do in the next four to six years, eight years, than anything anytime in my whole career. The blinders have been taken off the American people. They see what the combination of the pandemic, the economic crisis, the racial inequality refacing, and what's going on internationally, and they're ready to step up. They know we have to change.

Joe Biden: Nothing, nothing, nothing is beyond the capacity of the United States of America, and I mean that. Think about it. We're the only country in the world that's come out of every crisis stronger than we went in because of who we are. As I've said to other world leaders, never underestimate the American people. There's no quit in America. There's none. In America, we can do anything that we need to do if we can do it together. Nothing can stop us.

Joe Biden: We have to come together. That's why I'm running. I ran as a proud Democrat for the Senate. I had run as a proud Democrat for Vice President, and I'm running as a proud Democrat for President. But I promise you this. I will govern as an American president. I'll govern for every one who voted for me, as well as against me. We can be better than what we've seen. We can be what we are at our best, the United States of America. So vote. Vote. Visit iwill.com/ohio. God bless you. God bless the auto workers. God protect. Thank you. Which way am I going?

Oct. 12th, 2020 Joe Biden, Cincinnati Ohio

Joe Biden Campaign Speech Cincinnati Museum Center Transcript October 12

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Joe Biden made a campaign visit to Cincinnati, Ohio on October 12. Read the transcript of his speech remarks here.

Joe Biden: It's good to be back. Thank you. Thank you. It's good to be back, Mr. Mayor, in this former terminal museum. I tell you what, this is a magnificent facade, isn't it? I understand that a few marriage proposals were made by standing in that corner and whispering to someone in the other corner.

Joe Biden: Mr. Mayor, thank you for the passport into the city. Thank you for your friendship. I was looking around for it. I couldn't see you in the light. Thank you, Mr. Mayor. And thank you for... The Mayor is very good friends with a fellow who, one of the brightest, most decent men I know, who occupies my seat in the United States Senate, Senator Chris Coons. They were Truman scholars together. And you guys seem like you're cut from the same cloth. Thank you very, very much for your support. I appreciate it, Mr. Mayor

Joe Biden: And Kate, you're something else. Now, Kate, you know, there's an old joke. A long time ago, particular senator said to me, this is back when I was much younger, I was in my second term, running for my second term. He said, "Joe, I'll come to Delaware for you and campaign for you or against you, whichever will help the most." My offer still holds. I hope my endorsement didn't hurt you. But all kidding aside, Kate, we need you in the US Congress. And I really mean it. And the reason I say that is you're a healthcare advocate, a cancer survivor, a mom, and we need leaders like you representing the people in the First District. People who understand what's going on every day, the discussions that take place around the kitchen table in the morning. Our families are still struggling trying to figure out what to do. And Joyce, thank you for that introduction. Before I begin, let me say that I'm saddened to hear that one of my baseball heroes, Joe Morgan, second baseman, Red's legend, Hall of Famer and a good man passed away. And my condolences to the Morgan family and his teammates and to his fans here in Cincinnati and all across the country. He played one year on the Philadelphia Phillies.

Joe Biden: Now, I'm going to get myself in real trouble, but I have a bad habit of telling you the truth. I happened to grow up in a household in Scranton, Pennsylvania, where, if you wanted to have dinner, you had to be Yankees fan because that was the farm called, the Triple A ball club was a Yankee ball club. And my grandpop was an All-American football player, but he was a great Yankees fan. But it wasn't hard back in those days. There was Whitey Ford and a

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few others, but in Delaware, if you are not a Phillies fan, and let me put this way, if I were not a Phillies fan, I'd be sleeping alone. My wife's a Philly girl. You think I'm kidding. I'm not.

Joe Biden: But Joe actually played for a year in the Phillies if my memory serves me correctly, but he had fans all over the country. It's amazing to be both the heart when he was a second baseman, and the voice as one of the great baseball announcers in history, of the same club. I mean, that's a pretty incredible accomplishment. And so, my best to his family and to his fans, and he has fans all across the country.

Joe Biden: Folks, as my football coach says, "Go time, Joe." It's go time. This is the most important election of our lifetimes, not because I'm running, because what's at stake. The next president is going to determine not just the next four years, but what the next decade or more is going to look like because there's such a stark fundamental difference. And you here in Cincinnati can make all the difference and all the difference in Ohio.

Joe Biden: I learned a long time ago coming out to Ohio that you win Ohio from Cincinnati north. Head north. Well, you are the starting gate, and I love being back here. And again, what a beautiful museum and terminal this is. I spent a lot of time, as I was telling the Mayor, in train stations.

Joe Biden: When I first got elected to the United States Senate, I was 29. I was in Washington and interviewing my first staff using Senator Kennedy's whip office. And I got a phone call from a first responder saying my wife and daughter had just been killed, and my two boys were really badly injured, and not sure they were going to make it. My fire department, and God, I love my fire service, took about three hours and the jaws of life to get my kids out of the car because they were broadsided by a tractor trailer. And I didn't want any part of going to the United States Senate. My sister managed my campaign, and my younger sister and my much younger brother raised all the money we raised, \$187,000. We went to our governor to determine who would they pick in my spot because I didn't plan on going. A lot of really fine men who were in the Senate at the time, and Republicans and Democrats came to me and said, "Just come and stay for six months and help us organize."

Joe Biden: And so I started commuting every day back and forth, and that's how I got involved as sort of Mr. Amtrak. Because when they publish that, they keep fastidious records on how many miles you travel on government aircraft when your vice president. And I had traveled a little over, I think it was a 1,400,000 miles. It was on the front page of the paper, but I used to like to take the train home on Fridays still as Vice President because it costs a lot of money to take that small plane back. But in addition to that, the Secret Service felt much more secure if I wasn't on a train, but they humored me and let me go home on Fridays sometimes. My mom was living at my home as she was passing.

Joe Biden: And I remember getting on the train and a guy named Angelo Negrea, I got to know their families, all the conductors and all the people all those years. And he came up to me and he grabbed me and he said, "Joey." He grabbed my cheek. I was thought the Secret Service

was going to shoot him. I said, “No.” I said, “He’s okay.” It’s a true story. And he said, “I just read, Joey, 1,400,000 miles on Air Force Two, big deal. The boys, we were checking. We had our retirement dinner. Went up to New Jersey for the dinner. You know how many miles you traveled on Amtrak?” I said, “No, Ang, I don’t.” He said, “Joey,” he said, “we figure 117 days a year, 36 years, and then X number of days as Vice President, you’ve traveled 2,100,000 miles on Amtrak.” I think I hold the record, other than a conductor.

Joe Biden: And so they gave me a key to the engine because I can... I’m the only one I know of. I’m not supposed to say that, but I got it hidden. My point is that, as a sidelight, one of the ways we’re going to revive this economy is we’re going to end up moving high speed rail and commuter rail across this country in a way that we haven’t done before.

Joe Biden: But the reason I went home was the same reason why all you do, or try to, and that is to be there in the evening when my kids went to bed. In the morning, my son, Beau, my son, Hunter, and my daughter, Ashley, get them back to school in the morning on the way to the station, and then when they got older, it wasn’t the case, but gets to kiss them goodnight. And as they kid, “I know, Dad, we got to say three Hail Marys and God bless our troops.” So for 36 years we did this, 250 miles roundtrip.

Joe Biden: And folks, you know, it’s really one way that I’ve said this before and I apologize for the press that travels with me for repeating it, but as I’d ride home-

Joe Biden: ... that travels with me, from repeating it, but as I ride home at night, and usually I could get the seven o’clock, the last fast train. Now they call it the [cell oh 00:00:11] . It was then called the Metro, was at seven o’clock and I’d ride. You get outside the Beltway exit and you ride by all these neighbors. I look into windows and wonder, literally sitting there, looking out the window. What are those parents talking about at that dining room table tonight? What are they doing before, they put their kids to bed, right after they put the kids to bed and come back and sit down. My guess is they’re talking about the same things that we talked about all across the country, and we’re talking about today. They’re asking questions, and one of theirs, as profound as they’re ordinary. “Are we going to be okay? Are going to make it?”

Joe Biden: “What are we going to do? Who’s going to tell her we don’t have the money to go back to that community college. Who’s going to, you got to drive another 1000 miles on those bald tires. We just don’t have the money right now to get four new tires.” This election is about answering those kinds of questions. Who’s on their side? My dad used to have an expression for real. My dad, he didn’t have work when coal died and Scranton. My dad was a salesperson. He wasn’t a coal miner. My great-grandfather was a mining engineer, but my dad used to say, “Joey, a job’s about a lot more than a paycheck. It’s about your dignity. It’s about respect. It’s about your place in the community. It’s about being able to look your kid in the eye and say, ‘Honey, it’s going to be okay’, and mean it.”

Joe Biden: That’s a lesson I’ve never forgotten. It’s what I grew up with, surrounded by hard work and families and Scranton, Pennsylvania. When my dad had to move to Delaware, took

us home to my grandpa for a year, but we finally got down. We got together again. That's the discussions we had in Claymont and Scranton, like here in Cincinnati, but times are hard. Unemployment is up, due to the pandemic and economic outlook remains very uncertain and very mishandled. Across Ohio, and in this country folks are worried about making their next rent payment or mortgage payment, whether or not they're going to be out in the street, whether or not they can purchase that prescription drug they need, or how much food they can put on the table.

Joe Biden: Making hard choices. Worry about whether the school their child is enrolled in, is going to be able to be open or what do they do if I still have a job, but I have a young child? If I go to work and their school's not open, who takes care of them? How do we do that? They see the people at the top doing better and better, even in the midst of this God-awful recession, while they're left to wonder. I mean, this sincerely, they're have to wonder, "Who's looking out for me?" That's Donald Trump's presence. 215,000 people dead from COVID-19. Experts are telling us, we may lose up to another 200,000 lives, by end of January, all because the president is only worried about one thing, the stock market, because he refused to follow science.

Joe Biden: It's estimated that if we just wore masks, the mask I just took off to speak. Experts tell us, we could save between now and the end of the year, 100,000 lives. The president knew back in January. I think it was the 28th of January, when the intelligence community kept telling him how serious this pandemic would be. He knew it was extremely dangerous, an extremely communicable disease, airborne, but he didn't tell anybody. But out of his desire to try to get Bob Woodward, to write something good about him, he did a long interview with Woodward, a famous journalist, and he went on record, on tape. He's taped as saying, Trump is, that he knew how dangerous this disease was, but he did and said nothing except praise she, for the great service he was performing, how transparent he was.

Joe Biden: Ask yourself, why did he not tell the country? Or what, how much better off would it be, had he told the country. He said nothing. He told Bob Woodward, they didn't want to panic the American public. Americans don't panic. Trump panicked. Trump is the one who panicked, his reckless personal conduct since his diagnosis, as well, has been unconscionable. The longer Donald Trump is president, the more reckless he gets. Dr. Fauci, the most respected person in this area, in the country, referred to the president's announcement event, for the Supreme Court in the Rose Garden as a super-spreader event, publicly criticizing him.

Joe Biden: How is the president of responding? He's running a national ad here in Cincinnati and all across the country, quoting Dr. Fauci out of context. Dr. Fauci said, back in March, referring to public health officials, "I can't imagine anybody could be doing more," referring to public health officials. But Trump and his campaign were very much used to deception and not telling the truth. Deliberately lie by putting Fauci in his ad, implying that Fauci was talking about Trump, saying he doesn't know how anybody could do any better. Fauci, after he saw the ad, he went public. You've probably seen it on the nightly news. He came after that and he said, "I did not get permission for that quote to be used, and it wasn't about the president."

Even after he said that, and the point, I listened to your talk, even after he said that, look what happened.

Joe Biden: They continued to lie. They said, “We’re keeping it in the ad.” Same ad that says, I’m going to increase taxes on middle-class folks, with the same amount of credibility. Look, they use the ad knowing it’s a lie. Can you remember any other major, mainstream presidential candidate ever doing something like these things? As a consequence of months of overwhelming lying, misleading, irresponsible action on the part of Donald Trump, how many empty chairs are going to be around the dinner table tonight, because of their negligence? How many? How many brothers, sisters, mothers, fathers, uncles, aunts, moms, dads are gone?

Joe Biden: Folks, we’re so much better than this. Despite the crisis we face, we have an enormous opportunity. Like America’s done, unlike any other country, after every crisis, we’ve always come out of the crisis stronger than we were before we went in. That’s the uniqueness of who we are. We now have an opportunity to build back and build back better, to get everyone a fair return on their work, an equal chance to get ahead, begin to reward work, not just wealth. For example, for communities of color here in Cincinnati and all across the country, the question is, “How do we break the cycle, wherein good times, they lag. In bad times, they get hit first and harder?”

Joe Biden: ... where in good times they lag. In bad times, they get hit first and hardest. In a recovery, they’re the last and toughest to bounce back. The answer is justice, justice, criminal justice, police reforms. I know this nation is strong enough to both honestly face systemic racism and strong on it to provide safe streets for our families and small businesses that too often bear the brunt of looting and burning, which is never justified. We have no need though for armed militia roaming the streets. We should have no tolerance for extremist White supremacist groups menacing our communities.

Joe Biden: Even reading what’s happening up in Michigan. The Governor is a good friend. They were in her driveway with assault weapons, standing there, because you can open carry in their state, attempting to intimidate. Remember, in, I was going to call it a debate, but the shouting match he engaged in, when he was asked by a Fox reporter, not a left wing somebody or other, would he condemn White supremacy, he never answered the question. I said, “What about those guys that you in fact talk about all the time,” those boys he talks about? He said, “Well, I would just tell them to stand back and stand by.” Neighborhoods I worked in, in the Black community in Delaware, that’s called a dog whistle. You say we should trust the American law enforcement authorities to their job as I do then let them do their job without extremist groups acting as vigilantes.

Joe Biden: If you say we have no need to face racial injustice in this country you haven’t opened your eyes to what’s been going on in this country and has for a long time. I decided to run for President and I hadn’t planned on it for real, but I decided to run when I saw those folks marching out of the fields in Charlottesville. Close your eyes and you remember what you saw on television? These White supremacist, Nazi sympathizers, carrying Nazi flags using the exact

same jargon used, anti-Semitic jargon used as it was used in Germany in the '30s, accompanied by the Ku Klux Klan and the Grand Kleagle saying, "This is why we elected him," and a young woman ends up being killed. And I asked the President, "What do you think?" He said something no President has ever said, mark it down, ever said, "There are very fine people on both sides."

Joe Biden: There have been very powerful voices for justice in recent weeks and months. I've spent some time more, than one time, with George Floyd's family and his little daughter, Gianna. And I knelt down to say hi to her and she said in a soft voice, "Daddy," my word, this is a quote, "Daddy changed the world." I also got to know Jacob Blake's mom and dad and the whole family. Know what she said, she said, "Violence didn't reflect her son," that this nation needed healing, to stop the rioting, peacefully march, but there's no justification for violence. One of the things that I've found, I've been in the civil rights arena for a long time and found pretty moving, was Doc Rivers, the basketball coach choking back tears. Remember what he said a couple of weeks ago? "We're the ones getting killed. We're the ones getting shot. We've been hung," continuing the quote. "It's amazing why we keep loving this country and this country doesn't love us back."

Joe Biden: Think about that. Think about what it takes for a Black person to love America. That is a deep love for this country that for far too long has never been fully recognized. Trump talks about the lack of systemic racism and this is the first administration we've never met, "We hold these truths to be self-evident that all men," we've never met that standard. But every generation has moved closer and closer and closer to inclusion. It's the first one, elected President, to deliberately try to turn it back in a big way. With all due respect, I think we need in America's leadership that seeks to deescalate tensions, open the lines of communication, and bring us back together to heal and to hope. As President, that's precisely what I will do. That's a President's job, but it just goes beyond the issue of police-community relations.

Joe Biden: It goes about being able to compete and build wealth. It's about jobs, good paying jobs, financial stability, families of color building wealth, and being able to pass it down, like my Irish-Catholic folks were able to do in Scranton, coming up from nothing. You build home equity, you got something to pass on. For example, another example is more and more women are dropping out of the workforce in this recession whether they're in a city or in the suburbs. I have a plan to deal with this pandemic responsibly. Testing, tracing, masking, not politicizing the race for a vaccine, a plan for its safe and equitable distribution, providing funding for PPE, the protective equipment and other resources for schools and businesses to be able to reopen safely. If you notice, the president said, when he was asked about his responsibility, he said, "I take no responsibility." That was a quote. "I take no responsibility."

Joe Biden: No national standard has been set by this administration. Mr. Mayor, you're doing on your own, or with your Governor or others in the community. We have to do so much and we can do so much. Ease the caregiving crisis for so many families experiencing now. That squeeze between raising your kids while caring for an aged loved one. It's real. Protect your healthcare in the middle of this pandemic. Why do so many Republicans today have time told

a hearing on the Supreme Court with 22 days left to go instead of providing significant economic recovery and needs for the people who are hurting so badly, Democrats and Republicans? Think about that. I handled the Recovery Act for our administration. \$800 billion in 18 months with less than two-tenths of 1% waste or fraud. We had an Inspector General who looked over everything I did and I met with once every two weeks. Got \$145 billion out to state and localities so you didn't have to lay off ...

Joe Biden: ... billion dollars out to state and locality. So you didn't have to lay off cops, firefighters, school teachers, nurses, first responders. What are we doing? Zip. The house acted, in the beginning of the summer, the so-called Heroes Act, to pay for all of this. States are in trouble. I'll tell you why they're not doing anything about it; two reasons. One, it's all about wiping out the Affordable Care Act, which has been an obsession for this president since he became president. It was an Obama idea. Because no other nominee has said in the past that the law should be struck down. Not as a judge, [inaudible 00:00:27:59], that's her view. That's going to take health care coverage away from 20 million Americans. Because of his mishandling the economy and COVID, we've already lost 10 million people, have already lost their employer based health insurance, 10 million. That's going to take away pre-existing conditions coverage for a hundred plus million Americans. And complications of COVID- 19 like lung scarring as well as heart damage, could well put how many millions more? There's over 7 million people contracted COVID in the United States. What happens then? Pre-existing conditions can not be covered. It's going to toss out the rule that allows children to be covered on their parents' health care until age 26. It's going to take us backwards. When insurance companies could charge a woman more for the same exact treatment that they charge a man. And pregnancy, once again, becomes a pre-existing condition. Folks, we can do so much better than this. Together we can build on the Affordable Care Act, writing a new health insurance option, a nonprofit public option, which is giving private insurers, a real competitor. Increase the subsidies, so premiums are lower and you can afford plans with lower deductibles, and lower out-of-pocket costs. We can only do any of this, if the country comes together.

Joe Biden: Last week, I went to Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, to the battlefield where Abraham Lincoln told us that a house divided cannot stand. Today, trust is ebbing, hope seems elusive. Instead of trying to heal his policies are ripping us apart.

Vice President Joe Biden: And those Republicans are willing to cooperate, get punished by this president. I refuse to let that happen. We need to revive the spirit of bipartisanship in this country. I know that sounds bizarre in light of where we are. The spirit of being able to work with one another. When I say that, and I said that from the time I announced, I was told that, "Maybe that the way things used to work, Joe, you got a lot done before Joe, but you can't do that anymore." Well, I'm here to tell you and say we can, and we must, if we're going to get anything done. Democracy requires consensus. I'm running as a proud Democrat, but I will govern as an American president.

Vice President Joe Biden: There will be no blue states and red states with me. It's one America. I'll work with Democrats and Republicans. I'll work as hard for those who vote against me, as

those who voted for me. That's the job of a president, the duty to care, to care for everybody. We can disagree on policy, but you can still care. And you too have a sacred duty, in my humble opinion. As my friend, John Lewis said before he died, and while he was alive, "You have a sacred obligation to vote." It matters. Ohio matters. You elected me and Barack in 2008 and 12.

Joe Biden: I'm asking for your support. I want to earn it, I'll take nothing for granted. Asking for your support for Kamala and me in 2020. I promise we'll always have your back. So please vote. Go to, [I Will Vote.com/OH](https://www.IWillVote.com/OH), now, to request your absentee ballot to vote by mail, to confirm your early voting location, to vote early in person, to find your polling place to vote in person on election day. Just make sure you have a plan.

Vice President Joe Biden: As a future congress woman said, "Bring along family, bring long friends, make their plans to vote as well." No matter what, don't let anybody discourage you and tell you your voice won't be counted. It does. And don't be intimidated by talk of having some of these Proud Boys stand there with their rifles in lines where you can open carry to try to intimidate people without saying anything. You, the American people decide our future; vote. And I'm convinced you're going to turn out in large numbers.

Joe Biden: When I announced, I said I was running to restore America's soul. Well its time to restore it. So it's time to rebuild the backbone of this country, the middle class. This time, bring everybody along. No matter your race, your age, your gender, your religion, ethnicity, sexual orientation, disability; everybody gets to come along. It's time to unite America. And we'll do that by choosing hope over fear, science over fiction, truth over lies, and unity over division. There's nothing beyond the capacity of this nation when we stand together. So it's time to stand up, take back our democracy, unite. And let's, for the first time in a while, reflect the values that the vast majority of Americans hold. May God bless you. And may God bless our troops. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you.

Oct. 13th, 2020 Joe Biden, Pembroke Pines Florida

Joe Biden Campaign Speech Pembroke Pines, Florida

Transcript October 13: Talks Social Security

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Joe Biden held a campaign event in Pembroke Pines, Florida on October 13. He discussed benefits and protections for seniors and Social Security. Read the transcript of the event here.

[...]

Speaker 2: Please welcome the next President of the United States, Joe Biden.

Speaker 2: (singing)

Audience: Yeah.

Joe Biden: Hello, hello, hello.

Joe Biden: Good to see you all. Please, please, take a seat if you have one. Thank you so very, very much for... It's good to be back in Florida. I want to thank my good friend Debbie Wasserman Schultz, congresswoman. She's been a tireless fighter. Where's Debbie? There she is. Thank you, Debbie. You've been a friend a long time, and thank you for all the encouragement.

Joe Biden: Toby, I also want to thank you. Toby moved from a high rent district in Brooklyn. That's the highest rent district in America right now these days. [inaudible 00:09:48], good to see you. I want to thank you for that kind introduction. It's wonderful to be here with all of you to hear the stories, talk about how we're going to get through these tough times, the difficult times. Today's-

Joe Biden: ... tough times and difficult times. Today's story is a familiar one here in South Florida. We're all living in some version of it right now with some of the most important parts of our lives being put on hold and the same story being lived by people like Carl Schechner, who many of you know well. Carl's here today, I'm told. Hey Carl. How are you, man? Good to see you. The light was shining right in my eyes looking at you, man. I apologize. Carl is 39 years old. No, 93 years old, but he acts like he's 39 years old. And the pillar of this community. So much so that a few years back, you all decided to rename this community center in his honor. I've heard wonderful things about you, Carl, and looking forward to saying hello to you privately.

Joe Biden: I had the pleasure of meeting Carl back in 2012. He may not remember it, but his story is what this community and this country is all about. Carl is a son of an immigrant. Carl served our nation honorably in the second World War and met his sweetheart, Anita, when they were ... They've been married now for 67 years. Together, they built a family, four children, seven grandchildren. And more than 30 years, they made home here, staying engaged in all the local issues and holding local office, catching Sunday matinees and performances at the arts center and socializing with neighbors, enjoying nights in the town. And a couple of times, two, three times a week, going out.

Joe Biden: But their story, like so many others, is a quintessential American story these days, but it has been interrupted this year. Carl and Anita haven't been out, I'm told, to a restaurant in seven months and there are no more Sunday matinees. Other than getting groceries, they spend most of their time in their apartment like so many people do. It's harder than ever to spend time with the people you love, other than on Zoom or on a computer connection. We've all felt that sense of interruption in our lives. And we all know that this isn't normal, that things didn't have to be this bad. They didn't have to be this bad. We look around at our neighbors and we know people are hurting. A lot of folks are worried about making their next rent payment, their next mortgage payment, whether or not they can purchase their prescription drugs or put food on the table. And we see an awful lot of people at the very top doing better than they've ever done and left to wonder an awful lot of us is, "Who's looking out for me? Who's looking out for me?"

Joe Biden: That's been the entire story of my view of Donald Trump's presidency. The fact that he's never been focused on what matters. He's never been focused on you. His handling of this pandemic has been erratic, just like his presidency has been. And it has prevented Florida's seniors and people all across the country from getting the relief that they need. Donald Trump hasn't just been willing to not do the work. I think it's beyond that. I'm not sure he cares about delivering any real help. I think it's both. People say he's not willing to do the work. Well, I don't think he cares much about it. While you're losing precious time with your loved ones, he's been stuck in a sand trap in one of his golf courses. And when he does decide to lift a finger, it doesn't help you. It's to propose new tax cuts for billionaires, and that's not hyperbole. That's not hyperbole. 100 wealthiest billionaires in America are expected to get another \$30 billion tax cut he's proposing.

Joe Biden: We know what happened the last time a tax cut was passed in 2017 when he came into office. Pharmaceutical companies got billions of dollars in tax breaks, and then they turned around and raised prices for medicines that you rely on to stay healthy. And they're still doing it even during the pandemic. And quite frankly, it's unconscionable. But Trump doesn't really care about lowering the healthcare costs because he's beholden to the health insurance companies and the drug companies. After all, he's asking the United States Supreme Court as I speak, he's asking them right now to strike down the entire Affordable Care Act, which would eliminate seniors' ability ... Most of you are on Medicare, but it would eliminate your ability in that act we passed, I was able to help put in place, was that you'd have preventative services and annual checkups and mammograms for free under Medicare. If it gets struck down, that

gets wiped out as well. The rise in prescription drug prices for millions of seniors put Medicare trust fund at risk.

Joe Biden: And by the way, we used to talk about the Medicare trust fund. I say the Republicans want to eliminate it. But remember, Debbie will remember when, he's not a bad guy in terms of his personality, but when the former Speaker of the House became Speaker, what'd they do? They proposed a half a billion-dollar cut in Medicare from the start, right off the bat. These guys mean what they say. This President, as Debbie pointed out, has pledged to terminate the tax that's dedicated to financing social security. Terminate it. A social security actuary, not Joe Biden or a liberal think tank or a newspaper. The actuary, the social security says, that would bankrupt social security in just a few years, putting those monthly checks for tens of millions of seniors that they rely on, and many of them, the only thing they rely on, at risk.

Joe Biden: All this president knows how to do is play games with people's lives and families' futures. Last week, he announced he was "walking away from the negotiations" that he never fully engaged in. He's not walking away. He never fully engaged in them. To provide any additional relief for American families. Debbie, working like the devil in the house, they passed the HEROES Act. They passed two other pieces of legislation earlier to provide for the ability to keep people from going out of business, people being kicked out of their homes, et cetera. He turned his back on small businesses that are struggling to keep their doors open. He turned his back on firefighters and police officers and first responders who depend on local budgets, but local budgets are being broken and they have to be balanced.

Joe Biden: I'll just make note here. When we inherited the largest recession, the greatest recession since the depression, what happened? President put me in charge of the Recovery Act, \$800 billion. First thing I was able to do, and I was able to manage it myself, was I put \$147 billion to just help state and local authorities be able to balance their budgets, not have to fire police officers, not have to fire firefighters, not to fire first responders, not have to close down health clinics. Local governments are strained to the breaking point. He turned his back on educators and school children, standing in the way of support to get them PPE and cleaning supplies and ventilation needed to reopen schools safely, which we could do if we funded it. He turned his back on every single worker whose job hasn't come back.

Joe Biden: And now he says he wants a deal. One day he's tweeting that the relief package is too big. The next day saying it's too small. It's all game. He thinks he's still on his game show. No really. He acts that way. For real. This is a political game he's playing. His latest gimmick, he wants to mail seniors a \$200 prescription drug cash card with his name on it. So you're going to get it before election with his name on it. But what are you going to do? He's going to raid Medicare trust fund to pay for that \$200, which seniors have already spent by paying money into. He thinks that he can take the money out of your pocket with one hand and put it back with his name stamped on it in the other hand and call it a gift. It's dishonest. It's reckless. And it doesn't actually help anybody. In fact, all it will do is undermine the Medicare trust fund and increase overall out-of-pocket costs for seniors.

Joe Biden: Let's be clear about this. Donald Trump has tried for almost four years, he says he wants to lower the drug price. Okay? But he hadn't done a single thing to do it. In fact, the House of Representatives passed a bill that Debbie supported that would bring down prescription drug costs across the board, giving Medicare the power in Washington, Medicare department, the power to negotiate with the drug companies and say, "If an aspirin is going to cost, if we're being charged ..." I'm making this up. "If an aspirin is going to cost two cents an aspirin," they said, "We're only going to pay you a penny an aspirin." They're either going to do it or not. They're going to have to do it. We've been fighting to get, Debbie and I and others, have been fighting to be able to do this for years. It would lower drug prices. What did President Trump do? He said, "If it passes, he'll veto it." Threatened to veto it. Folks, Donald Trump's chaotic and divisive leadership has cost us far too much. 215,000 deaths from COVID-19 and rising. Experts say we'll lose nearly another 200,000 lives in the next few months unless we fundamentally change courses. You know, I prayed for his recovery when he got COVID and I'd hoped at least he'd come out of it somewhat chastened. But what has he done? He's just doubled down on the misinformation he did before and making it worse.

Joe Biden: He's just doubled down on the misinformation he did before and making it worse. So many lives have been lost unnecessary because this President cares more about the stock market than he does about the well-being of seniors.

Joe Biden: One day before we crossed the threshold of 200,000 deaths, you may recall this, the President was at the campaign rally and insistent that the virus was, and I quote, "Affects virtually nobody, just elderly people with heart and other problems." Nobody. Think about that. Who was he talking about when he said it infects virtually nobody? He was talking about America's seniors. He was talking about you. He was talking about my family. You've worked hard your whole life contributing to society, building a family, building the country, serving America. You deserve security. You deserve respect and peace of mind, but you're not getting it.

Joe Biden: And by the way, if this wasn't so bizarre, if I tried to make a movie talking about something like this in America, you'd think I was making it up. Because Donald Trump, it's simple, not a joke, you're expendable. You're forgettable. You're virtually nobody. That's how he sees seniors. That's how he sees you.

Joe Biden: It's no surprise this is the same man that looks at Americans who put their lives on the line like you did, sir, and many others maybe in this room, for our nation and calls them losers and suckers. I carried this card with me every day for the last 15 years. It's my schedule. In the back of this schedule, I have a black box. It says, "Daily troop update." The number of troops who died in Iraq and Afghanistan, 6,924. Not roughly 6,900, 924 because every one of these fallen angels that left a family behind deserves to be remembered. Everyone. US troops wounded in Iraq and Afghanistan, 53,000, as of today, 194. Everyone with only one sacred obligation, America, to care for those we send a war and equip them when they come home and take care of them and their families. And what did he say? Losers.

Joe Biden: My son volunteered to go to Iraq for a year. Before that, he had been in Kosovo for eight months. Best of my knowledge, the only foreigner who has a war monument and a major highway in that country named after him for his contribution to helping them set up their criminal justice system, then he volunteered to go to Iraq as attorney general for a year. My son was not a loser. And all of those left behind, he's passed away, but all those left behind, they were heroes. They were patriots. I imagine that's one of the reasons why six four-star generals and a whole lot of others have endorsed me who used to work for him because they know where his heart isn't.

Joe Biden: That's how he sees us. That's the attitude he's brought toward this whole crisis. This is the same man, you may remember, when he was told we were averaging 1000 lives lost per day, remember what he said? He said, "It is what it is." Such concern and empathy. It is what it is. Well, it is what it is because he is who he is. That's why it is what it is. This President, as Debbie referenced, back in January when he was being briefed by the intelligence community, he said, "I never read the briefing." Didn't know what was in. Didn't have time. Well, [inaudible 00:24:15] ego moved him to try to convince a famous journalist to write something good about him. What happened? Bob Woodward interviewed him. He acknowledged that he knew it was a dangerous and highly communicable disease, but he did nothing. He didn't do a thing. He didn't tell you. He didn't tell any American. Why? He told Woodward on tape, he told Bob he didn't want to panic the American public.

Joe Biden: Americans don't panic. Trump panics. His reckless personal conduct since his diagnosis is unconscionable. The longer Donald Trump is the President, the more reckless he seems to get. Thank God we only have three weeks left to go.

Joe Biden: Dr. Fauci, the most respected doc in the country on these issues, referred to the President's announcement on the Supreme Court in the Rose Garden, using the White House as a backdrop for political events. He said it was a super spreader event. And how is Trump responding? He's running a national ad quoting Dr. Fauci out of context. Fauci had said way back in March, referring to public health officials across the nation, he said, quote, "I can't imagine anybody could be doing more," end of quote, meaning public health officials.

Joe Biden: But the Trump campaign, which is not unusual because I've had a piece of it, the trump campaign has deliberately lied. They have put Dr. Fauci in their ad asserting that Fauci was talking about Trump when he said they couldn't have done anymore. And Fauci's a man of integrity. After that ad came out, he said, "I did not give permission to use that quote and I wasn't referring to the President." Even after Fauci said that he didn't say that about the President, the Trump ad campaign said they were going to continue to use the ad knowing it was a lie. Can any of you ever remember anything like that in a presidential campaign with a mainstream candidate?

Joe Biden: And as a consequence to months of lying and misleading and irresponsible action on the part of Donald Trump, how many empty chairs are around the dining room table tonight because of his negligence? How many people's hearts are broken? How many people have

trouble going to sleep at night because you can't just reach over and touch? They can't hear their son or daughter's voice on the phone, while he throws super spreader parties at the White House where Republicans hug each other without concern to the consequences.

Joe Biden: How many of you have been unable to hug your grandkids in the last seven months? I got six of them. Two of them I just see [inaudible 00:27:53] children, a boy and a girl live not far from me and they can walk through the woods. The only way I can see them, I stand in the back porch and they stand down and I bribe them with Haagen-Dazs bars. But every single day I contact them. But I can't hug them. I can't embrace it. And I'm luckier than most because they're nearby, those two of those six.

Joe Biden: My grandkids, your grandkids, we hope will grow up to treat one another with kindness, respect and empathy, qualities the President has never, ever shown. It's become painfully clear as his careless arrogant, reckless COVID response has caused one of the worst tragedies in American history. The only senior that Donald Trump cares about, the only senior is the senior Donald Trump [inaudible 00:28:52] seem to do anything for.

Joe Biden: And by the way, minority communities are getting particularly hit by this. You realize as of about a month ago, on a percentage basis, 1 in 1000 African Americans in all of America have died. And the estimate is, by the end of this year, 1 in 500 African Americans in America will die. 1 in 500. If he doesn't do something quickly and we hit 400,000, that is more people, the same number of people that died in the war you fought of all four years. 400,000 dead in War War II, in less than a year if he doesn't move. The only one Donald Trump would do anything for is Donald Trump.

Joe Biden: Look, folks, you all know we're so much better than this. We-

Joe Biden: We're so much better than this. We can contain this virus. We can fully reopen our economy. We can bring Congress together to pass real relief, and then implement a comprehensive agenda to build back better. My economic proposal ... And by the way, it's not a liberal think tank or a Democratic think tank that says this. An independent analysis put out by Moody's, a Wall Street firm, projects that my economic plan will create 18.6 million good paying jobs between now and the end of the first term. Seven million more jobs than the President's plan. And create a trillion more dollars in economic growth than the President's plan. It's solid. It's real.

Joe Biden: Here's how my plan works. I'm not going to raise taxes on a single solitary American making less than \$400,000 a year. You won't pay a penny more. It's a guarantee. But I'm going to ask big corporations and the wealthy to begin to pay their fair share to straighten out the tax structure. That money will allow us to invest in working people. I carry it with me ... I don't know if I have it with me now, I don't ... a card that lists all of what is in the tax code. We went ahead, the President's tax plan, Barack and I were suggesting we reduce corporate tax from 35% to 28. That was the consensus. He reduced it to 21%. You know how

much that costs? \$1.3 trillion. We just take it back up to 28, and we'll generate \$1.3 trillion more.

Joe Biden: 91 of the Fortune 500 companies don't pay a penny in tax. Not a single solitary cent. If we made sure there was a minimum tax at 15%, that would add another \$400 billion. We're going to take this money and we're going to invest in a working people, in a growing middle class and make sure everyone is included in the deal. I want tax reform in the tax code because we're spending your tax dollars on the wrong things. As I said, Donald Trump cut the tax from 35 to 21 costing the treasury a fortune. As I said, if we raised it back to 28%, \$1.3 trillion would be coming to the treasury over the next decade, instead of giving big corporations hundreds of billions to pay for buying back their own stock, moving jobs overseas.

Joe Biden: We should invest it in cures for cancer, diabetes, Alzheimer's and Parkinson's. That's why I proposed giving the National Institute of Health \$50 billion over the next four years to go after cancer, diabetes, Alzheimer's and Parkinson's. If we do not, and no drug company has the capacity to do it, if we do not find an answer to Alzheimer's, then the next 19 years, every single solitary bed that exists in the United States of America now will be occupied by an Alzheimer's patient.

Joe Biden: Look, my dad used to have an expression. He said, "Joey, if everything's equally important to you, nothing's important to you. You have to have priorities." What are our priorities? Our priorities is to make sure that everybody in America has an equal shot. This is about you. It's about what's fair. It's about what our priorities should be, and we can deal with the scourge of cancer and these other diseases when Donald Trump has no interest. In fact, he wants to do the opposite. He proposes more tax cuts for the super wealthy. Like Donald Trump, we're going to ease the burden on major costs in your life, unlike him. Including the financial burden of caregiving so many families are now carrying.

Joe Biden: Right now, as you probably know, and you have friends, 800,000 Americans are eligible for home community care through Medicaid, signed up for it, have been waiting an average of five years. They're waiting for a phone call back. For some, five years. My plan makes a bold investment so the states can clear the waiting list and also take the pharmaceutical companies. Will allow Medicaid to, again, use its enormous bargaining power to negotiate prices and bring the costs down for everyone, not just seniors. Give all Americans access to those lower prices.

Joe Biden: And what he also hates my doing and so do the drug companies, we're going to establish a board like it is in other countries of outside experts to set limits on the prices of new specialty drugs that are life-saving drugs that costs an arm and leg, figuratively and literally, that have no competition. This board is going to set up and say, "This is how much you can charge based on what you've invested. You make a healthy profit, but you will not be able to raise the price of the drug without proof that you've taken other action that you have required you to improve the drug." So it can only be raised with the cost of medical inflation.

Joe Biden: Independent analysis found that my plan will slash the cost of prescription drugs by 60%. How many of you know somebody who's had to sell things just to get the drugs that have gone up exponentially? We're going to protect Social Security and increase benefits for millions of seniors. I'll fight to protect your pensions, including fixing older employer pensions, so many Floridians earned and deserve. Folks, I guess we'll see them with this. I'm confident. I know as bad as things are we say, "Oh my God, how can it get better?" I am absolutely confident we can do this and more. We just have to come together. I'm running as a proud Democrat. I'm going to govern as an American president. I'm going to work as hard for those who voted against me as those who voted for me.

Joe Biden: That's the job of a president. A duty to care. To care for everyone. And after all we've been through, all America's accomplished, all the years that we've stood as a beacon to the world, we cannot let ourselves remain divided, but we have to vote. Go to, [Iwillvote.com/fl](https://www.Iwillvote.com/fl). You can still request your vote by mail ballot. The deadline's October 24. Request your ballot. If you have it already mail it or drop it in one of the drop boxes today. Look, I'm tired of us all walking around with our heads down, as if there's nothing we can do. This is the United States of America. There's not a single thing beyond our capacity, nothing we've ever decided to do we've not accomplished, when we done it together. Remember when we were kids, you had to learn about famous speech John Kennedy made about going to the moon. Everybody remembers the different pieces of it.

Joe Biden: The part I remember, my college used to kid me in the Senate when I was there. When answering the unasked question, "Why was he doing it?" He said, "Because we refuse to postpone." We refuse to postpone one more day, which is within our capacity as Americans to do. There's nothing beyond our capacity. There's no limit to our future. We've got to stand up, lift our heads up. The only thing that can tear America part is America itself. And he's well on the way trying to do that. Everybody knows who Donald Trump is. That's within who we are. Who we are. We choose hope over fear. Unity, over division. Science over fiction. And yes, truth over lies. We can do this folks. I promise you. But you got to vote. May god bless you all, and may God protect our troops. Thank you for listening. You're a very patient audience. Thank you, thank you. Appreciate it.

Oct. 13th, 2020 Joe Biden Miramar Florida

Joe Biden Mobilization Campaign Event Miramar, Florida Transcript October 13

[Rev](#) › [Blog](#) › [Transcripts](#) › [2020 Election Transcripts](#) › Joe Biden Mobilization Campaign Event Miramar, Florida Transcript October 13

Joe Biden held a mobilization campaign event in Miramar, Florida on October 13. Read the transcript of his speech remarks here.

[...]

Joe Biden: Hello, Florida. Hello, hello, hello, hello, Florida. Miramar. It's great to be back with you. Thank you so much and thank you, Mr. Mayor for the passport into your city and I want to say thank you to all the speakers you heard earlier. The Mayor, Dale, thank you. County Commissioner, Barbara and Senator Oscar. Look, Senator, you're looking like you're still in shape. And I also want to thank Damian for sharing your story and for exercising your power as a young voter, a first time voter.

Joe Biden: Look, you're an inspiration, man. I really mean that. You're making your family proud. You're a role model for an awful lot of young people all across Florida and across the country. Folks, as my old football coach used to say, "It's go time." It is go time. It is. No matter whether it's your first vote or many, but beyond that, this is the most important election in our lifetimes and you can make all the difference here in Florida. You can determine the outcome of this election.

Joe Biden: We win Florida and it's all over. Look, choice is clear and the stakes have never been higher. The stakes in this election remind me of something that my dad used to say. He said, "Joey, job's about a lot more than a paycheck. It's about your dignity. It's about your place in your community. It's about you being able to look to your kid in the eye and say, 'Honey, everything's going to be okay,' and mean it."

Joe Biden: How many people can look their kids in the eye and say that today, "It's going to be okay," and mean it? That's the lesson I've never forgotten. That's why I grew up surrounded by hardworking folks in Scranton, Pennsylvania, and Claymont, Delaware but folks-

Joe Biden: Folks, these times are hard. These times are hard. Unemployment is way up due to the pandemic. The economic outlook for the next year remains uncertain, and across Florida and the country, folks are worried about being able to pay their rent or their next mortgage payment, whether or not they can purchase the prescription or put food on the table, worried about school and their kids. They see the people at the top doing better and better during this crisis, and wondering, "Who's looking out for me?"

Joe Biden: Folks, that's Donald Trump's presidency: 115,000 dead from COVID-19. And experts say, unless we change rapidly, and he has shown no indication he's willing to change or do the proper thing, we could lose another 200,000 lives the next few months, all because this president is only worried about the stock market, didn't want to scare anybody. He refused to follow science. It's established, it's estimated that if, in fact, we all wore masks between now and January, we could save 100,000 lives over the next few months.

Joe Biden: Folks, what bothers me the most about this guy, in his own words, the president knew back in January, when he was briefed in detail, after lying about it, saying he never read the intelligence community's warnings about how dangerous this was, what did he do? He learned in January, the end of January, and in fact, that in fact this was a virulent virus, that it was passed on easily, that it was airborne. But he didn't tell anybody. He went on and tape an interview with Bob Woodward, a journalist, trying to ingratiate himself to him, telling him he knew how dangerous the disease was back in January. But he did nothing, not a single thing. Didn't say a word to anybody. Ask yourself, why didn't he tell the country? He said nothing. When he told Woodward, when Woodward asked him why he didn't say anything, he said, "I didn't want to panic the American people." The American people do not panic; Donald Trump panicked! We don't scare!

Joe Biden: Americans have faced every problem that has ever confronted us, and his reckless personal conduct since the diagnosis has been unconscionable. The longer Donald Trump remains president, the more reckless he becomes. Three more weeks before we end this madness.

Joe Biden: Folks, the most respected doctor in the country on this issue is Dr. Fauci. He referred to the president's announcement of the Supreme Court with a political event in the Rose Garden, or in the backyard of the White House, he called it a superspreading event. Look at all the people who became contagious and got ill. And how is he responding now? He, Trump, is running a national ad on television, you may have seen it, taking a quote of Dr. Fauci out of context. He said Dr. Fauci said way back in March, referring to the public health officials, he said, "I can't imagine that anybody could be doing more," referring to the public health officials across America. Yet, the Trump campaign deliberately lied, making it as sound as if Fauci was talking about Trump. Fauci went public after the ad came out, saying, "I did not give permission for that quote, and it wasn't referring to the president."

Joe Biden: Folks, here's the real point about the lack of ethics: even after Fauci said he didn't say that about Trump, the Trump campaign said they'll continue to use the ad knowing it was a lie. Folks, I don't recall any administration, any presidential candidate in either major party doing anything like that.

Joe Biden: (That behavior's no surprise, though. After all, this is the same man who looks at Americans who put their lives on the line for our nation and calls them losers and suckers. Folks, I carry with me a card, my schedule card, that lays out on the back my schedule. The last back page, in a black box I carried every day for the past 13 years, it

says, “Daily troop updates. U.S. troops who died in Iraq and Afghanistan: 6,924.” Not around 6,900, 924, because every one of these fallen angels left behind an entire community. They deserve our respect.

Joe Biden: “Troops wounded in Afghanistan and Iraq: 53,194,” not 53,000 about. Folks, my son was one of those who volunteered to go to Iraq for a year, came home and he passed away. He was not a loser. He was an American hero. He won the Bronze Star, the [inaudible 00:14:05] Service Medal. And all his comrades left behind, they were patriots. Who the heck does this guy think he is?

Joe Biden: And now, as a consequence of this overwhelming line and misleading and irresponsible action on the part of Donald Trump, how many empty chairs are there around dinner tables tonight because of his negligence? How many husbands or wives at night lean over to touch and say good night to their wife or husband and they’re not there? How many people have holes in their heart and lost part of their soul? Debbie Ross and I talk about this. How can we have a guy like this?

Joe Biden: Ladies and gentlemen, we’re so much better than this. Despite the crisis we face, we have an enormous opportunity to build this country back better. We’re the only nation in the world, with every crisis we’ve run into, we’ve ended up better off coming out of it than we were before we went in. That’s because America, there’s no quit in America. None! None!

Joe Biden: It’s about time we start rewarding work, not wealth. To get everyone a fair return on their work, an equal chance to get ahead. For example, for communities of color in South Florida and all across this country, the question is how do we break the cycle where in good times you lag behind, and in bad times you get hit first and the hardest, and when recovery comes, you’re the last ones to bounce back? The answer is simple: justice.

Joe Biden: ... back. The answer is simple, justice, criminal justice, police reform. I know the nation is strong enough to both honestly face systemic racism and strong enough to provide safe streets for our families and our businesses that too often bear the brunt of looting and burning. We have no need for armed militias roaming American streets, and we should have no tolerance for extremist, white supremacist groups marching on our communities.

Joe Biden: Folks, enough, I say we should trust American law enforcement authorities to do their job, as I do. Let them do their job without extremists and vigilantes. And if you say we have no need to face racial injustice in this country, you haven’t opened your eyes in America. There have been powerful voices for justice in recent weeks and months, I spent time with George Floyd’s family, his six year old daughter, Gianna, when I met with her, I knelt down to say hi to her and she looked at me and said, “Daddy changed the world. Daddy changed the world.” Also, Jacob Blake’s mother, who I got to know when she said, “The violence didn’t reflect her son and the nation needed healing,” and she prayed for the police.

Joe Biden: Or Doc Rivers, a basketball coach, choking back tears when he said, “We’re the ones getting killed. We’re the ones getting shot. We’ve been hung.” Went on to say, “It’s amazing why we keep loving this country, when this country does not love us back.” Think about that. Think about what it takes for a black person to love America. That’s a deep love for this country. That for far too long, has gone never fully recognized.

Joe Biden: We need American leadership to seek out, to deescalate tensions, to open the lines of communication, to bring us together. Look, ladies and gentlemen, we have time... President to heal, heal to hope, as President I’ll do precisely what I will do.

Joe Biden: But it’s also about jobs, good paying jobs, financial stability, families of color building wealth and passing it down. That’s how we deliver equality and equity. For example, more and more women are dropping out of the workforce in this recession, whether in a city or out in the suburbs. We have a plan to deal with this pandemic responsibly, tracing, testing, masking, not politicizing race for vaccines. Look, we have to get vaccines, not politicize it. And we have to plan for a safe and equitable distribution. We have to provide what as of today is not happening, funding for protective equipment, PPE, and other resources for hospital and frontline workers, so the schools can reopen safely. We got to ease the caregiving crisis that so many families experience, a squeeze of raising your kids and caring for an aged loved one. You got to protect your health care.

Joe Biden: In the middle of this pandemic, why do the Republicans have time to hold a hearing to pack the court instead of providing significant economic relief and need for localities? I’ll tell you why. It’s about wiping out the Affordable Care Act, to wipe it off the books. Because their nominee has said in the past, that the law should be struck down. That will take away health care for 20 million Americans. It will take protections away from pre-existing conditions for over a hundred million people. And by the way, kids won’t be able to stay in their parent’s health insurance until they’re 26.

Joe Biden: Complications of COVID-19 like lung scarring, heart damage, will become the next pre-existing condition. We’ll toss out, toss out the coverage for so many children. It will take us backwards to when insurance companies could charge a woman, many of you won’t remember this, but charge a woman more for her healthcare than a man, just because she’s a woman for the same procedure. Folks, we can do so much better than this. Together, we’ll build on the Affordable Care Act. By adding a new health insurance option, a not-for-profit option, to give private insurers a real competitor. We’ll increase subsidies to premiums and lower cost to get more coverage, lower deductibles, lower out-of-pocket expenses. And by the way, anybody, anybody who qualifies for Medicare, but lives in a state like your governor that doesn’t allow for 800,000 people to have it, will automatically be enrolled. It’s wrong.

Joe Biden: But we can only do this, if we come as a country. Last week, I went to Gettysburg, the battlefield in Pennsylvania. Abraham Lincoln, to make a point, we’re in trouble. Abraham Lincoln said there, that a house divided cannot stand. Today, trust is ebbing, hope is elusive. Instead of healing, we’re being ripped apart. And I refuse to let that happen. When I announced,

when I was running, I said I was running, one of the reasons was to unite America and I was made fun of. They said, “You can’t do that anymore. You used to be able to do it, Joe. You can’t do it now.” But the only way democracy can function is with consensus. Otherwise, it becomes semi-dictatorial like this guys trying to be.

Joe Biden: Look, we need to revive the spirit of bipartisan in the country. A spirit of being able to work with one another. When I say that I’m told that that was fine, Joe. You used to be able to do that, but you can’t do it anymore. Well, I’m here to tell you, we can, we must, and we’re going to get it done.

Joe Biden: Look, I’m running as a proud Democrat. But I will govern as an American President. I’ll work for Democrats and Republicans. I’ll work for those who vote against me, as hard as those who voted for me. That’s the job of a President, to heal. It’s a duty to care, to care for every...

Joe Biden: It’s a duty to care, to care for everyone. Look, folks, and you too have a sacred duty. As my friend, John Lewis, who recently passed away would say, “It’s a sacred obligation to vote. And it matters.” Florida matters. You elected me and Barack Obama in 2008 and 2012. And I’m asking for your trust and support again in 2020 for Kamala Harris and Joe Biden.

Joe Biden: Because, folks, I promise you, I promise you, we will always have your back. I promise you. I give you my word. So, please vote, and help us get out the vote. It’s been mentioned before to go to [iwillvote.com/fl](https://www.iwillvote.com/fl). You can still request your vote by mail ballot and do it as soon as you can. If you haven’t already mailed yours and you have one, mail it, or drop it in a box today, drop box today. You can also vote in person starting October 19th here in Broward County where this election will be determined.

Joe Biden: Folks, the country needs you. Tell everyone you know, everyone you meet, to vote no matter what. Don’t let anyone discourage you or tell you your voice won’t count. It does. It will. You are the American people, and you will decide our future, not Trump. So, vote. Folks.

Speaker 2: We love you [inaudible 00:26:17].

Joe Biden: Thank you. As my friend, the Congresswoman, Debbie knows, I hadn’t planned on running this time. My son had passed away, and I was working as a professor, and I thought, “Enough.” But then, when I saw those people coming out of the fields in Charlottesville, my word, carrying torches, close your eyes. Remember what you saw. Their veins bulging, chanting the same anti-Semitic bile, carrying Nazi insignias that were carried and chanted in Germany, in the 30s. Accompanied by the Ku Klux Klan and white supremacists, David Duke, the grand [preagle 00:27:09] saying, “This is why we elected him.”

Joe Biden: And then a young woman protesting was killed. They went to the president of United States and they said, “Mr. President, what do you think?” Here’s what he said. Something no president in American history has ever said, “There were very fine people on both sides.” God almighty.

Joe Biden: That's when I realized, and I said at the time, we're literally in a battle for the soul of this country, for our decency, our honor, our compassion, who we are. We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men and women are great. Folks, we've never fully lived up to that. We've never walked away from it. Every generation has opened the aperture wider. This is the first president ever that's flat walked away from it.

Joe Biden: It's time to restore America's soul. It's time to rebuild the backbone of America, the middle class. It's time to bring everybody along. No matter your race, your age, your gender, your ethnicity, your sexual orientation, or your disability. It's time to unite America. And we'll do that by choosing hope over fear. By choosing science over fiction, truth over lies, and unity over division.

Joe Biden: There's nothing beyond the capacity of this nation when we stand together. So it's time to stand up, take back this democracy. When I was a kid and John Kennedy said, "We're going to the moon." Everybody remembers. We all had to learned what he said about that, the speech. There's one line and it always used on the Senate floor when I was a Senator. My colleges would kid me.

Joe Biden: And he answered the unasked question, "Why are we doing this?" He said, "Because I refuse to postpone." I refuse to postpone one more day this president's irresponsible action. So let's get up. Let's take back this country. Show the world who we are. May God bless you and may God protect our troops. Thank you, thank you, thank you.

Oct. 16th, 2020 Joe Biden Southfield Michigan

Joe Biden Southfield, MI Speech on Health Care

October 16

[Rev](#) › [Blog](#) › [Transcripts](#) › [Political Transcripts](#) › Joe Biden Southfield, MI Speech on Health Care October 16. Joe Biden gave a speech on expanding access to health care in Southfield, Michigan on October 16. Read the full transcript of his remarks here.

Joe Biden: Hello, Michigan. Hi, how are you? What's your name? Sam, good to see you, man. Thanks for being here. I appreciate it. Alexia, thank you for taking the time telling your story, it's important. Unfortunately, there are an awful lot of stories like yours all over America as I travel the country, too many, it don't have to be. And, folks, it's great to be back, it's great to be here.

Joe Biden: There's not a better governor in the United States of America than Gretchen Whitmer, that's a fact. I've met virtually all of them. And Gary, we badly need you back in the United States Senate, pal, we badly need you back in the United States Senate. And then my sister, Debbie Stabenow. God love you, Debbie. We worked so closely together for so long and as vice-president as well.

Joe Biden: Folks, look, we need to send Gary back to another term. Standing up for Michigan, Michigan families, small businesses. He was our main congressional partner back in 2010 when we passed the critical legislation supporting small businesses. I remember the president gave me the responsibility to go out and round up support. My go-to guy to get it done, I mean it sincerely was Gary. He was the go-to guy and he always shows up and he always shows up for Michigan.

Joe Biden: And like all of you, Jill and I are so grateful that the governor and her family are safe. It's an unusual year. Governor you've been through a lot but my Lord, you are a leader. You stand up straight and tall and you don't bend. Governor, it's not easy to lead in moments of crisis but that's a determination of whether you are a real leader when you stepped up to the crisis and you've stepped up, you've done it and you keep doing it.

Joe Biden: And as I said a moment ago you're pretty much doing it better than anybody else in the whole United States of America. You've shown this whole nation just how tough and thoughtful you are, tough just like Michigan. I've got to believe this state has to be so proud of you. I know personally I am as I've gotten to know you and proud to call your friend, gov.

Joe Biden: We're grateful to the FBI and law enforcement to discover these domestic terrorists and stop them. And make no mistake, that's who they are, domestic terrorists, flat terrorists. Planning to blow up a bridge on American soil, to threaten the lives of police officers, to kidnap an elected later and now we're finding out the same thing was happening in Virginia. It's the

sort of behavior you might expect from ISIS and it should shock the conscious of every American, every American. And the failure to condemn these folks is stunning from the outset. I remember it matters. You've heard me say it before, "Words matter." And the words of a president particularly matter. When the president tweeted, "Liberate Michigan, liberate Michigan," that's the call that was heard, that was the dog whistle. Just like when he said, "Very fine people on both sides in Charlottesville." Fathers, they came out of the fields carrying torches, their veins bulging, shouting antisemitic bile, carrying Nazi flags accompanied by the Klu Klux Klan.

Joe Biden: But when a young woman was killed protesting the president was asked what he think and he said something no president has ever, ever, ever, ever heard, "There were very fine people on both sides." Those words were heard just like when he stood on the debate stage with me and refused to denounce white supremacists but told that white ring extremist group to "stand back and stand by." Stand back and stand by, an American president? Not only shocked us but it stunned the world. Those words we heard.

Joe Biden: You know the reason I decided to run for president and I know that Debbie knows this. I hadn't planned on running ever again after my son died. But when I saw those folks coming out of those woods I thought, "How in God's name, how in God's name can I remain silent?" And I said at the time it was somewhat not criticized but people didn't think it was... Well, I don't know what it was. When I said, "I think we're in a battle for the soul of America," I think we are.

Joe Biden: What I saw at Charlottesville and the president's response to it is why I went to Gettysburg Battlefield of Pennsylvania last week. Because I thought there was need to stand up to hate in America and urge as Lincoln did to come together as a nation. Well, I've learned hate never goes away, it only hides. It never goes away, and if you're given oxygen it comes out from one of the rocks, it grows. We need to be clear from the president going down in this country, there is no place for hate in America, period, none, it will not be tolerated.

Joe Biden: But President Trump revels in division and chaos to do anything to distract us from focusing on his failures to deal with this virus and to protect the nation. He's still living in a dream world. He keeps telling us that this virus is going to disappear like America. He said, I think last night in his town hall, I didn't have the pleasure of hearing it, I was doing one myself. He said, "We have turned the corner." And my grandfather was sitting in my chair where he said, "He's gone around the bunny."

Joe Biden: Turned the corner? My Lord. It's not disappearing, in fact it's on the rise again. It's getting worse as predicted. And we all know the terrible price this nation has paid. Lives lost, unemployment way up, across Michigan and the country folks are worried about making their next rent payment and mortgage payment. Or their healthcare will be ripped away in the middle of a pandemic that you worked so damn hard, Gary, to keep. Worried about...

Joe Biden: And we talked about this, Alexia. Kids in school, are they able to get back to school? More than 215,000 Americans, I think it's 217 as of this morning, Americans have died from COVID-19. And experts have said, and I've been saying for the last month and a half that nearly another 200,000 lives are likely to be lost in the coming months between now and the first of the year if we continue to refuse to follow science. Because he refused to embracing wearing a mask, how many times on television have you seen him make fun of Biden wearing a mask? Because he refuses to practice social distancing he puts his supporters in such jeopardy. It's estimated...

Joe Biden: It's estimated by his own folks, if we just wore masks nationally, almost 100,000 lives would be saved in the next few months. His own director of CDC said while we're waiting for a vaccine, even if we had a vaccine, this will prevent more deaths between now and the end of January than a vaccine would. Know what's really sad about all this? And I've been talking about this, but every time I repeat it, I get more... Well, I'm not very happy.

Joe Biden: The president knew and lied about knowing. He knew in January. The intelligence community and what they call the PDB, the Presidential Daily Briefings, which I've sat in on hundreds and hundreds and hundreds and hundreds of them as vice-president. It got out that they laid out in detail to him how devastating this could be, how much life could be lost, and so on. He said he was unaware of it. Didn't read those reports. Well, that surprised no one, he didn't read the reports, but he didn't read the reports. And everybody said, "Well, maybe he didn't."

Joe Biden: But then as was acknowledged because of his ego, he wanted to impress a famous journalist, he thought he could change his mind about his view of him, he did a long interview with Bob Woodward. Bob Woodward, a renowned journalist, taped the interview with him, extensive interviews, hours. And he taped an interview where Trump said he knew this disease was deadly, significantly worse than the flu. But that's not what he told you. That's not what he told the public.

Joe Biden: And the reason he lied again to the American people? Well, he said he didn't want to panic the American people. Americans don't panic. Donald Trump panicked. That's who panicked. As a consequence of his overwhelming lying, negligence, and irresponsible action, how many empty chairs were around the kitchen table this morning or the dining room table last night? How many? How many women or men leaned over when they got in bed last night and reached over to touch their husband and wife, and they weren't there? You all know what loss is. It's profound, especially when it was avoidable, much of it.

Joe Biden: But mishandling the pandemic isn't enough for Trump. On top of that, he's still trying to take away your healthcare. Trump's still determined in the midst of this pandemic. And by the way, if projections... Pray, God, they're not right, Father. But if they're right, though, in the next several months, there'll be over 200,000 additional deaths. That would be in one year 400,000 Americans would have died. That's more than lost in all of World War II,

hear me? World War II was four years. More American souls would have been lost than in World War II.

Joe Biden: What's he doing? He's still determined to destroy the Affordable Care Act. This isn't hyperbole. Just like your opponent calls it a disaster. Talk about a disaster, there's a disaster. The guy is 2000% or 200%, whatever it is with Trump. Hope everybody remembers. Look, as I said, this isn't hyperbole. It's real, as real as it gets. On November 10th the United States Supreme Court will hear the Trump administration make the case that the Affordable Care Act should be struck down in its entirety.

Joe Biden: I know everybody thinks they know, but I just want to remind you 10 million of you have already lost your health insurance because your employer's health insurance, they've gone out of business. 10 million Americans already without health insurance. If Trump gets his way, 20 million more Americans will lose their health care. That's God awful. In the midst of this God awful economic crisis, 100 million Americans will lose their protections for pre-existing conditions, including more than 4 million people right here in Michigan. Lifetime limits on benefits will be back.

Joe Biden: And by the way, a lot of you've been through what I've been through and worse. I can distinctly remember sitting on a bed with my Beau, my son, who came back from a year serving in Iraq, which this president talks about losers who serve, losers. With the same significant disease that your mom had, stage four glioblastoma. When it was diagnosed, when he got home, we asked the docs. It was only a matter of months, not if, just months. We never gave up hope. I remember watching him on that bed. He made it almost 16 months.

Joe Biden: Toward the end, and this is not about me, it's about all of you, I consciously thought to myself, what would it feel like if they were able to walk in and say, "Mr Biden, you've outrun your insurance coverage. Suffer the last two or three months in pain on your own. Lots of luck." Because that's what was happening before.

Joe Biden: Insurers, if they win, and that's what this court packing going on now is about, insurers will no longer allow you to keep your kids on your policy till age 26 in the middle of this economic crisis. Women, once again, will be charged more for their healthcare just because they're a woman. Older folks will be able to be charged more. And as the governor said, long-term complications from COVID will become pre-existing conditions, joining asthma, diabetes, even pregnancy is a preexisting condition before. It could allow insurers to jack up your premiums or deny coverage altogether.

Joe Biden: Getting rid of Obamacare is why they're racing to get this nominee through the Supreme Court. Make no mistake about it. Trump's made it clear from the beginning, as your opponent has. He wants to get rid of Obamacare in its entirety. And with this nominee, he's made that incredibly clear, as well. Michigan deserves so much better. Deserves leaders like-

Joe Biden: Michigan deserves so much better, deserves leaders like Gary and Debbie Stabenow, public servants who lead with decency and honor, always look out for your needs, will think about how to ease the burden on your family.

Joe Biden: That's the sort of leader you've got in Gretchen, in Governor Whitmer, as well. When she was in the state senate, she led the charge to secure Obamacare Medicaid expansion for more than 800,000 Michiganders. Think about this now. Some of those States, Republican governors did not expand, even though the federal government was paying for it front end. There's millions of people have no coverage.

Joe Biden: After we passed Obamacare with the help of Debbie and Gary, Debbie Stabenow and Gary Peters, we were able to reduce the uninsured rate by 55% here in Michigan. And if I have the honor of becoming your president, we'll build on the Affordable Care Act, no matter what they do.

Joe Biden: You can choose to keep a private plan, if you still have one. Because some of the private plans negotiated, the UAW owners are good plans. But we'll also offer you a Medicare like public health insurance option. It'll force private insurers to keep premiums low and offer better coverage because, for the first time, they'll have to compete for your business against a public insurer that doesn't have the profit motive in mind.

Joe Biden: If you choose this public option or a private plan will increase subsidies for your premiums, so that they're lower. You can afford our plans with lower deductibles, lower out-of-pocket spending. An independent analysis found that my plan will slash the cost of prescription drugs by 60%. Not a liberal think tank, serious folks looking at this. Here's the bottom line. My plan lowers healthcare costs and gets universal coverage quickly at a time when Michigan families desperately are going to need that relief and they need it now. Families are reeling right now. They need a lifeline now. I promise you. When I'm president I'll take care of your health coverage, the same way I would my own family.

Joe Biden: I grew up like a lot of people in this state. In Scranton, Pennsylvania and Wilmington, Delaware in a three bedroom, split level home with four kids and a grandpop living with us. I can remember how my dad, when we moved from Scranton for no work, we moved down to Delaware. He stayed with my grandpop for a year, he came home every weekend. Finally got a job. We got an apartment we lived in, and ended up being section eight housing years later, but it was decent. We were happy.

Joe Biden: It took my dad about three years to get a job good enough that he could actually buy a home. And he bought that small home at the time a suburban sprawl was going on. There were 70 homes like it, three and four bedrooms homes. But the walls were thin. I look back and I wonder how my mom and dad did it, come to think of it. I remember one night, my dad, you could hear him restlessly rolling in bed. Our bedroom was next to it. And I asked my mom the next morning, what's wrong with Dad? She said, "Honey, it's complicated." I said, "What's

the matter, Mom?" I was 14 years old. She said, "Well, his company just lost his health insurance. We're going to be okay, honey."

Joe Biden: Think of all the people rolling around in bed tonight, tomorrow night, last night. Trump doesn't see things this way because he only sees the world from a Park Avenue perspective. I'm not being a wise guy, I'm being literal. He can only see from his penthouse, Wall Street.

Joe Biden: I see the world from where I grew up like many of you. I grew up in Scranton, as I said. My mom taught me. My mom had a backbone like a ramrod. My mom taught me. She said, "Joey, look at me, look at me." Because I used to stutter. She said, "Nobody's better than you, Joey, but everybody's your equal." That's how I was raised.

Joe Biden: I think you and I, we measure people, whether you're a Democrat or Republican, we measure people on the strength of their character. Honesty, decency, recognizing that some things are bigger than just your self-interest. That's what America is about. That's who we are. It's about family, respect, decency, honor, opportunity. Our families and yours, we weren't asking for anything. Just a shot, just an even shot. Given a shot, the American people have never, ever, ever, ever, ever let their country down.

Joe Biden: That's what Michigan needs now, a shot to come back strong. That's what you needed 10 years ago in your automobile industry, the heart and soul of Michigan was on the brink. My state used to be an auto state. Small population, we had the highest percentage of auto workers of any state in the nation because we had less than a million people. The largest General Motors and Chrysler plants outside of Michigan. But you all remember like I do. You remember what it was like yesterday.

Joe Biden: When Barack and I decided we had to bet on Michigan, remember all the blow back even from some Democrats. We can't compete. We bet on auto workers, we bet on the UAW and they came through and it paid off. For real. The industry wasn't in trouble because of the auto workers, it was in trouble because of management decisions. Over the objection of many, we stepped in and rescued the automobile industry, General Motors and Chrysler, saving over 1 million jobs by that one deal.

Joe Biden: Don't ever underestimate the American worker. By contrast on Donald Trump's watch, we were in a nationwide manufacturing recession before COVID struck. And we're now down nearly 650,000 manufacturing jobs across the country now. Now, and it's rising. In fact, Donald Trump will be the first president in modern American history to leave office, God willing, to leave office with fewer jobs than he had when he started in office. Last one was Herbert Hoover. For real.

Joe Biden: Folks, we can bring this economy back. I'm positive of it. I'm optimistic about it. We know how to go about doing it. An independent analysis on Wall Street, Moody's, a well-respected Wall Street firm, has done an in-depth analysis of every aspect of my plan, as well

as his. You know what their conclusion was? This is Moody's, now. That my plan will create 18.6 million jobs, 7 million more than his would, and \$1 trillion more in economic growth than the president's plan, by investing in people.

Joe Biden: By the way, you see these ads here in Michigan, Biden's going to raise your taxes. Once again, flat, unadulterated lie. No one who makes less than \$400,000 a year will pay a penny more. If you make more than that, you're going to start paying at the rate you paid under the administration of George W. Bush at 39.6%. But I'm going to ask big corporations and the very wealthy to pay their fair share for a change. Trump's more than \$2 trillion tax cut, I'm going to roll back 1.5 trillion of that in the giveaways to the biggest companies in the top 1%. And the money we raise, we'll invest in working people, in growing the middle class. And this time, make sure we bring everybody along, black, white, Hispanic-

Joe Biden: This time, make sure we bring everybody along. Black, white, Hispanic, disabled. Everyone comes along. Outside economists said my plan will create millions of good paying union jobs in manufacturing. We're going to invest in building more resilient infrastructure. Remember the president said, "I have an infrastructure plan." In 2017, and then 2018 and 2019, now 2020. He doesn't have any plan. I'm going to build a resilient infrastructure, creating good paying jobs. Building roads and bridges and ports. One million new jobs and affordable housing units. Should be one million new affordable housing units. High-speed broadband for every household. A 100 billion dollars to rebuild our crumbling schools. One of the reasons we can't send our kids back to schools. A lot of them aren't even safe now.

Joe Biden: We're going to retrofit as we started our administration when the president allowed me to run the recovery act. We're going to retrofit four million buildings and weatherize two billion homes. That alone will save 100s of thousands of millions of barrels of oil. It's all going to be done by certified union labor. I'm going to end Trump's incentives. He talks about his trade deals. As Gary and Debbie know in his trade deals he incentivized people to send jobs abroad.

Joe Biden: Abroad. More taking their jobs overseas. One thing more the United States Government owns and maintains enormous fleet of vehicles. I promise you, the president controls that. I'm going to convert those government fleets into clean vehicles made of and sourced right here in the United States of America. I'm going to expand the capacity so the United States, not China leads the world in clean vehicle production.

Joe Biden: We're going to make it easier to America's companies to switch from fuel inefficient vehicles. We're going to build a network of 500,000 charging stations all across the country. Offer consumer rebates to swap old or fuel inefficient vehicles for new clean American made models. Together, this will mean according to the estimates, more than a million good new jobs in the American auto release, because we will own the electric vehicle market in the world.

Joe Biden: Folks I guarantee you, we can do this, but we have to come together. I remember you and I talking gov when I was running for the nomination in my same way to unite the country. You're the only one whp thought I was right. That used to be the old days. Yeah, Joe, you got a lot done. You used to walk across to get a lot done, but everything's changed. Well folks, if we can't unite the country, we're in trouble.

Joe Biden: America and our system runs on consensus. Compromise is not a dirty word. I'm running as a proud Democrat, but I'm going to govern as an American president. I'll work as hard for those who don't support me as those who do. I do not see American terms of red and blue. Bringing the country together, that's the job of a president. It's a duty to care. To care for everybody. We can be so much better than what we see.

Joe Biden: We can be what you are at our best, when we're the United States of America. Folks, you have to vote and people are turning out here in this state and overwhelming numbers around the country. If you have any doubt, go visit [iwillvote.com/and-i](https://www.iwillvote.com/and-i). Early voting is happening now. Every city and township clerk's office in the state. You can register to vote in one quick stop. You have your ballot already, mail it or drop it in a Dropbox today.

Joe Biden: Don't wait, vote, and don't just vote for me and Senator Harris and Gary as well. Vote all the way down the line. We're going to need Gary back in the United States Senate, looking out for Michigan families because we're going to win back the United States Senate. When we do, we're going to change things. Folks, this time I really mean this to restore the soul of America. To rebuild the backbone of this country, the middle class.

Joe Biden: This time is I'd bring everybody along. Debbie, may remember my colleagues in the caucus used to wonder kid me because I quote President Kennedy. When he was about going to the moon and famous speech, everybody remembers the different parts of it. The line I remember more than anything else. He answered the question that wasn't, it was implicitly being asked, "Why are you doing this?" He said, "Because we'd refused to postpone. I refuse to postpone the work America must do now to bring this country back."

Joe Biden: There's nothing beyond our capacity. There's no limit to American future. The only thing that can tear America part is America itself. No other country can do that. Everybody knows who Donald Trump is. Well, we have to let them know who we are. What we stand for, we choose hope over fear, unity over division, science over fiction. And yes, truth over lies. Folks thank you and may God bless you and may God protect our troops. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you.

Oct. 16th, 2020 Joe Biden Detroit Michigan

Joe Biden Detroit Speech Transcript October 16

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Joe Biden gave a campaign speech in Detroit, Michigan on October 16 as part of his 2020 presidential campaign. Read the full transcript of his speech here.

Joe Biden: How y'all doing? My name's Joe Biden. I'm a car guy and I got a '67 Corvette that's Goodwood green. That's a 60... That's not a 67. That's a 427. That thing gets up and goes. Anyway. Choir, you must be freezing. Freezing to death. Well, I tell you what, man, you ought to huddle on the bus or something. Folks, I can't tell you how much I appreciate you being here. What time is it now? Seven o'clock at night, cold as the devil and your here. And I thank you very, very much. Detroit, there's no better, no more appropriate place to hold a drive-in rally than in motor city USA.

Joe Biden: I want to thank Everett. I want to thank Everett for sharing his story with us and for the unfailing dedication that you and so many of your proud union educators, we owe you. We owe you big for those students and families you take care of during these difficult times. I'm married. I'm Jill Biden's husband. She's an educator. So, that's what teaching is. It's just not she does. It's who she is. So Everett, thank you. And folks, look. I also want to thank the incredible leaders who are here today. My good friend, Mayor Duggan and mayor Duggan and I spent an awful lot of time together trying to get Detroit back. He got it back on the upside, but I was here trying to get to all the help he could possibly get to get it done. As Vice President I'm fighting to support this city, invest in the revitalization of the future of Detroit, because I've always believed in Detroit, not just saying that. My dad was an automobile man.

Joe Biden: That's what got me through school. That's what everything was about. And I've always believed in Michigan. We have the finest auto workers in the world here in Michigan. That's not hyperbole. That's a fact. I want to thank you, Chairwoman Barnes. Thank you very, very much. And Lieutenant Governor Gilchrist, you've been a good friend. And Governor Whitmer, you've been an incredible leader. She's been tested and proven under crisis conditions and extraordinary circumstances.

Joe Biden: Your leadership through this pandemic has saved countless lives of Michiganders here, Gov. That's a fact. And you've shown the whole nation just how tough you are. Michigan tough. I'm proud to call you a friend. And Senator Debbie Stabenow and Gary Peters, thank you for fighting for the people of Michigan who need help now, but aren't getting it because the Republican leader, Mitch McConnell, cares more about shoving through our Supreme Court nomination to take away your health care than he does helping the hurting people in this city, this state in this country. We can't forget that winning in November doesn't just mean defeating Donald Trump. It means winning back the United States Senate and expanding our

majority in the House of Representatives. That's why we need to send Gary back to Washington, DC.

Joe Biden: I really mean it. We need him. That's the guy who knows what he believes and says what he believes and does what he believes. And alongside Debbie Stabenow for the people in Michigan, but not quite frankly for the whole country. Folks, as my coaches to say, it's go time. This is the most important election of our lifetimes. And you can make all the difference here in Michigan. The choice is as clear as ever, and the stakes are higher than ever. The stakes in this election remind me of something my dad used to say. He said, "Joey, a job's about a lot more than a paycheck. It's about your dignity. It's about respect. It's about your place in your communities. Be able to look your child in the eye and say, 'Honey, it's going to be okay,' and mean it." Well, that's a lesson I've never forgotten.

Joe Biden: That's what I grew up surrounded by, hard work and families. In Scranton, Pennsylvania. Claymont, Delaware. How many people today though, can look their kids in the eye and say, "Everything's going to be all right," and mean it? These times are hard. Unemployment is way up due to the pandemic. Just this week, over a million, 200,000 more people file for unemployment. The economic outlook for next year remains uncertain and across Michigan and the country, folks are worried about making their next rent payment or their mortgage payment or their car payment. They're worried whether or not they can purchase the prescription drug they need or put food on the table, have to make a choice. Worried about sending their kids to school or worried about not sending their kids to school. They see the people at the top doing a hell of a lot better while the rest are left to wonder, "Who's looking out for me?" That's Donald Trump's presidency.

Joe Biden: More than 215... I think it's now 217,000, dead Americans because of COVID-19. And experts say we'll lose nearly 200,000 more lives in the next few months, all because this President cares more about his Park Avenue perspective on the world and the stock market than he does about you. Because we refuse to follow the science. It's estimated if we just wore these masks between now and the end of the year, we'd save 100,000 lives. Folks, you know what's really sad about all this? The President knew. He knew back in January how dangerous this virus was.

Joe Biden: And he hid it from the American people. He told the journalist Bob Woodward in a taped interview the disease was deadly. In January. Deadly and far worse than the flu and airborne. But here's what he did. According to the New York Times today, his administration gave Wall Street investors a heads up about it. Didn't tell us, but gave Wall Street Investors a head up, but the American people, he said nothing. That's why they made so much money by quote, "Selling short." They knew what was coming. But what happened to the rest of us? He told Bob Woodward he didn't want to panic the American people. We don't panic. He panicked.

Joe Biden: This personal conduct since his diagnosis has been unconscionable. The longer Donald Trump is President, the more reckless he gets. Dr. Fauci, the leading expert in the

country, referred to the President's announcement on the Supreme Court in the Rose Garden, as quote, "A super spreader event causing so many people to get COVID." And how did Trump respond? He responded by running a national ad, taking Dr. Fauci's words out of context.

Joe Biden: Dr. Fauci said way back in March a quote, "I can't imagine that anybody could be doing more." Referring to the public health officials. Then Trump took that quote out of context and put it into a campaign ad deliberately lying, making a sound like Dr. Fauci was talking about him. Even after Fauci asked him to take the ad down, trump's campaign said they'd continue to use the ad, knowing it was a lie. That behavior is no surprise. After all, this is the same man who looks at Americans who put their lives on the line, like my son put the lives on the line to save our nation, calls them losers and suckers. My son Beau spent a year in Iraq, won the bronze star of the conspicuous service medal. He was no sucker.

Joe Biden: And the people he left behind were heroes. And now, as a consequence of this overwhelming lying, misleading irresponsible action on the part of Donald Trump, how many empty chairs are there going to be around the dining room table tonight because of his negligence? Folks, we're so much better than this as a country. Despite the crisis we face, we have an enormous opportunity to build back better. The American people have had the blinders off to replace Donald Trump's incentives for companies to ship jobs overseas, with rental policies and tax credits, to revitalize American manufacturing, to make it in America, make it in Michigan, buy American.

Joe Biden: Look. We're going to do everything to give everyone a fair return on their work, an equal chance to get ahead. For example, in communities of color here in Detroit and all across the country, the question is, "How do we break the cycle?" Where in good times, you lag behind. In bad times, you're the first hit and hit the hardest. And in recovery, you're the last ones the bounce back. The answer is about justice. Criminal justice, policing reform. This nation is strong enough to both honestly face systemic racism and strong enough to ride safe streets for our families and small businesses that too often bear the brunt of looting and burning. We have no need for armed militias roaming America's streets, and we should have no tolerance for extremist white supremacist group, menacing our country. These guys are hatching violent and deranged schemes, like the one against Governor Whitmer that the FBI and local law enforcement uncovered and stopped last week. But make no mistake, that was a planned act of terrorism.

Joe Biden: A plot. Think of this. A plot in the United States of America to blow up a bridge on American soil, to threaten the lives of police officers, to kidnap an American leader. That's the sort of behavior you might expect from ISIS that should shock the conscience of every American to see that sort of twisted thinking take root here in America. What all President does, Trump does, is fan the flames of hatred and division in this country. Telling the proud boys in the debate with me. When I said, "Will you condemn them? He said, "I'll tell them to stand back and stand by." What the hell's the matter with this guy? Attacking Governor Whitmer on the same day this plot was exposed. It's despicable. And by the same measure, if

you say we have no need to face racial injustice in this country, you haven't opened your eyes to the truth of America today.

Joe Biden: There've been powerful voices for justice in recent weeks and months. George Floyd's six year old daughter, who I met with when I met the family. Jean. I knelt down to say hi to her, and looked at me and said, "Daddy, change the world." Jacob Blake's mother, another one, when I met with her, said violence doesn't reflect who her son is and the nation needs healing and said she's praying for the police officers. Or [Doc Rivers 00:12:02], the basketball coach, choking back tears when he said, quote, "We're the ones getting killed. We're the ones getting shot. We'd been hung. It's amazing why we keep loving this country and this country doesn't love us back."

Joe Biden: Think about that. Think about what it takes to be a black person who loves America today. That is a deep love of this country that has far too long, has not been fully recognized. What we need in America is leadership to seek to deescalate tensions, to open the lines of communications, to bring us back together again, to heal, to hope. As President that's precisely what I'll do, but true justice is also about jobs, good paying jobs, financial stability, families of color building wealth, passing it down.

Joe Biden: That's how I deliver equality and equity. Another example, more and more women are dropping out of the workplace because of the recession or in a city or out in the suburbs. I have a plan to deal with the pandemic responsibly. New testing, tracing, masking, not politicizing the race for vaccine. Planning for safe and equitable distribution, providing PPE and other resources for schools to reopen safely. Ease the caregiving crisis that so many families are experiencing. Squeezed between raising your kid and caring for your aging loved ones. And protect your health care. In the middle of this pandemic why didn't Republicans have the time, as I said, to hold a hearing on the Supreme Court, instead of addressing the significant economic needs of local communities? I'll tell you why. It's about wiping out Obamacare. Wiping it off the books, because their nominee has said in the past that the law should be struck down.

Joe Biden: He's going to take away healthcare coverage for 20 million Americans. They'll also take away protections for preexisting conditions that more than a hundred million people in America have. Complications of COVID-19 will also add to that. Lung scarring, heart damage could well become the next pre-existing condition. That will toss out the rule that allows children to be covered on their parents' health insurance till age 26. Will take us backwards to when insurance companies could charge a woman more for healthcare than a man, just because she's a woman. Folks, we can do so much better together. I'll build on the Affordable Care act, where you can choose to keep your private insurance as well as offer Medicaid like public option, which will give private insurance real competition. We're going to increase subsidies so your premiums are lower. You can afford a plan with lower deductibles, lower out-of-pocket spending.

Joe Biden: Folks, we can only do this if we come together as a country. Abraham Lincoln told us that a house divided cannot stand. Today, trust is ebbing. Hope seems elusive. And instead of healing, we're being ripped apart. I refuse to let that happen. We need to revive a spirit of bipartisan in this country. A spirit of being able to work with another. When I say that I'm told that used to be the way, Joe, used to get a lot of things done, but things have changed. Well, I'm here to tell you it can happen again. And they must. It must if we're ever going to get anything done. I'm running as a proud Democrat, but I will govern as an American President.

Joe Biden: I work with Democrats and Republicans. That's why so many Republican leaders have endorsed me. They know I've done it and we'll do it again. For those who don't support me as well as those who do, folks that's the job of a President, the duty to care, the duty to heal. And you, too, have a sacred duty. As my friend, John Lewis used to say, "Vote. It matters." Michigan matters. You elected me and Barack Obama in 2012. And you bet on us when we bet on you and bet on American workers. We bet on the UAW. I'm asking for your trust and support in 2020 for Kamala and me. We'll always have your back. I promise you. So please, vote. Help us get out the vote. Go to [iwillvote.com/mi](https://www.iwillvote.com/mi) and Detroit, more than 20 years. Look, you have now 20 early voting centers. They're open now all across the city.

Joe Biden: Open seven days a week and election day. It's a one-stop shop. You can go get registered and vote right then and there. So don't wait. Vote today. Tell everyone you know. Everyone you meet, vote. Vote. Vote. And no matter what, don't let anybody discourage you or tell you your vote won't count because it does.

Joe Biden: You, the American people are going to decide the future of this country. Vote. It's time to restore America's soul. It's time to rebuild the backbone of this country. The middle class and unions built the middle class. No matter what your age, race, or gender. Folks, folks, look. It's time to unite America. It really is.

Joe Biden: I'll never forget what President Kennedy said about going to the moon. My colleagues in the Senate used to kid me by raising it when I'd bring it up in a caucus. He answered the question that was on everybody's lips but nobody asked. "Why are we doing this?" He said, "We're doing it because we refuse to postpone." I refuse to postpone any longer the work America must do. There's nothing beyond our capacity. There's no limit to America's future. The only thing that can tear America apart is America itself. Look, everybody knows who Donald Trump is. Let's show them who we are. We choose hope over fear, unity over division, science over fiction. And yes, truth over lies. It's time to stand up, take back our country. God bless you all and may God protect our troops. Go get him. We can do this. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you.

Oct. 18th, 2020 Joe Biden North Carolina

Joe Biden North Carolina Speech Transcript October 18

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Joe Biden gave a campaign speech in North Carolina on October 18. Read the full transcript of his remarks here.

Joe Biden: I tell you what. Thanks for sharing your story and it's what this country's all about. You're making your family proud, man. And I wanted to talk, I want to thank the speakers ahead of me. Commissioner, soon to be commissioner Jessica Holmes, where are you Jessica? I know you're here somewhere. And also state Representative Yvonne Holly, Lewis-Holley. She's here. Zach Hawkins. Folks, and a great coach, Coach Lawson.

Joe Biden: I tell you what. My granddaughter's with me today. And she went to a school that Coach Lawson went to for a little while in Washington. And apparently Coach telling me she's recruiting some of the girl's basketball team from where my granddaughter went to school. And she showed me Coach, she showed me a video you were doing for your team, where you made the distinction between competing and winning, the heart of winning and competing. And you talked about, though, working hard and competing. And everybody you pointed out works hard. But you said working hard is absolutely essential, but competing is even more consequential. You can work hard, but did you compete with everything you had? Competing because you know what's at stake, what is at the heart of winning.

Joe Biden: My good friends, Congressman, excuse me, G.K. Butterfield and David Price, who represent the first and fourth districts with decency and honor, they can tell you we're doing both, working hard and we're competing like we never did before because so much is at stake for this nation. The very soul of the nation is at stake. Folks, as my coaches used to say in college, it's go time. It's the most important election in our lifetimes. We're going to make all the difference here in North Carolina. The choice is clear as it's ever been. And the stakes have never been higher. The stakes of this election, remind me of something my dad used to say when he lost job up in Scranton, Pennsylvania when I was a kid, when coal died and he moved down to Delaware. He used to always say, "Joey, a job is about a lot more than a paycheck.-

Crowd: That's right.

Joe Biden: "It's about your dignity. It's about respect. It's about your place in the community." Then he said, it's the God's truth, if I heard it once I heard it 20 times. It's about being able to look your kid in the eye and say, "Honey, it's going to be okay." That's a lesson I've never forgotten. When I grew up surrounded by a lot of hard work and folks in Scranton, Pennsylvania and Claymont, Delaware were we moved. How many people today though, think they can look their kid in the eye right now and say, "It's going to be okay," and mean it. So

many people are hurting. Over half the people in America say if they got a bill for \$400 they didn't expect in one month, they wouldn't be able to pay it. They'd have to borrow the money or they'd have to sell something.

Joe Biden: Folks, times are hard, unemployment's way up. Just this week, 1,200,000 people filed for unemployment. Folks are worried about making their next mortgage payment or rent payment. Whether their healthcare will be ripped away in the middle of a pandemic. Worried about sending their kids to school, worried about not sending their kids to school. They see folks at the top, they're doing better than ever while they're left to wonder, "Who's looking out for me."

Joe Biden: Well, that's Donald Trump's presidency. More than 217,000 Americans dead because of COVID-19. Nearly 4,000 here in the state of North Carolina. On Friday, we saw the highest number of new cases in one day since July. In the last two days, worst day since July. Yet, the other night Trump said in one of his rallies, "We've turned the corner." And my grandfather would say, "This guy's gone around the bend if he thinks we turned the corner,"

Crowd: Yeah, Joe. Joe [inaudible 00:04:39].

Joe Biden: Turn the corner? Things are getting worse. He continues to lie to us about the circumstances. Experts say we're likely to lose as many as 200,000 additional lives nationwide between now and the end of the year. All because this President cares more about his Park Avenue perspective on the world, the stock market, than he does about you. Because he refuses to follow the science. It's estimated that if we just wore masks, if we just wore masks, we'd save between now and the end of the year, a hundred thousand lives. His own head of the CDC said that. And you know what? What's really sad about this? The President knew how dangerous this virus was all the way back in January.

Crowd: Yeah.

Joe Biden: And he hid it from the country. He's on record. He told Bob Woodward in a taped interview that the disease was deadly, much worse than the flu. And here's what he did. According to the New York Times three, four days ago, his Administration gave Wall Street investors, a head's up, but he didn't tell us, just his friends on Wall Street. That's why they made so much money by "selling short." Well who got sold short, y'all got sell short. And you know what's coming.

Joe Biden: But what happened to the rest of us? He tried to claim with Woodward, he didn't want to panic the American people. The American people do not panic, Trump panicked.

Crowd: Send him home, Joe. Send him home.

Joe Biden: And his selfish behavior is no surprise. After all, this is the same man who looks at Americans who put their lives on the line for this nation, like so many tens of thousands here in North Carolina have done. Like my son Beau did after a year in Iraq, winning the Bronze

Star, conspicuous service medal, he looks at them, he calls them suckers and losers. Who the hell does he think he's talking about? These are our heroes. They are the people who have sacrificed. They're the backbone of this country.

Joe Biden: And now as a consequence of all this overwhelming lying, negligent, and irresponsible action has come, how many chairs were empty at the dining room table last night because of his negligence? Folks, we're so much better than this. Despite the crisis we face, we have enormous opportunity if we just build. We can build back better. We just got to stand up and take it back. Look, we can build an economy that gets everyone a fair return on their work, an equal chance to get ahead. For example, the communities of color here in North Carolina and across the country. The question is, how do we break that cycle where in good times you lag behind. In bad times, you get hit the hardest and first. And in recovery, the last to bounce back. Well, the answer is about justice, criminal justice, police reform. I know this nation is strong enough to do both, honestly face systemic racism and provide safe streets for our families and small businesses, that too often bear the brunt of looting and burning.

Joe Biden: We have no need for our armed militias roaming America's streets. This is the United States of America. And we should have no tolerance for extremist white supremacist group marching, menacing our communities. But what, but if you say we have no need face racial injustice in this country, as he says, you haven't opened your eyes to the truth. There've been powerful voices for justice in recent months. George Floyd's six year old daughter, who I met with in the family. I knelt down to say hi to her. And she looked at me, she said, "Mr. Vice President, daddy changed the world. Daddy changed the world." Jacob Blake's mother, with whom I met, said violence didn't her son and this nation needs healing. And then said she prayed for the police officers.

Crowd: [inaudible 00:09:00] Joe. Amen.

Joe Biden: Doc Rivers, a basketball coach, choking back tears when he said, "We're the ones getting killed. We're the ones getting shot. We've been hung. It's amazing why we keep loving this country and this country doesn't love us back." Think about that. Think about what it takes to be a Black person to love this country today as it does, its deep love for this country. And for much too long it hadn't been recognized.

Joe Biden: We need leadership to deescalate tensions, open lines of communication and brings us together. To heal and to hope. As president that's precisely what I'll do. But true justice is also about jobs, good paying jobs, financial stability. It was right here in Durham, on Parrish Street a century ago that an oasis of black owned businesses thrived, even in the era of Jim Crow. Parrish Street was one of the first examples of flourishing black middle-class community in America. A place that offered the country a glimpse of what we could become if we chose to live up to our founding values. Giving families of color a real shot at a home, start a small business, send a child to college debt free so they can build wealth and pass opportunity down through generations. That's what built every other middle-class group in America. That's how we deliver equality and equity.

Joe Biden: Another example, more and more women are dropping out of the workforce in this recession, whether in cities or in suburbs. I have a plan to deal with this pandemic. Responsibly testing, tracing, masking, not politicizing a race for a vaccine, planning for its safe and equitable distribution. Providing funding for PPE and other resources for schools to reopen safely. Easing the caregiving crisis so many families are experiencing, squeezed between raising your kids and caring for an aging, loved one. And protecting your health care. In the middle of this pandemic, why did Republicans have the time to hold a hearing on the Supreme Court instead of addressing this significant economic needs of local communities?

Joe Biden: I'll tell you why. For real not hyperbole, I'll tell you why. It's about wiping Obamacare off the books. That's what it's about. Because their nominee has said in the past the law should be struck down. If they get their way, 100 million Americans will lose their protections for pre-existing conditions. Complications of COVID-19, over 7 million people infected will become the next preexisting condition, allowing insurers to jack up your premiums or deny your coverage altogether. And women will again be charged more for their health just because they are women. Folks, we can do so much better.

Joe Biden: I will build on the Affordable Care Act so you can keep your private insurance. You can choose a Medicare like option. We're going to increase subsidies that lower your premiums and deductibles [inaudible 00:12:18] out of pocket spending. Look, your governor has been working hard to expand Medicaid, but it's being blocked by Republican legislature. My plan will automatically enroll 357,000 uninsured North Carolinans in a public option for free, automatically.

Joe Biden: And it's going to make a life-changing difference for so many families. But we can only do any of this if we come together as a country. We need to revive the spirit of bipartisanship in this country. A spirit of being able to work with one another. When I say that, and I said that from the moment I announced, I'm told that, "Well, maybe that's you used to be able to do that, Joe. That was your reputation when you were in the Senate and Vice President. But things have changed. They don't work that way anymore." Well, I'm here to tell you they can and they will and they must if we're going to get anything done in America.

Crowd: We love you, Joe.

Joe Biden: Folks-

Crowd: We love you, Joe.

Joe Biden: I'm running as a proud Democrat, but I will govern as an American president. No red states, no blue States, just the United States. I promise you. I'll work as hard for those who don't support me as those who did. That's the job of a president, a duty to care, to care for everyone in America. Folks, and you too have a sacred duty. To vote. And it matters. North Carolina matters. And Senator Harris and I are asking you for your trust and support. We'll always have your back, I promise you.

Joe Biden: So please, please vote and help get out the vote. Go to [iwillvote.com/nc](https://www.iwillvote.com/nc). Early voting started on Thursday. We got to keep the incredible momentum going. We can't let up. You can vote early in person until the 31st. But don't wait, go vote today and don't just vote for me and Senator Harris. You've got a governor's race, a Senate race, a record number of black women on the ballot. Congress and lieutenant governor. Labor commissioner and the courts. Folks, they're ready to deliver for North Carolina families. So vote, vote. It's time. It really is time.

Joe Biden: When I announced my candidacy, I hadn't planned on running again to be very blunt. And I've said it before. My son had just died and I had no interest. And then I saw those folks coming out of the fields in Charlottesville, carrying torches. Close your eyes, remember what it looked like. They're veins bulging, shouting anti-Semitic bile. The same bile that was shouted in the streets of Germany in the thirties. Carrying Nazi flags, accompanied by the Ku Klux Klan. And a young woman was killed that was protesting the opposite direction. And when asked to comment, this President said something no other president has ever said in the history of the United States of America. He said, "There were very fine people on both sides. Very fine people."

Joe Biden: Folks, I mean it when I say this it's time to restore America's soul. It's time to rebuild the backbone of America, the middle class. And this time, bring everybody along. No matter your race, your age, your religion, your gender, ethnicity, or disability. We can do this. The blinders have been taken off the American people and they've seen what's happened. It's time to unite America. Look, I'll never forget what President Kennedy said when I was a kid and we're going to the moon. Every kid in the school had to hear his speech. He used the line in that speech my Senate colleagues and the White House heard me use all the time, it made the most impression on me. He asked the unasked question, "Why are we doing this?" And his response was, he said, "Because we refuse to postpone."

Joe Biden: This is America. We refuse to postpone America's work that must be done.

Crowd: Yeah, Joe. Yeah, Joe.

Joe Biden: There's nothing beyond our capacity. We have never, never, never, never failed. There's no limit on our future. The only thing that can tear America apart is America itself. Everybody knows who Donald Trump is. So let's let them know who we are. We choose hope over fear. We choose unity over division. Science over fiction. And yes, we choose truth over lies. So folks, it's time to stand up. Stand up and take back our democracy. No more time left. God bless you all. And may God protect our troops. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you.

Joe Biden Campaign Remarks Transcript Pennsylvania October 26

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Joe Biden gave a speech at a campaign stop in Pennsylvania on October 26. He discussed President Trump's response to the current national spike in coronavirus cases. Read the transcript of his speech [here](#).

Joe Biden: Thanks for letting me be here. The state rep, the mayor's here as well. I want to thank him very much. Look, yesterday, the White House Chief of Staff Mark Meadows went on television to admit to the country that the administration wasn't even trying, trying anymore to deal with the pandemic. He said and I quote, "We're not going to control the pandemic." A Washington Post headline today says is, White House gives up on trying to slow virus spread. No caveats, just a deadly admission.

Joe Biden: Early in this pandemic some of you have had to cover me for a long time, Trump called himself a wartime president fighting a war against an invisible enemy. I've been saying for months as you well know that he waved the white flag all the way back then. He wasn't doing much at all. Some people said I was being harsh, that I was being unfair. The White House was coming right out now and admitting what I said months ago was absolutely true. And look how many people are dead. 220,000 and it's expected as many as another 200,000 could die between now and the end of the year.

Joe Biden: And he said, "We're not going to control it." Not going to control it. The bottom line is Donald Trump is the worst possible president, the worst possible person to try to lead us through this pandemic. I don't think he just either doesn't have any idea what to do or he just doesn't care. On Friday, Dr. Tony Fauci, the nation's most respected infectious disease expert publicly acknowledged that the president has not even met with his COVID team for months, for months. Even worse, Saturday, Donald Trump said that, "the COVID 19 count was wasn't really going up. Everything was leveling out." He suggested the doctors were inflating the numbers.

Joe Biden: Catch this. Because doctors get more money. What in the hell's the matter with this man? A thousand doctors and nurses have given their lives trying to save lives. And he's said the reason they're talking about testing is that they want to make more money. Mr. President, more than 1,000 healthcare workers have lost their lives fighting COVID. Doctors, nurses, they're not profiting, they're dying. And you remember during the debate, whatever you want to call it that. During the debate, Trump said that, "We're learning to live with this COVID."

Joe Biden: No. He's asking us to learn to die with it. Folks, this has got to end. We can in fact end this crisis. If he would only get together with the House and Senate, work out a compromise on the spending bills that are out there in order to deal with everything from safely open our schools. It will cost \$200 billion to do it, but it's worth doing it. We should do it. We can lower class sizes, more teachers, ventilation PPP, the masks, gloves, all the sanitation. The businesses will be able to be open if we provide the same kind of help, which we said we would do.

Joe Biden: There's so much more to do. Testing and tracing, we should be pouring billions of dollars into determining how we get rapid testing, rapid testing. So you know within hours whether or not the test is negative or positive. Many places you have to wait some from five up to six or seven days. He's not doing what needs to be done. And look, folks, I promise you this. I'm never going to give up. You know, Mr. President, you have to have a little bit of shame, just a little bit of shame because people are dying.

Joe Biden: Here's the point I want to make. Let me say it clearly. More people are going to die as many as 200,000 suggested by some. And it's pointed out if you just wore a mask, kept social distancing, got tested where we can save within now and the end of the year over a 100,000 American lives. I'm not going to give up. I don't know what we'll inherit from January the 21, but the rate he's going it's not going to be good, but we're going to be able to make.

Joe Biden: And by the way, I'm happy to take some questions from the press, but let me make it clear. I'm not shutting down oil fields. I'm not eliminating fracking. I'm investing in clean energy and we're going to make sure that we don't continue to subsidize the oil companies. There's two estimates. They get somewhere between 25 billion and 40 billion in subsidies. That money should go in to making sure we do a lot of other good things. So with that, why don't I take? Yes, sir.

Speaker 2: Thank you so much., Mr. Biden. You kept a relatively light public schedule in the past few days. Can you give us a sense of how much you'll be traveling in the next few days where you might be going?

Joe Biden: I just told you where I'm going to be traveling. And I, by the way I traveled the last few days too.

Speaker 2: Are you going to Iowa, sir? Is that where you're going?

Joe Biden: I'm going to be going to Iowa. I'm going to Wisconsin. I'm going to Georgia. I'm going to Florida and maybe other places as well. There's a lot we've been doing as well in terms of being online and social ... excuse me. Everything from fundraising efforts to making sure we meet. I met today with a group of leaders in the democratic party laying out where we're going to go, getting their input and like so. We're constantly, there has not been a day that hadn't been a 12-hour day yet.

Speaker 3: Mr. Vice President, are you confident enough in your standing in states like Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, Michigan to be expanding the map and traveling to Iowa?

Joe Biden: No, no. Look, you know me. I am not overconfident about anything. I just want to make sure we can earn every vote possible. That's why we're here. And you know that blue wall has to be re-established. With the grace of God and the goodwill of the neighbors, I'm going to win Pennsylvania. It's a matter of a great deal to me personally as well as politically. I think we're going to win Michigan. I think we're win Wisconsin. I think we're going to win Minnesota. I think we have a fighting chance in Ohio. I think we have a fighting chance in North Carolina. We have a fighting chance in Georgia. A fighting chance in Iowa.

Joe Biden: So fortunately because of over six million individual voters, average contributors, average contribution \$49, we're able to compete like we haven't been able to compete before in all these different states. So that's why I said we're going to be traveling, continue to travel. But the big difference between us and reason why it looks like we're not traveling, we're not putting on super spreaders. We are doing what we're doing here. Everybody's wearing a mask and trying as best we can to be socially distanced. And that's what we're doing. You've attended a number of our press conferences as well. It's important to be responsible.

Speaker 4: Mr. Vice President, you mentioned just a minute ago there as part of your commission, you would look at how long justices serve on the court. Does that mean that you're hoping to term limits?

Joe Biden: No, no, no, no, no. There is a question about whether or not it's a lifetime appointment. I'm not going to attempt to change that at all. There's some literature among constitutional scholars about the possibility of going from one court to another court, not just always staying the whole time in the Supreme Court. But I have made no judgment, my word. My word is about I made no judgment. There are just a group of serious constitutional scholars who have a number of ideas how we should proceed from this point on. And that's what we're going to be doing. I'm going to give them 180 days god willing if I'm elected from the time I'm sworn in to be able to make such a recommendation.

Speaker 5: (08:11) [crosstalk 00:08:11] Do you have any reaction to President Trump planning an outdoor event at the White House tonight to celebrate the anticipated confirmation of Judge Barrett?

Joe Biden: Look, If you have children and you were raised, all parents are taught that the example you set impacts on how your kids react. When you're a boss of an operation, the example you set, what you do matters to the rest of the company. Well, the words of a president and the actions of a president, they matter and matter a great deal. And when the President of United States puts on these super spreader events, you saw what happened when she was announced. All the people, including his family, thank God they seem to be okay. All the people came down with COVID.

Joe Biden: I just hope he is willing to have learned a lesson and there'll be significant social distancing. I don't blame him for celebrating. There's a lot of things we could be doing with having massive crowds, but the fact is that it's just not appropriate now. I just hope he and the

vice president and others act with some dispatch and do it what everybody knows. People should be tested first before they even show up, number one. Number two, they should be wearing masks. Number three, they should be socially distanced. And number four, it shouldn't be a huge crowd, whether it's outside or not. Thank you all very much. I appreciate it.

Oct. 27th, 2020 Joe Biden Warm Springs Georgia

Joe Biden Campaign Speech Transcript Warm Springs, GA October 27

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Joe Biden held a campaign event in Warm Springs, Georgia on October 27. Read the transcript of his speech remarks [here](#).

Joe Biden: Hello, hello, hello. What a magnificent setting. It's hard, when you're driving here, not to think of the circumstances President Roosevelt faced and how he overcame so much for so many. So, good afternoon.

Joe Biden: A few weeks ago, I spoke at Gettysburg about the need to unite our nation, and today I'm here at Warm Springs because I want to talk about how we're going to heal our nation. Over these past few months, there's been so much pain, and so much suffering, and so much loss in America. Over 225,000 people have lost their lives to a virus. Many of those lives lost the cruelest way possible: alone. Alone in a hospital room, alone in a nursing home, no family, no friends, no loved ones beside them in those final moments, and it haunts so many of the surviving families, families who were never given a chance to say goodbye. I, and many of you know, what loss feels like when you lose someone you love, you feel that deep black hole opening up on your chest and you feel like you're being swallowed into it.

Joe Biden: The tragic truth of our time is that COVID has left a deep and lasting wound in this country. Millions of Americans have lost their jobs and we see the empty storefronts and the shuttered businesses, the visible signs of lost hopes and broken dreams. But what we don't see is all those parents staring at the ceiling late at night wondering, how am I going to pay the mortgage? How am I going to pay for our rent? What are they going to do if one of my kids get sick, now that I've lost my health insurance. Growing up, like many of you, I watched my father struggle to find work. He made what I call the longest walk any parent can make, up a short flight of stairs to his children's bedroom to tell a child you can't play in that little league team anymore, you can't go back to the same school.

Joe Biden: We can't stay here, Joey. We can't stay in Scranton anymore. We have to move. There are good jobs in Delaware. When I get one, I'll come back for you, your sister, your brother, and your mom. It's only 157 miles away, Joey. My father came home every weekend for that year or more, but he always said, when we finally got settled in Delaware, he used to say, "Joey, a job's", and all my friends would hear it as well, "A job's about a lot more than a paycheck." My sister heard it as well, Valerie. He said, "It's about your dignity, a job. It's about respect. It's about your place in the community." And right now, on this autumn afternoon, millions of Americans all across this country feel they've lost all that.

Joe Biden: A season of protest has broken out all across the nation. Some of it is just senseless burning and looting and violence that can't be tolerated and won't, but much of it is a cry for justice from a community that's long had a knee of injustice on their neck. The names of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Jacob Blake. They'll not soon be forgotten, not by me, not by us, and not by this country. They're going to inspire a new wave of justice in America. These are historic, painful crises. The insidious virus, the economic anguish, the systematic discrimination, and one of them could have rocked the nation, any one of them. Yet, we've been hit by all three at once. But if we're honest with ourselves, the pain striking at the heart of our country goes back not months but years. Our politics for too long has been mean and bitter and divisive, you can hear it now in the distance. We've stopped seeing dignity in one another. We've stopped showing each other respect.

Joe Biden: Too many among us spend more time shouting than listening, more time fighting than working together, more time demonizing and denigrating others than lifting them up. The divisions in our nation are getting wider. Angry people are upset, anger and suspicion are growing, and our wounds are getting deeper. It may, and many wonder, has it gone too far? Have we passed the point of no return? Has the heart of this nation turned to stone? I don't think so. I refuse to believe it. I know this country, I know our people, and I know we can unite and heal this nation. Warm Springs is a good place to talk about hope and healing. So Franklin Roosevelt came, "To use the therapeutic waters to rebuild himself." Stricken by polio, the polio virus in 1921, he suffered from paralysis. Like many other Americans in those pre-vaccine decades, FDR longed to live an independent life, a life that wasn't defined by his illness. To him, and to so many others facing physical challenges, Warm Springs offered therapy for the body, and I might add, and the soul, but it offered something else as well.

Joe Biden: FDR came looking for a cure, but it was the lessons he learned here that he used to lift a nation. Humility, empathy, courage, optimism. This place represented a way forward. A way of restoration, of resilience, of healing. In the years that followed, FDR would come back to Warm Springs often to think about how to heal the nation and the world, and that's exactly what he did. Lifting us out of a great depression, defeating tyranny, saving democracy. Then it was here on April 12th, 1945, that President Roosevelt died. A casualty of war as surely as any who fell in combat, and the free world mourned. American leaders wept. Maybe even more important was the reaction of the American people. Naval Chief Petty Officer Graham Jackson, a black man, cried as he played his accordion in tribute to FDR, not far from here.

Joe Biden: And the story is told that when Franklin Delano Roosevelt's procession went by, a man collapsed in grief. The neighbor asked him, "Did you know the president?" The response was "No," the man said, "but he knew me." He knew me. Few words better describe the kind of president our nation needs right now. A President who is not in it for himself, but for others. A President who doesn't divide us, but unites us. A President who appeals not to the worst in us, but to the best. A President who cares less about his TV ratings and more about the American people. A President who looks not to settle scores, but to find solutions. A President guided not by wishful thinking, but by science, reason, and fact. That's the kind of President I hope to be.

Joe Biden: I'm running as a proud Democrat, but I will govern as an American President. I'll work with Democrats and Republicans. I'll work as hard for those who don't support me as for those who do. That's the job of a President, a duty of care for everyone. This place, Warm Springs, is a reminder that though broken, each of us can be healed. That as a people and a country, we can overcome this devastating virus. That we can heal a suffering world. And yes, we can restore our soul and save our country.

Joe Biden: In his last hours, President Roosevelt was at work on a speech to be delivered the next day. In it he was to say, "Today, we must cultivate the science of human relationships, the ability of all people, of all kinds, to live together and work together in the same world at peace." To live together and work together. That's how I see America. That's how I see the presidency. And that's how I see the future. I tell you this from my heart. I believe America and American hope, not fear. Unity, not division. Love, not hate. The presidency though, is only one part of the American chorus. History isn't only a story of the great and the famous. No, our history is a story of we, the people, of all of us together.

Joe Biden: I've long said the story of America is a story of ordinary people doing extraordinary things. Change in our country comes when the voices of the powerless reach the ears of the powerful. When those whose names we'll never know, but will risk their lives to, in the words of Dr. King, "Bend the arc of the moral universe towards justice." Bending that arc is the work of our time, but it'll take all of us. Red states, blue states, Republicans, Democrats, Conservatives, and Liberals. And I believe from the bottom of my heart, we can do it.

Joe Biden: People ask me, why are you so confident Joe? Because we are the United States of America. There's nothing, nothing the American people can't do and been unable to do if we put our minds to it. When news of Franklin Delano Roosevelt's death went out on the wires, an editor in Chicago, turned to his colleague and said "Clear the decks for action." So I say to you today, if you're giving me the honor of serving as your President, clear the decks for action.

Joe Biden: For we will act, we will act on the first day of my presidency to get COVID under control. We'll act to pass my economic plan that will finally reward work, not wealth in this country. We'll act to pass my health care plan to provide affordable, accessible healthcare for every American, and drug prices that are dramatically lowered. We'll act to pass the Biden climate plan, meeting the challenges of a climate crisis while creating millions of good paying, high paying, labor jobs. We'll act to address systemic racism in our country, and we'll act to give working people a fair shot again in this country. And we'll act to restore our faith in democracy and our faith in one another.

Joe Biden: Today, we're facing a public health crisis of historic proportions. And with winter at hand, it's getting worse. Just last Friday, 83,000 new cases in one day. Saturday, another 83,000 cases. Nearly 1000 people a day are dying. Another 200,000 deaths are expected over the next several months, and the President keeps telling us not to worry. He keeps telling us we're turning the corner is his quote. He's as removed from reality, and as offensive as when

they told us the virus affects virtually nobody, just the elderly with heart conditions. Virtually nobody, just the elderly with heart conditions, as if they don't matter.

Joe Biden: And when he said in response to the number of deaths reaching a thousand, he said, "It is what it is." Well, it is what it is because he is who he is. In the spring, the President declared, in his voice as Commander-in-Chief, says Commander-in Chief. He was going to wage war on the virus. Instead, he shrugged, he swaggered, and he surrendered. Then his Chief of Staff just last week made a stunning admission, an admission that I believe, but never thought he'd say. Saying, "We're not going to control the pandemic." End of quote. We're not going to control the pandemic. It's a capitulation. It's a waving of a white flag. It's a window into the shocking truth about this White House that they've never really tried.

Joe Biden: Think about all the frontline health professionals who've risked and some given their lives for the last nine months in this pandemic. Think about all the first responders. Think about all the grocery store clerks, the drivers, the delivery drivers of the trucks, teachers, parents, the kids home from school. Think about all those who have lost their jobs. Think about all those have been infected by the virus. Think about all those who have died. They were giving their all while their President was giving up. Well, I'm here to tell you: we can, and we will control this virus. As President, I will never wave the white flag of surrender. Just imagine where we'd be today if the President had embraced wearing masks instead of mocking it. Imagine where we'd be today if the president had practiced social distancing, instead of holding super spreader events. Imagine where we'd be with a comprehensive system of testing and tracing.

Joe Biden: I first put forward a detailed plan on how to deal with this virus back in March, this administration ignored it. Then I released several more detailed plans in the months that followed, the most recent just last week. This administration has yet to offer a single plan. Yes, one of the reasons why the most one of the most prestigious medical journals in the world, the New England Journal of Medicine, called the President "Dangerously incompetent." Went on to say, "The President turned a crisis into a tragedy."

Joe Biden: I'm ready to act. I know what to do. Starting on day one of my presidency, we will do it. I've talked about the battle for the soul of America since the very beginning of this campaign, and I want to be very clear in these closing days about what I mean, and about what I intend to do in that battle. To assure that our better angels prevail over our worst instincts. I believe this election is about who we are as a nation, what we believe, and maybe most importantly, who we want to be. It's about our essence. It's about what makes us Americans. It's that fundamental. Time and again, throughout our history, we've seen charlatans, the con men, the phony populist, who sought the play on our fears, appeal to our worst appetites, and pick at the oldest scabs we have for their own political gain.

Joe Biden: They appear when the nation's been hit the hardest and we're at our most vulnerable, never to solve anything, but only the benefit themselves. In a recent encyclical, Pope Francis warns us against this phony populism, that appeals to "The basest and most selfish instincts."

He goes on to say, “Politics is something more noble than posturing, marketing, and media spin. These sow nothing but division, conflict, and a bleak cynicism.” He said, “For those who seek to lead, we do well to ask ourselves, why am I doing this? Why? What is my real aim?” Pope Francis asked questions that anyone who seeks to lead this great nation should be able to answer. And my answer is this: I run to unite this nation and to heal this nation. I’ve said that from the beginning. It is badly necessary.

Joe Biden: The Bible tells us there’s a time to break down, and a time to build up, a time to heal. This is that time. God and history have called us to this moment, and to this mission. With our voices and our votes, we must free ourselves from the forces of darkness, from the forces of division, and the forces of yesterday, and the forces that pull us apart, hold us down, and hold us back. And if we do so, we’ll once more become one nation under God, indivisible, a nation united, a nation strengthened, a nation healed. That is my goal. That is why I’m running. That is what we must do.

Joe Biden: Thank you all for being here, and may God bless America, and may God protect our troops. Stay safe and wear your mask.

Oct. 27th, 2020 Joe Biden Atlanta Georgia

Joe Biden Campaign Speech Transcript Atlanta, Georgia October 27

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Joe Biden held a campaign event in Atlanta, Georgia on October 27. Read the transcript of his speech remarks here.

Joe Biden: Thank you for that incredible introduction. My name is Joe Biden. I'm Jill Biden's husband, and I am Kamala's running mate. You all think I'm kidding, don't you? Folks, it gives me so much more optimism about the future to see that Maya and so many inspiring young people like Maya... That's President Trump. He's having trouble being heard over there. They're a very polite bunch.

Joe Biden: Look folks, I think Maya, you're inspiring and so many young people like you I've met all across America are getting so deeply involved, helping create the change that you know is possible. And of course I know you've had an incredible role model in Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms. I tell you what, she is something else. First of all, two things you got to know about her when you meet her. Number one, understand she's smarter than you. That's the first thing I had to learn. And the second thing is she's got a backbone a ramrod, and she has a moral compass that's true North. I really admire her. You've done an incredible job mayor. You're a powerhouse of a leader and you've helped shape and support this campaign from the earliest days. So, I want to thank you, Mayor Bottoms, for your vision, your partnership, and your commitment to the campaign and the people of Atlanta.

Joe Biden: And thank you Common and Offset. I tell you what, I know that's the real reason you came, the entertainment. I don't blame you. But I tell you what, great to meet them both and for them energizing and sharing their message of hope with all of us.

Joe Biden: I also want to recognize the elected officials joining us today. Representative Billy Mitchell, representative Calvin Smyre, who have been with us from the very beginning of this campaign. And we got to send back to the United States House of Representatives, Lucy and Hank and Stanford. All three of them are first rate congresspersons because if I win I'm going to need them badly. And by the way, [Nikema 00:03:13], I think it's important that you win as well along with Carolyn Bourdeaux.

Joe Biden: Folks, I think we're going to surprise the living devil out of everybody this year. I can't tell you how important it is that we flip the United States Senate. There's no state more consequential than Georgia in that fight. You have two competitive races here at stake. You have two great candidates that are going to need all the support they can get. Reverend Warnock and Jon Ossoff, both great candidates. No, they really are. And by the way, if we had told you

all a year ago or told those guys out in the street a year ago, good to see you man, told all those guys out in the street there a year ago, how competitive Georgia was going to be, you would have all looked at one another like you're crazy. But look, it doesn't take long for people to figure out when the game is up. When the Carney show goes through town the first time and people find out there's no P under any one of the three shells, the next time it comes back, it doesn't get much attention. Well, that's what the Trump administration has done.

Joe Biden: Let's give the people of Georgia to new senators who will fight for your interests, not for Donald Trump's interest. And not continue as for doing others have to make fun of my running mate. I love how these guys try to degrade everything and everybody. It's got to stop and it's going to stop with us. Folks, it's go time. There's one week left. Millions of Americans, over 60 million Americans have all ready voted and millions more by the end of this week. I believe when you use your power, the power to vote will change the course of this country. Right here in Georgia, with all of you, these are the final days, so keep that sense of empowerment with you. That sense of optimism. What we can do. What we will do. What we can overcome. What we will overcome.

Joe Biden: Look folks, I've been around a while, but I've never been more optimistic about America or the American people than I am right today. But I know it's hard. Over the past few months, there's been so much pain, so much suffering, so much loss in America. More than 225,000 dead Americans because of COVID-19. 7,800 right here in Georgia. Millions of people are out of work on the edge. They can't see the light at the end of the tunnel. And Donald Trump has given up. Over the weekend, his chief of staff of the White House said, I quote, "We're not going to control the pandemic." At the debate last week, Donald Trump looked at me and said, "We're rounding the corner." As my grandfather would say, "He's rounding the bend."

Joe Biden: He said, "It's going to go away. We're learning to live with it." I told him, "We're not learning to live with it if you're asking people to learn to die with it. And it's wrong." Donald Trump has waved the white flag, abandoned our families and surrendered to this virus. But the American people don't give up. They don't give in and surely they don't cower and neither will I. I will put in place a plan to deal with this pandemic responsibly, bringing this country together with testing, tracing, masking. It's estimated that if we wore masks the next few months, by his own experts in the CDC and other agencies, if we wore this mask the next few months, we'd save 100,000 lives. 100,000.

Joe Biden: It's estimated we lost over 135,000 lives so far needlessly because he's done virtually nothing. But still Donald Trump refuses to listen to science. We shouldn't be politicizing this race for a vaccine. We should be planning for its safe and equitable and free distribution when it comes, and it will. Providing for funding for PP, masks, gloves, all the things we need to set national standards for our schools and our businesses to open safely because they can. The House of Representatives already voted the money to provide for safe opening of these schools, but Trump was either locked in his sand trap in his golf course or in the bunker in the White House. He's not brought anybody together.

Joe Biden: Think about this all if you're old enough. Can you think of any president where there's been a national crisis who didn't bring all the parties together in the White House to try to solve something? He's done nothing. Nothing. Well, I'm going to bring Democrats and Republicans together to deliver the economic relief for families, schools, and businesses. I said before, I'm not going to shut down the economy. I'm not going to shut down the country. I'm going to shut down the virus.

Joe Biden: Look, Donald Trump crashed the economy that Barack and I left him. Like everything else he's left and inherited, he squandered it. We can build back better with an economy that rewards work not wealth. We can do it without raising taxes on the middle class. I guarantee you, no matter what you hear this president lying about, no one making less than \$400,000 a year will have one penny in taxes raised. Not one penny. It's a guarantee. But we're going to ask the wealthiest and the biggest corporations. 91 of the top corporate companies in America paid zero federal income tax. We're going to ask them to begin to pay their fair share. No one will pay at a higher rate than they paid at the beginning of the Bush administration. That's who will deliver tax relief for working families, the middle class, to help them buy their first home, help them pay for their healthcare premiums or childcare or caring for an aging loved one.

Joe Biden: Trump got a Supreme Court Justice, and you know why he did it, it's clear to everybody now, to destroy the Affordable Care Act, to take away the healthcare for 20 million Americans who have it. And over 100,000, 100,000 who are covered because they have pre-existing conditions for the first time, including 340,000 Georgians. A hundred million Americans would lose their protections for preexisting conditions, including more than 4 million here in the State of Georgia.

Joe Biden: Complications from COVID-19 are going to become the next pre-existing condition because of heart scarring, lung scarring, allowing insurers to jack up your premiums, deny coverage and women will once again be able to be charged more for their healthcare just because they're women. Donald Trump thinks healthcare is a privilege. I think it's an American right. Look, if we all get out and vote, you'll not only restore Obamacare, but we'll strengthen it and build on it so you can keep your private insurance or choose a Medicare-like public option. We'll increase subsidies and lower your premiums and deductions, out of pocket spending, reduce prescription costs by 60%. that's to the experts are telling me, and they'll tell you. We're going to make sure we keep the protections for people with pre-existing conditions.

Joe Biden: And by the way, I'll protect Social Security and Medicare. Meanwhile, Donald Trump says if he's reelected, he's going to change how we fund it. Ladies and gentlemen, the actuary at Social Security said if he does what he's proposing, if he's reelected, Social Security will be bankrupt by 2023. Go home and tell your parents who work like hell for that, what that's coming up.

Joe Biden: Donald Trump fails to condemn white supremacy. He doesn't believe there's systemic racism as a problem. And he won't say Black Lives Matter because they do. We know

they matter. That's why a season of protests broken out all across the nation. Protesting though, is not burning and looting. Violence can never be a tactic or tolerated and it won't. But much of it is a cry for justice from a community that long had the knees of injustice on their necks. The names of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Jacob Blake, will not soon be forgotten. Not by me, not by us, not by this country. Folks, they're going to inspire a new wave of justice in America. But true justice is also about jobs. Good paying jobs. The least as the mayor got done here, a \$15 minimum wage and financial stability. We're going to pass a national \$15 an hour minimum wage.

Joe Biden: Nobody should have to work two jobs to be above the poverty level. It's wrong. We're going to change it. And by the way, when we do it, what all the experts will tell you, even the Wall Street types, we're going to raise the economy, raise the standard of living for everybody. When folks at the bottom do better, everybody does better all the way up the ladder

Joe Biden: We're going to give black and minority families a real shot to own a home, start a small business, send a child to college debt free so they can build wealth and pass on opportunity through the generations like everybody else who's moved to the middle class has been able to do. We're going to invest \$70 billion in our HBCUs and minority serving institutions so students like Maya studied at Howard or students at Morehouse, Spelman, Clark Atlanta University. The future generations of proud students continue to get the very best education. And by the way, in the White House, I've committed, there is going to be in the outreach community, a section of The Divine Nine will be included. That's a promise.

Joe Biden: I've been told that I kind of grew up with a little bit of a chip on my shoulder being an Irish Catholic kid in a town that kind of looked down on it. I tell you what, I didn't realize I do, but I realized I do have a chip on my shoulder. When I read from serious people about eight months ago, something about how if I were elected president, I'd be the first president who didn't go to an Ivy league school in a long time. Like somehow it meant I didn't belong. I know Senator Harris will be the first HBCU graduate to serve as vice president. And I say it's about time a graduate from a state university and a HBCU graduate are in the White House. Don't tell me we can't do it because if we're sitting there, you will be there, too. I promise you.

Joe Biden: Folks, I'm optimistic because I know that we can meet the challenge of the climate crisis by unleashing American ingenuity and manufacturing to create millions of new high paying jobs, investing in technology and research. Folks, this is all in our capacity. We can do this.

Joe Biden: There aren't a lot of pundits who would've guessed four years ago that a Democratic candidate for president of 2020 would be campaigning in Georgia on the final week of the election. Or that we'd have such competitive Senate races in Georgia, but we do because something's happening here in Georgia and across America. People of different races, backgrounds, Democrats, Republicans, independents, they're coming together to transcend the old divides and show it's possible. And this is the most important election in any of your lifetimes. It's a battle, as I said at the outset, for the soul of America, and we're showing who

we are. You and I, Reverend Warnock, Jon Ossoff, all of us. This country can't afford four more years of Donald Trump and Mitch McConnell. They can't afford four more years of leaders who think they're only responsible for people who vote for them.

Joe Biden: Folks, I don't see America that way. This has to change. It will change with me. Every American, including the guys on the other side of the fence, will be seen and heard and respected by me. If elected president, there will be no red states or blue states, there'll only be the United States of America. I was reminded of that earlier this month when I went to the sacred grounds of Gettysburg. Abraham Lincoln taught us about the need of united nation. I was reminded of that earlier today when I was up in Warm Springs, reflecting on Franklin Roosevelt, taught us about the need to heal our nation. Folks, I'm running as a proud Democrat but I'll govern as an American president to unite and to heal.

Joe Biden: I promise you, look at my whole career. I'll work as hard for those who don't support me as those who do. That's the job of a president. A duty to care for everyone. So in these final days, stay empowered, stay optimistic, stay united because you too have a sacred duty. The duty to vote. It matters. Georgia, it matters. So, please vote. Help get out the vote. Early in-person voting in Georgia goes through October 30th. If you're voting by mail, return your ballot as soon as possible and make sure everyone you know does the same. Don't just take yourself to the polls, bring your brother, your sister, your mom, your dad, your neighbor, your friends. Drop your ballot off in a ballot box. Visit [IWillVote.com/GA](https://www.IWillVote.com/GA) to find the location in your community.

Joe Biden: And remember, remember the final words left to us by your late Congressman and my personal friend, an American hero, John Lewis. He said, "The vote is the most powerful, nonviolent change agent you have in a Democratic society." He went on to say, "You must use it. It's not guaranteed. You can lose it." Use it. You have the power to win this election. There's nothing beyond our capacity. There's no limit on America's future. The only thing that can tear America apart is America itself. No other nation can do it. Only America can tear America apart. Everybody knows who Donald Trump is. Let's show them who we are. We choose hope over fear, unity over division, science over fiction, and yes, truth over lies. So folks, it's time to stand up and take back our democracy and any place, we can do it here in Georgia. We win Georgia, we win everything. God bless you all and may God protect our troops. Thank you, thank you, thank you. All right. Thank you.

Oct. 29th, 2020 Joe Biden Tampa Florida

Joe Biden Campaign Rally Speech Transcript Tampa, FL October 29

[Rev](#) › [Blog](#) › [Transcripts](#) › [2020 Election Transcripts](#) › Joe Biden Campaign Rally Speech Transcript Tampa, FL October 29. Joe Biden held a drive-in campaign rally in Tampa, Florida on October 29. Read the transcript of his speech remarks here.

[...]

Joe Biden: Whoa. Holy mackerel. Hello, Tampa. Thank you so much, Chloe. You guys look like you're so far away, you may be in Delaware. Great to see you all. Thanks for so many of you being here. As my mother would say, God love you all.

Joe Biden: Chloe, thanks for sharing your story and for all that you do. We often say that a person contributes to their community, but how many people can you name who have done more for this city and its people than Chloe? Chloe, congratulations. Turned abandoned buildings and dangerous lots into places of life and hope, making sure that bringing the community together to build homes for local families and helping young people around Tampa learn job skills, instill pride and purpose in neighborhoods that have been left behind, and laying the groundwork for economic opportunity that endures through generations. That's the sort of work that changes the world. So thank you, Chloe. Thank you.

Joe Biden: I also want to thank all the other speakers here tonight, including your remarkable mayor. Jane, you're something else, kid. Thanks for the passport into town. I appreciate it. And my friends, and these are my friends, Congressman Charlie Chris. You were there in the beginning, Charlie. Thank you, pal. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you. And Kathy Castor, her district. I sought permission to come. She said, "Okay." Thanks Kath. And Alan Cohn, who we've got to send to Congress. And I just spent some time with one of my best buddies. A guy I served with for a long time in the United States Senate, Bill Nelson. I haven't served with anyone with more character, courage and decency than Bill and his daughter, Nan, and his son, Billy, as well as amazing Grace who is with him. She's something else, isn't she?

Joe Biden: Look folks, five days left. Five days, but who's counting right? But who's counting? Scranton. I got a Scranton sign here. I don't know, man. I'm getting... Wilmington. I'm getting confused here, man. Millions of Americans have already voted, over 75 I'm told. 75 million and millions more are going to vote before this is over. And I believe when you use your power, the power of the vote, we literally are going to change the course of this country for generations to come.

Joe Biden: We're going to do it both at home and abroad right here in Florida with all of you. You're the ones who built this country. CEOs and Wall Street didn't build this country. You did. No, not a joke. I've been saying this for years. Middle class people did, hardworking folks

and unions built the middle class I might add. And you're the ones who are going to save this country.

Joe Biden: Look, I said, I got in this race for three reasons a year ago, little over a year, and I meant it. The first was to restore the soul of this country. This is not who we are, is not who we are. We're more decent, honorable. We're more respectful. We're better people than we've been seen from this administration. Second reason was to restore the backbone of this country, the middle class and bring everybody along this time. And thirdly, to unite this country. We have to unite us. These final days, keep that sense of empowerment with you. That sense of optimism, what we can do, what we can overcome. That's the God's truth. I've never been more optimistic about America and America's chances than I am today. Because I know the American people. I know who we are. We have never, ever, ever, ever let the country down and give it a chance. And on November 3rd, we're going to unite this country and show the world who American really is.

Joe Biden: I mean it. I know it's hard. Over these past few months has been so much pain, so much suffering, so much-

Joe Biden: So much pain, so much suffering, so much loss in America. More than 225,000 people dead, 225,000. The estimates are, if we'd have acted responsibly, there'd be 160,000 fewer dead than there are today, because of COVID-19. We're now past the nine million mark of people infected. More than 16,000 people in Florida have been lost, and millions of people are out of work, on the edge. They can't see the light at the end of the tunnel. It's like that old bad joke of my generation, it's a freight train, because that's what happens if he stays in office. Donald Trump has given up. Over the weekend, the White House Chief of Staff said, and I'm quoting, "We're not going to control the pandemic." It's obvious he's not.

Joe Biden: At the debate last week with Trump, he said, "We're rounding the corner. It's going away. We're learning to live with it." Remember what I told him? He's asking us to learn to die with it. That's what's happening. Donald Trump has waved the white flag, abandoned our families and surrendered to this virus. But the American people never give up, we never give in, and we surely don't cower. And neither will I. Donald Trump just had a super spreader event here again. They're spreading more than just coronavirus. He's spreading division and discord. We need a President that's going to bring us together, not pull us apart. I'll put a plan in place to deal with this pandemic responsibly, bringing the country together around testing, tracing, masking. Leading doctors in America, including Trump's own CDC Director and Dr. Fauci last week said that if we just wore a mask, between now and the end of the year, we'd save 100,000 lives.

Joe Biden: Folks, that's not a political statement. It's a patriotic duty, for God's sake. But still Donald Trump refuses to listen to science. And we shouldn't be politicizing the race for a vaccine. We should be planning for its safe use and free and equitable distribution, providing PPE for national standards for school, businesses to open safely. I laid out a plan back in May how to do that, bringing together Republicans and Democrats to deliver economic relief. That's

already passed by the Democratic House of Representatives for working families, for schools and businesses. I've said it before, I'm not going to shut down the economy. I'm not going to shut down the country. I'm going to shut down the virus.

Joe Biden: Donald Trump inherited a strong economy from Barack and me, just like he inherited everything in his life. Oh, it's a fact. He squandered that economy like he squandered everything else. But folks, I promise you, I guarantee you, we can build back and build back better with an economy that rewards work not wealth, and we can do it without raising taxes a single solitary penny from working class or middle class families. I guarantee you, my word as a Biden, no one making less than \$ 400,000 will pay a single penny more in taxes. Not a penny. But I tell you what I'm going to do, and I make no apologies for it, I'm going to ask the wealthiest Americans and the biggest corporations of the Fortune 500 companies, 91 making a collective billions of dollars, didn't pay a single solitary penny in federal tax. Well, I'm going to make sure they pay their fair share.

Joe Biden: Why should a firefighter, an educator, a nurse pay at a higher rate than the super wealthy or corporate America? Because you do, you do. Why should you pay more taxes than Donald Trump pays? If we made this as a movie 10 years ago, people would think we're making it up. But it's true. We're going to deliver tax relief for working families of the middle class to help you buy your first home, help you pay for health care premiums, for childcare, for caring for your aging loved ones, for eliminating college debt. We're going to take care of this. And we can afford it. Look, Trump got his Supreme Court Justice, and he did it for one overwhelming reason, something he's been trying to do since the day he got elected, to destroy the Affordable Care Act. He's going at it again. If they get their way, 100 million Americans will lose protections for pre-existing conditions, cancer, all diseases that are out there.

Joe Biden: Folks, look, 8.4 million Floridians have pre-existing conditions. Complications of COVID-19 will become the next pre-existing condition, allowing insurers to jack up your premiums, deny your coverage. A lot of you young people don't even realize it, but before we passed the Affordable Care Act, insurance companies charged women more for the same healthcare as men, just because they were women. Fact, Donald Trump thinks healthcare is a privilege. I think it's you're right. If we all get out and vote, we'll not only restore Obamacare, we'll strengthen and build on it, so you can keep your private insurance if you like it, and you can choose a Medicare like option if you don't. We're going to increase subsidies and lower your payments and deductibles and premiums, out-of-pocket spending, reduce the unknown billing, reduce prescription drug costs by, according to the experts, up to 60%, by allowing, not making this stuff up, by allowing Medicare to negotiate for drug prices.

Joe Biden: We're going to make sure you keep the protections for people with pre-existing conditions. We're going to protect social security and Medicare, which they've been trying to cut for years. Meanwhile, the social security actuary, the guy who runs it, says the plan like Donald Trump says he wants to institute if he gets reelected, he says will bankrupt social security by 2023. As my wife would say, "Google it." You'll see what I'm telling you. You've got that right, pal. He said, "Trump is bankrupt." By the way, he probably is. He owes \$400

million to somebody. Anyway, folks, we have to vote. We have to vote for our military families. No, not a joke. Folks, of all the things Donald Trump has said, nothing has bothered me worse than the way he's spoken to those who served in uniform. He called them losers and suckers.

Joe Biden: Losers and suckers. My deceased son, Beau Biden won the Bronze Star, Conspicuous Service Medal and other awards. Volunteered to go to Iraq for a year, gave up his attorney general job to go with his unit. He wasn't a sucker, or a loser. He was a patriot. Like all of you who served. Like your sons, your daughters, your parents, and your grandparents. We have to vote for their dignity, respect they are due. We have to vote because while Donald Trump fails to condemn white supremacy, we can deliver racial justice while he's trying to make it worse. Look, Donald Trump doesn't believe that systemic racism is a problem. He won't say black lives matter. We know they matter. That's why a season of protest has broken out across the nation. But by the way, protesting is not burning or looting. Violence must never be a tactic tolerated, and it won't. But these protestors are in a cry for justice. The names of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Jacob Blake will not soon be forgotten. Not by me, not by us, not by this country. When I met with the family, his little daughter said, looked at me and she's only about seven years, and I knelt down to talk to her and the family. She looked at me, and she said, "Mr. Vice President, my daddy is changing the world." Well guess what? The inspiration coming from her daddy would happen, this new wave of justice in America. But true justice is also more than just dealing with abuse. It's about economic justice. It's about schools, housing, access to capital, good paying jobs, a minimum wage of a minimum of \$15 an hour. Financial stability. Giving families of color a real shot to own their own home, start a small business, send a child to college debt-free, so we can build wealth and pass on opportunities through generations like we did like, so many middle-class families have in the past. But we have to vote to ensure the full promise of this country. We have to vote to meet the challenge of climate crisis. Because you know in Florida, it is a crisis.

Joe Biden: We're all seeing the impact more than most. Devastating hurricanes to lay waste to all communities. Economic toll is astounding, and it grows every year, but the human toll is worse. Lost lives, lost homes, small businesses shattered. First responders put at risk from the West Coast burning, the middle part of the country flooding. Donald Trump when he thinks of climate change, he says hoax. Well, guess what? Speaking of hoaxes, remember what he said about these increasing violent hurricanes and the frequency? He actually said, maybe we should detonate a nuclear bomb over the Atlantic. By the way, the same stable genius who said, the biggest problem we had in the revolutionary war is we didn't have enough airports. Whoa. Man, I tell you, what. His answer to families in Puerto Rico, struggling through Hurricane Maria was, what would he do? Toss rolls of paper towels at them. He doesn't have any real answers. We know we can do something about it while combating climate change means jobs. We can unleash American ingenuity and manufacturing and build a stronger, more climate-resistant nation, creating millions of new high paying jobs.

Joe Biden: We can change the path we're on. We've got to act now. Time is running out. This country can't afford four more years of Trump, who thinks he's only responsible to the people

who voted for him. I don't see the presidency that way. I see an American as an American. I'd run as a proud Democrat. But guess what? It's starting to rain, and I'm going to shorten this for y'all. I don't see America that way. In 2008 and 2012, you placed your trust in Barack and me. Well guess what? Each day we were in office, we worked for you, the entire country. It was never about red States or blue States, always about the United States of America. I was reminded of that last month when I visited Gettysburg.

Joe Biden: Folks, you know what? When I went to Gettysburg to make that speech, Abraham Lincoln said a house divided cannot stand. Well, a nation divided cannot stand. I was reminded of that earlier this week. Ladies and gentlemen, you got to go to, IWillVote.com/FLA. Become FL. Return your ballot today. I never forgot what President Kennedy said about going to the moon. He said, "We're going, you know why? Because we refuse to postpone." Let's not postpone and get out of the rain. God bless you all. Thank you.

Oct. 30th, 2020 Joe Biden Des Moines Iowa

Joe Biden Campaign Event Speech Transcript Des Moines, Iowa October 30

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Joe Biden held a campaign event in Des Moines, Iowa on October 30. Read the transcript of his speech remarks here.

[...]

Joe Biden: Hello, Iowa. Hello, Polk County. Hello, De Moines. Back at the state fair. God love you all. Thank you for being out here today. Folks, I want to thank Ross. Thanks for that introduction. Ross, my heart goes out to you. It really is. I know it's hard, but you've been turning loss into purpose, saving lives. People who in fact ask me about my circumstances in the past said the best way to get through it is with purpose, find purpose. And you've done that. And Governor Tom and Christie Vilsack, my best buddies. Thank you, thank you, thank you for all you've done for me before, now, and God willing after. Jill and I will always be grateful, grateful for your support and your friendship. And folks, Cindy Axly, God loved her. And Amy Finkenhower, Abby Finkenhower.

Joe Biden: I tell you what, you guys are the single best Congress persons I've campaigned with. You need leaders like you right now. We need more of you. We need more. We've got to elect them both. And by the way, we need Readon in the Second District and J.D. in the Fourth District. It's time we can change things a little bit here. Right? Time to change it. I tell you what, and how about Theresa? I'll tell you what, you have no idea how much you're going to make my night when you win. You have no idea. And how you're going to make everybody else's night. You are as they say back in Scranton, you're the real deal, kid. You're the real deal. And you've never forgotten where you came from. And the I'm confident about is even going to Washington as a U.S. Senator, you're not going to forget where you came from and who you are.

Joe Biden: Your values are baked in. They're Iowa values. They're American values. You value honor, decency, respect, and dignity. You know they all matter. They matter a lot. That's who we are. And as we saw in the debate, where a farmer's daughter knows a breakeven point for a price of corn, crops. You think that'd be fairly basic. That's like my not knowing where the Delaware River was back home. Folks, but there's something else. Theresa and I both lost our first spouses. We've both been single parents with young kids. We both found a way back from broken places. And we know that's why you should elect this woman, Theresa, to the United States Senate. She sees, she understands, she believes. When she talks to you, when you talk to her, you know, and I'm not just saying this, you know she understands, she gets it.

Joe Biden: Just like our good friend Tom Harkin was your Senator. Teresa will be your Senator for Iowa. Not like her opponent, who's Donald Trump's Senator for Donald Trump. Folks, only four days left. Millions of Americans are already voting. Millions more are going to vote by late Tuesday night. I believe, when you use your power, the power of a vote, we're going to change the course of the country and quite frankly the world. Right here in Iowa with all of you in the final days. Please keep your sense of empowerment. Keep your sense of optimism of what we can do together, because you know we can do anything. You know how I know how hard it is. More than 200, and now I think it's up to 30,000 people have died, Americans dead, because COVID-19.

Joe Biden: Nearly 1,700 dead right here in Iowa. Iowa hit a record number of daily cases yesterday. It was over 2,300, and a record number of hospitalizations, more than 600. We've now hit nine million cases nationwide, a tragic milestone. And millions of people are out of work, on the edge, and they can't see the light. They don't know. It just looks dark right now for them. 82,000 Iowa jobs lost in this pandemic and still they've not come back. 70,000 jobs lost in Iowa since Donald Trump became President. Here at the fairgrounds, the Iowa State Fair canceled for the first time since World War Two, and Donald Trump has given up. The White House Chief of Staff said it out loud last week. He said, "We're not going to control the pandemic. We're not going to control the pandemic." In the debate last week with Donald Trump, he said, "We're rounding the corner. It's going away." And only he could say, "We're learning to live with it." Well, maybe you remember what I told him, "We're not learning to live with it. We're having to learn to die with it because of you." Donald Trump has waved the white flag. He surrendered to this virus. But the American people don't give up. Remember what he said when he did that interview, he said, although he knew about the crisis, he knew how bad it was back in January, the end of January, he decided not to tell the people, because he worried there would panic. Well, guess what? We don't panic. He panicked. And he misrepresented to us. Imagine if you had told us in January how dangerous this was and took action. It's estimated there would be over 130,000 people still alive.

Joe Biden: By the way, we don't cower. Nor do I and never will we. Unlike Donald Trump, we will not surrender to this virus. I'm going to put in place a plan to deal with this pandemic responsibly, which I laid out back in March, bringing the country together around testing, tracing, masking. It's estimated by the leading doctors in America that if you just wore those masks for the next between now and the end of the year, we would save, just putting this mask on, we'd saved 100,000 lives. It's expected that 200,000 more lives will pass between having the end of the year. Dr. Fauci called last week for a mask mandate. This isn't a political statement. It's patriotic duty, for God's sake. But still, Donald Trump refuses to listen to science. He politicizes the race for a vaccine instead of planning for its safe and equitable and free distribution. He refused to provide schools and small businesses the resources and national standards where they can open safely and stay open. Well, I'm going to bring together Republicans and Democrats to deliver economic relief to working families and school ...

Joe Biden: ... together Republicans and Democrats to deliver economic relief to working families and schools and businesses. The Congress has already passed this legislation. It's

sitting there, but he refused, he spent all his time this summer in his golf course bunkers or down in the white house bunkers, think about it. I've been around for a while, I bet even Senator Grassley would have to acknowledge that I don't ever remember any President in a crisis where there's a disagreement in the house and the Senate between Democrats and Republicans, didn't even try to bring them together to deal with this. The house back in May passed the Heroes Act, which would allow businesses and schools to open safely because it costs money, you need sanitation, you need ventilation, you need masking, you need distancing, you need separators. It all costs money, but it's sad, one in six businesses are now out of business, because he won't act. I've said before, I'm not going to shut down the economy, I'm going to shut down the virus.

Joe Biden: Even before the virus Donald Trump had already blown it, he inherited a strong economy from Barack and me, well like everything else he inherited, he squandered it. He squandered it, frankly. I've dealt with guys like Trump my whole life, so have you. Guys who think because they have a lot more money that they're better than you, look down on you. I know, I acknowledge I got a little bit of a chip on my shoulder coming from an Irish Catholic neighborhood where it wasn't viewed as that being such a great thing. When I read something about how if I'm elected President, I'm going to be the first non-Ivy league person to occupy the white house in a long time. Well guess what? Like somehow, I didn't belong if I didn't go to the Ivy league. Look, I'll say it about time, it's about time that a guy or woman or graduate from a state university is able to sit in the oval office.

Joe Biden: Because if I'm sitting there, you will be too, you know who really built this country? It wasn't Wall Street, it wasn't CEO's, it was hard working folks like all of you who built the middle class and unions helped build the middle class. We know how we can build a back and build it back better with an economy that rewards work for a change, not wealth. We can do it without raising the penny tax on the middle class. I guarantee you, give you my word as a Biden no one making less than \$400,000 year will see a penny in their taxes raised, no one, but I tell you what, it's about time. The wealthiest people in America, the billionaires, the trillionaires, the multi-billionaires and the biggest corporations start paying their fair share. 91 major corporations out of the Fortune 500 didn't pay a penny in tax last year, that's tens of billions of dollars. They're going to pay their fair share.

Joe Biden: Why should a firefighter, an educator, a nurse, a cop pay a higher tax rate, which you do than a major multi-billion dollar corporation. Why should you pay more taxes than Donald Trump who paid \$750? You want to know everything I don't like about Trump? Let me tell you, I could capture it in one answer he gave. He was asked last time out about paying so little taxes, allegedly being a billionaire, know what he said? He says, "Because I'm smarter, I know how to game the system." But he ain't going to be gaming the system anymore in the Biden administration, they're going to start paying. And we're going to deliver tax relief for working families, the middle class to help you buy your first home, pay for healthcare premiums or childcare or care for an aging loved one, or being able to pay off your student debt for God's sake. Look, where I come from it's just about being fair. We're not asking anybody to do any more than anybody else just be fair, decent.

Joe Biden: Trump got a Supreme Court Justice for overwhelming reason, by the way, never before has there ever been a hearing on a Supreme Court Justice once an election began. That's never occurred, but you got his justice for one simple reason to destroy the Affordable Care Act. He'd been trying since the day he got elected, and if they get their way, \$100 million people will lose protection for pre-existing conditions, including 1.3 million Iowans will lose it. Complications of COVID-19 are going to become the next preexisting condition. Allowing insurers to jack up your premiums, delay your coverage and a lot of young people don't realize this, but before Obamacare insurance companies charged women more for the same healthcare they charge men because they could, that'll end. Donald Trump thinks healthcare is a privilege, I think it's a right. We all get out and vote. And by the way, they're going to court in 10 days, 10 days, as he said to wipe it all out, end it, all of it.

Joe Biden: Well, I'll restore the Affordable Care Act and I'll strengthen and build on it, so you can keep your private insurance if you like it, or choose a Medicare like public option. We're going to increase subsidies for lower premiums, deductibles, out-of-pocket expenses, surprise billing. As Theresa said, this time, we are going to make sure Medicare can negotiate with the drug companies for prices reducing them by 60%. I promise you we'll get that done. We're going to make sure we keep protections for people with pre-existing conditions. Remember what he said when he talked about the people who were dying and not dying, he said, "Virtually," this is a quote from Trump, "virtually nobody's dying, except for people over 65 with heart conditions," like they're disposable. It doesn't matter with this guy. No, I'm not joking. Think about it, think about it. And then when he was told for the first time like we did today, 1,000 deaths a day, remember what his comment was? He said, "It is what it is." Well it is what it is because he is who he is, that's why it is what it is. These guys are something else, man. And meanwhile, the actuary at the Social Security Department says if Donald Trump gets what he's saying, he said, "You reelect me I'm going to change social security." The actuary says, "If the change occurs that he is promoting, it will bankrupt social security by 2023." Go home and tell your parents or grandparents that, that's a fact. Theresa said I'll protect social, security, Medicare, Medicaid. And let's not forget how Donald Trump weak and chaotic China trade policy has cost farmers and manufacturing so badly. Agricultural exports to China during the Trump years have been 40% lower than during the Obama Biden second term. On his watch and this really bugs me, on his watch ethanol margins have tanked and Iowa's manufacturing facilities are idle and even closing. He even says, I love this quote from him. He says, because of his bailouts, "Our farmers do better now than when they actually had a farm." I'm going to read that again. "Our farmers are actually doing better now than when they actually had a farm." Where's this guy from? Who does he think he is?

Joe Biden: Look, I'll do what he's been unable to do, I'll mobilize a true international effort to stop China's abuses so we can strengthen manufacturing and farming in Iowa and across the country. I'm going to hold China accountable, which he hasn't from the pandemic on. Folks. But there's nothing worse in my view than the way he has spoken about those who served in uniform. He called them losers and suckers. My son, Beau, many of you knew volunteered to serve a year in Iraq, gave up the Attorney General's job to do it. Won the bronze star, the Conspicuous Service Metal and other awards, he was neither a loser or a sucker, he was a

Patriot. And Theresa, so is your son Dane, who was in the army, he's a Patriot like all of your sons, daughters, and all of those of you who have served.

Joe Biden: It's no wonder that the six top generals in the President's administration left and said, "He does not deserve to be commander in chief," his own generals in his own administration. No President has ever had that happen, none. And that's why Special Forces Commander, Stanley McChrystal, general and the head of the Navy Seals, Admiral Craven, along with 20 other four star generals endorsed me saying they'd be proud to have me as commander in chief. A sitting President. And that's why the Military Times quotes more troops would vote for Biden than Trump. Folks, it's not about me, it's about him. That's why we have to support our military. You vote for me, you're voting for them. And while Donald Trump fails to condemn White supremacy ...

Joe Biden: And while Donald Trump fails to condemn white supremacy, we can vote to deliver racial justice. A season of protest has broken out all across America. And by the way, legitimate protesting is not burning or looting. Violence can never be tolerated and it won't. But those protests are cries for justice for George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Jacob Blake. They'll not soon be forgotten, not by me, not by us, or not by this country.

Joe Biden: Folks, we have to vote to meet the challenge of climate crisis as well. More frequent, extreme weather. The West is on fire. We've lost more forest than the total space of Connecticut and Rhode Island combined, in the West. The Midwest I need not tell you is flooding. You know here in Iowa, the derecho, catastrophic floods and droughts that lay waste to lives, livelihoods and whole communities. And in the South and the East hurricanes are more severe. Oceans are rising. My state's only three feet above sea level. People are already talking about the change we have to make. We don't have a lot of time. Donald Trump, when you say climate change, he thinks hoax, and that stable genius, as he calls himself, continues to say wind power causes cancer. It's the same guy who said, by the way you think I'm making this up, when he was advised about the increasing hurricanes coming across the Atlantic because of the warm water, he said, "Maybe we should drop a nuclear weapon on them." Holy mackerel.

Joe Biden: This also a guy you may recall, the stable genius, he said, "The problem with the revolutionary war was we didn't have enough airports." And he talks about mental acuity? Whoa. Folks, you look at climate warming. You look at it the way I do. Creates jobs, Iowa jobs, jobs across America. You understand that here in Iowa we've already created thousands of good paying jobs because of your dominant in wind energy. And it's expected that the number of wind jobs will double or triple by 2030 in Iowa. And notwithstanding that the stable genius says wind power causes cancer. Wind power helps save the planet, generates millions of dollars in economic growth, and provides good prevailing wage jobs.

Joe Biden: Folks, combating climate change means saving the planet, protecting our health, and creating millions of good paying jobs, Union jobs, in wind and solar and carbon capture. Iowa farmers were the first in the world to be in a position where they reach net zero emissions, because we're going to make sure there's a whole lot more land set aside and you get paid for

it. Deep rooted products, emissions, reward them. Folks, we can do this. There's nothing beyond our capacity. So honk if you want America to lead again. Honk if you want America to trust each other again. Honk if you want America to be united again.

Joe Biden: Folks, we cannot afford four more years of Donald Trump. In 2008 and 2012 you placed your trust in Barack Obama and me and we worked for you, for the entire country. Well, I'll do it again in 2020. My campaign is a broad coalition, welcomes Democrats, Republicans, and Independents. I'm running as a proud Democrat, but I will govern as an American president. I'll work as hard for those who don't support me as those who do. In my administration, they'll be no red states or blue states, just the United States of America.

Joe Biden: Folks, I mean this at the bottom of my heart. That's the job of a president, a duty to care, to care for everyone, to heal. And you too have a sacred duty, a duty to vote. It matters. Iowa matters. So in these final days stay empowered, stay united, stay optimistic. Make a plan to vote, vote early, vote on election day, help get out the vote. Go to [I will vote.com/ia](https://www.Iwillvote.com/ia).

Joe Biden: Folks, this president has done everything to try to discourage us, to try to convince us that it doesn't matter, all about illegal voting, all the stuff he's putting up, but guess what? He will not be able to stop us at all. Despite Trump's efforts, a recent press article two days ago said never before "in modern presidential politics has a candidate had been so reliant on wide-scale efforts to repress the vote as Trump." End of quote. We will not be silenced. 85 million people have already voted so far. We've had enough.

Joe Biden: Folks, look, I'll never forget as a kid, the words of President Kennedy about going to the moon. He used the phrase, he said, we're doing it because, "We refuse to postpone, or I refuse to postpone, incredible opportunities available to the American people." There's nothing beyond our capacity. There is no limit to our future. The only thing that can't tear America, look, I'll talk about how we're in trouble. Well, nothing can tear America apart, except America itself. And that's exactly what Donald Trump is doing from the beginning. Trying to divide America, pitting Americans against one another based on race, gender, ethnicity, national origin. It's wrong. That's not who we are.

Joe Biden: Look, folks, everybody knows who Donald Trump is. We got to let him know who we are. We choose hope over fear. We choose unity over division, science over fiction. And yes, we choose truth over lies. So folks, it's time for us to stand up, take back our democracy. We can do this. We're so much better than we've been. We can be who we are at our best, the United States of America. There's literally not a thing we've ever been unable to do, nothing. The only country in the world that's ever come out of every crisis stronger than it went in is United States of America. And with your help, I promise you, that's what we'll do again. God bless you all. And may God protect our troops. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you.

Joe Biden: Thank you.

Joe Biden Campaign Event Speech Transcript

St. Paul, Minnesota October 30

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Joe Biden held a campaign event in St. Paul, Minnesota on October 30 with Senator Amy Klobuchar. Read the transcript of the full event with Biden's speech remarks here.

[...]

Joe Biden : Hello, Minnesota. Jessica, thank you for being here and for sharing your story. Unfortunate it's the story of so many other Americans. They have stories like your... Faced with health problems, fighting for their lives, and forced to think not only about facing the battle, but about how they can afford the treatment while insurance companies come in at the most vulnerable moments for you and your family members. I remember when my son Beau was lying in the hospital after he came home from Iraq after a year. He had stage four glioblastoma. They told him not whether he was going to live, but just how long would he live. As he lay there fighting for his life, fighting to hang on, I thought to myself, "What would it be like if in his suffering, my insurance company or his insurance company would come in and say, 'You've run out of coverage. Time's up. You're on your own.'" Well folks, it's a question no one should have to face in America. That's why I fought so hard, why Obamacare was such a big thing? It's unconscionable.

Joe Biden : It's unconscionable that Donald Trump, from the day he got elected to right now, he's fighting to court to rip that peace of mind away from tens of millions of Americans. But we're not going to let him do it. We're never going back to those days, and you're going to vote. We're going to win for you, Jessica, and your family. I promise you, I will protect your family as if it were my own. I want to thank all the speakers you heard earlier. Your governor, Tim, is great. He's leading Minnesota with decency and integrity. And one of the outstanding members of Congress, Betty McCollum, let's send her back to the House of Representatives. We need her badly. And your incredible Junior Senator Tina Smith, who I got to speak a little bit back here. She's got to go back.

Joe Biden : And look, let's win back the Minnesota state Senate while we're at it. One of the nation's finest leaders and a dear friend I've been honored to stand alongside and fight together for the soul of this nation for a long time, Senator Amy Klobuchar. Amy, I love you. Thank you. Thank you. Yesterday in Florida, I had a chance to spend a little more time with another Minnesota icon, Karl-Anthony Towns. You all have heard of him. Boy, he can play, man. Y'all know him as the heart and soul of the Timberwolves, but he's also a son, who like many other Americans lost his mom to COVID-19 a couple of months ago. For all those sons and daughters, those parents, siblings, husbands, and wives facing empty chairs and dining room

tables and with empty holes in their hearts, all those who reach over at night and [inaudible 00:40:19] just by instinct to say good night to their husband or wife, they deserve so much better. These guys are not very polite, but they're like Trump.

Joe Biden : But look, they're going to be okay. We're going to take care of them as well. We need to come together. We need to fight for all these folks. We have four days left to get it done. Four days, and millions of Americans are already voting. Millions more will vote by Tuesday. I believe when you use your power, the power to vote will change the course of this country and the course of history. Right here in Minnesota, with all of you in the final days, keep that sense of empowerment. Keep that empowerment with you, that sense of optimism, what we can overcome. Now, look. There's a reason they don't want to hear me, because they know the president doesn't say anything. So they're not used to not hearing anything.

Joe Biden : But I Know it's hard, folks. I know it's hard. More than 228, I believe it is now, thousand Americans have died because of COVID-19. Nearly 2,500 here in Minnesota, gone. We had 9 million new cases nationwide. Millions of Americans are out of work, on the edge. They can't see any light. They don't know where it's going. And Donald Trump, he's simply given up. Over the weekend, White House counsel, chief of staff, he said the following, "We're not going to control the pandemic." At the debate last week, Donald Trump turned to me and said, "We're rounding the corner. It's going away. We're learning to live with it." But as I told him, "No, he's asking us to learn to die with it." We're not going to.

Joe Biden : And did you hear what he said today? What he said today on the trail. He said that our doctors, our doctors, our first responders, over a thousand lost their lives, are putting their lives on the line, busting their necks, making up... He said, "But they're making up deaths from COVID because they get more money." The president of the United States is accusing the medical profession of making up COVID deaths so they make more money. Doctors and nurses go to work every day to save lives. They do their jobs. Donald Trump's should stop attacking them and do his job. Folks, this is the same man who weeks ago when he was told, "We're losing a thousand lives a day," you remember what he said? He said, "It is what it is." That's thoughtful. Well, it is what it is because he is who he is. Donald Trump has waved the white flag and surrendered to this virus, but the American people don't give up. They don't cower. Neither will I.

Joe Biden : Remember when he did that interview, and he told Bob Woodward that he knew about the virus and how deadly it was at the end of January, but didn't tell anybody. He didn't even tell those folks. He didn't tell anybody. And Woodward asked him why, and on tape he said, "Because they didn't want to panic the American people." The American people don't panic. Donald Trump panics. And unlike Donald Trump, we will not surrender to this virus. Look, President Trump is spreading division and discord. He thinks that he can divide us. We won't notice his failures. That's what it's all about. That's why he shamelessly equates Somali refugees, folks seeking a better life in America, contributing to this state and our country, with terrorists as he did last night. We need a president who brings us together, not pull us apart. I'll deal with this pandemic responsibly, bringing the country together around testing, tracing,

masking. It's estimated by the leading doctors in this country that if we just wore a mask for the next few months, we'd save over a hundred thousand-

Joe Biden : ... wore a mask for the next few months, we'd save over 100,000 lives of over 200,000 lives they expect to lose. Dr. Fauci called for a mask mandate last week. This isn't a political statement, like those ugly folks over there, beeping the horns. This is a patriotic duty for God's sake.

Joe Biden : Look, in his own words, as I said, the president knew back in January how extremely dangerous and communicable this disease was. And I told you, he went on and he made that tape. He said the disease was easily able to spread, but he did nothing. He did nothing at all.

Joe Biden : Look, folks, American people, our people are tough. And instead of talking and politicizing the vaccine, he should be planning for a safe, equitable, and free distribution of a vaccine when it comes next year. This guy refused to provide schools and small businesses the resources and the national standards to open safely. The House of Representatives already passed the money to allow schools open safely, businesses open safely, to make sure people are paid.

Joe Biden : Ladies and gentlemen, we'll bring Republicans and Democrats together to deliver economic relief for working families, schools, and businesses. As I said before, I'm not going to shut down the economy. I'm going to shut down the virus.

Joe Biden : Donald Trump inherited a strong economy that Barack and I gave him. But guess what? Like everything else he inherited, he squandered it, like everything he's inherited. But we can build back and we can build back better with an economy that rewards work not wealth. We can do it without raising taxes on the middle class and working families.

Joe Biden : I promise you, you have my word, if you make less than \$400,000 a year, you won't pay a penny more taxes. But I tell you what, for the first time, in a long time, the wealthiest and biggest corporations are going to start paying their fair share. 91 out of the Fortune 500 companies paid zero taxes last year. Why? Why should a firefighter, an educated, and even that guy blowing that horn, why should he pay? Why should a nurse pay higher tax rates than the super wealthy? Why should you pay more taxes than Donald Trump pays?

Joe Biden : He's exploited every loophole and tax code. He's run a shell game to avoid paying taxes. If you notice, I've released 22 years of my tax returns. He's not released one single year. What's he hiding? Where's the corruption. According to Trump, the reason why he only paid \$750 is because he's smart. Well, what does that make the rest of us to pay our fair share, Mr. President?

Joe Biden : We're going to deliver tax relief for working families and the middle class. Help you buy your first home, pay for healthcare premiums, or childcare, or care for your aging parents, or be able to actually, actually pay for school.

Joe Biden : Trump got a Supreme Court Justice, the first time in separate happened while an election's already started for one reason, he's determined to do what he's been trying to do for four years, destroy the Affordable Care Act. If they get their way, 100 million Americans will lose protections for preexisting conditions. Complications with COVID-19 will be the next preexisting condition, allowing insurers to jack up your premiums or deny your coverage. And women will again be able to be charged more for the same health care as a man, just because they're a woman.

Joe Biden : Donald Trump thinks healthcare is a privilege. I think it's your right. And if we all get out and vote, we'll not only restore Obamacare, we'll strengthen it and build on it. So you can keep your private insurance if that's what you like, or choose a Medicare like option, the public option. We'll increase subsidies, lower your premiums, the deductibles, out of pocket spending. Reduce prescription costs by 60% by allowing Medicare to negotiate with drug prices. We're going to keep the protections for people with pre-existing conditions, and we'll protect Social Security and Medicare.

Joe Biden : Meanwhile, the Social Security Actuary said that if Donald Trump said, "Elect me again and I'm going to change Social Security." The actuary said if the changes he puts in place occur that Social Security will be bankrupt in 2023. So go home and tell your parents, your grandparents just what Trump's about to do. I'll protect Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid.

Joe Biden : But folks, nothing's worse that this president has done than the way he spoke about those who served in uniform. He called them losers and suckers. My son, Beau, gave up the attorney general seat in the state of Delaware to volunteer to go to Iraq for a year. He won the Bronze Star, the Conspicuous Service Medal. He wasn't a loser or a sucker. He was a patriot, so many of you as well.

Joe Biden : No wonder the six generals who worked directly for the Trump administration have left and they say, "He does not deserve to be the commander-in-chief of the United States." That's never happened to any president before, and that's why Special Operations Commander Stanley McChrystal, Navy Seal Commander Admiral McRaven, along with 24 stars endorsed me, saying they support me to be the next commander-in-chief because they trust me. And that's why the Military Times reported that more troops would vote for Biden than Trump. That's why we have to support the military. They're the backbone of the country. So let them vote and let's vote for them. And when Donald Trump fails to condemn white supremacy, we can deliver on racial justice.

Joe Biden : A season protests has broken out across the nation because the life and dignity of George Floyd, senselessly killed seven miles from here, and so many others that mattered.

Protesting and burning and looting is not protesting. It's violence, clear and simple and will not be tolerated. But these protests are a cry for justice. The names of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Jacob Blake will not soon be forgotten. Not by me, not by us, not by this country because true justice is also economic justice. Access to schooling, housing, access to capital, good paying jobs and financial stability. Giving families of color a real shot to own a home, start a small business, send a child to college debt-free so they can build wealth and pass down opportunity through the generations like the rest of us have.

Joe Biden : We have to vote to ensure the full promise of this country for everyone. And finally, we have to both to meet the challenges of the climate crisis. The West is on fire, losing more forest than the total land of Connecticut and Rhode Island combined. The Midwest is flooding. Here in Minnesota, extreme weather occurs, incurs big costs for your infrastructure, increase flooding in the Mississippi. Watershed has shut down port facilities here and in Saint Paul.

Joe Biden : Donald Trump thinks it's all a hoax. He sure is a stable genius. He says that wind power causes cancer. I say it creates jobs, Minnesota jobs. When combined, we can combat climate change. With American ingenuity and manufacturing, building a more resilient nation and creating millions of new high paying jobs. We can change the path we're on. Nothing's beyond our capacity.

Joe Biden : So honk your horns if you want American to lead again. Honk your horn if you want Americans to trust each other again. Honk your horn if you want to have civility again. And honk your horn if you want America to be united again.

Joe Biden : We cannot afford four more years of Donald Trump. In 2008 and '12, you placed your trust in me and Barack Obama, and each day we were in office, we worked for you and the entire community. I'll do it again in 2020. My campaign is a broad coalition of Democrats, Republicans, independents, Republican office holders. I'm running as a proud Democrat, but I will govern as an American president.

Joe Biden : I'll work as hard for those who don't support me as does you do, because that's the job of a president. It's the duty of care for everyone, and you too have a sacred duty, the duty to vote. It matters. Minnesota matters. So in the final days, stay empowered, staff domestic, stay united. Make a plan to vote, help get out the vote. As Amy said, go to [Iowavote.com/mn](https://www.iowavote.com/mn).

Joe Biden : Yesterday, the Federal Fields Court forced a last minute change in the rules, absentee ballots have to be received by Tuesday. So if you want your voice to be heard, drop off your ballot, don't put it in the mail, or vote safely in person any day up through election day. But you've got to get it done, and make sure everyone you know votes as well so they'll not being able to stop us despite Trump's efforts. A recent press article points out that quote, "Never before in modern presidential politics." I'm quoting now, "Never before in modern presidential politics has a candidate been so reliant on wide scale efforts to repress the votes as Trump," end of quote.

Joe Biden : We will not be silenced. Over 85 million people have already voted, 85 million. They've had enough. Look, I'll never forget the words President Kennedy said when he promised to send us to the moon, he said we were doing it because we in America, we refuse to postpone. I refuse to postpone the work America must do. There's nothing beyond our capacity. There's no limit to America, including guys like that. The only thing that can tear America apart is America itself, and that's exactly what Donald Trump has been doing for the beginning. Divide America, pitting Americans against one another, based on race, ethnicity, national origin. That's wrong, that's not who we are. Everybody knows who Donald Trump is. Let's keep showing them who we are.

Joe Biden : We choose hope over fear. We choose unity over division, science over fiction, and yes, we choose truth over lies. So it's time to stand up, take back our democracy. We can do this. We're so much better than this. We can be who we are at our best, the United States of America. God bless you all, and may God protect our troops.

Joe Biden : Thank you. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you. Thanks, appreciate it. Thank you. Thanks.

Oct. 30th, 2020 Joe Biden Milwaukee Wisconsin

Joe Biden Campaign Speech Transcript Milwaukee, Wisconsin October 30

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Joe Biden held a campaign event in Milwaukee, Wisconsin on October 30. Read the transcript of his speech remarks here.

[...]

Joe Biden: I hope you got masks on everyone. It's cold. Hello Milwaukee, it's good to be back. I'll tell you what, they told me it's going to be indoors. You're a hardy bunch in Milwaukee. Sheriff, how are you doing? Look, Terrence, thank you. Thank you for sharing your story. Thank you for your exercising your power as a young voter first time. You're an inspiration man, and I want you to know that a lot of us in here growing up as kids understood what is like to know bullies.

Joe Biden: I had planned on saying this in light of your introduction, Sheriff and Tom's heard me say this before, and the mayor. When I was a kid, I used to stutter. You want to learn what bullies are like, be a stuttering kid, talk like that everybody thinks they can make fun of you. So I'm used to bullies. Matter of fact, they used to have a nickname in school, Tom. They used to call me Shoe Leather. The reason they call me Shoe Leather, I was a little [inaudible 00:03:32], but you could beat me, but I'd hurt you. It's like [inaudible 00:15:36] a shoe leather.

Joe Biden: But I'll tell you what, I think you made a great metaphor about what's going on here. You're making your family really proud. And Joanne, I want to thank you for all you do to lift up this community, bringing pride and dignity and jobs in Milwaukee. My dad used to have an expression, he lost his job in Scranton, Pennsylvania when I was a kid and he took us to my grand pops, my mom's dad, my grand mom was passed. And so he said you're going to live here for about a year. I'm going to commute every day from Scranton, Pennsylvania, down to Wilmington, Delaware, where there's jobs, Joey and when I get one, I'll be back for you, and your mom, and your brother and your sister.

Joe Biden: My sister is with me today too, where's my sister, Valerie? She's my best friend in the world. Anyway, Val. And he said, it's only 157 miles away. Wilmington, Delaware. He'd come home every weekend. And when we got down to Wilmington and he finally got a job, that we could bring us down and be able to rent an apartment, he used to always have an expression Sheriff, he'd say, "You know Joey, a job's a lot more than a paycheck. It's about your dignity. It's about respect. It's about your place in the community. It's about being able to look your kid in the eye and say, "Honey, it's going to be okay. It's going to be okay.'"

Joe Biden: As Gwen knows, not an awful lot of people out there right now. A lot of hard working people who can't say it's going to be okay, they're in trouble. Statistics show, for example that over 50% of the American people think actually it's 49% to be precise, got a bill for 400 bucks in one month they didn't anticipate, they'd have to borrow the money or sell something. So, a lot of people were still hurting. And Gwen, let's send her back because I tell you what, she is a voice from Milwaukee, a voice from the country, and I'm sure glad you're on my side, kid. Sure, glad you're on my side because I'm on yours.

Joe Biden: I want to thank you all for welcoming me today and Tom, you've been a good friend and for a long time, thank you pal. Tom endorsed me when they said Joe Who's running for what? Anyway, but thank you, Tom. And Sheriff Lucas and Sheriff Mahoney, and Ambassador John [Frenz 00:06:06], I want to thank you all for being here, there you are. Okay.

Joe Biden: Look, it's great to be back with you. Folks, there was only four days left. Millions of Americans have already voted. They're telling me now it's up to about 85 million Americans have already voted and millions more are going to vote before this election is over.

Joe Biden: And I believe when you use your power, the power to vote, you can change the course of the country and quite frankly, right now the course of the world, because it's leaderless now. We're going to start right here in Wisconsin. If Tom remembers, I came up here to campaign for Hillary and for a whole lot of reasons, not all which were her fault ended up not taking it as seriously. We thought it was different. I've been here a lot. And by the way, when I got elected, if I get elected, I'm coming back, Tom.

Joe Biden: Look at these final days, we got to keep our sense of empowerment here. A sense of optimism. What we can do together. But I know it's hard. More than 225,000 people, I think it's 229 as I speak, have already lost their lives to COVID-19. 2,000 here in Wisconsin, 600 here in Milwaukee County, each one immortalized by an empty chair this morning at breakfast or tonight at dinner. An empty chair at MacArthur Square. And now folks are getting hit by a new big wave of infections across the country.

Joe Biden: This week, Wisconsin, like other states set a new record for daily cases. Hospitals are running short on beds, just had to open a field hospital. That's what we're facing. We've now had nine million cases in the United States of America. We make up 4% of the world's population, we have 20% of the world's deaths, nine million new cases nationwide, another tragic milestone, millions of people out of work, on the edge, and they can't see the light, they're not sure how dark it's going to remain.

Joe Biden: Wisconsin is down 20,000 manufacturing jobs since this pandemic began. And the thing that bothers me the most was a president who gave up. Over the weekend, his chief of staff said what we knew. "We're not going to control the pandemic." We're not going to control the pandemic.

Joe Biden: Yet last week when I debated the president, he said, quote, “We’re rounding the corner. It’s going away. We’re learning to live with it.” You may remember what I said it may have been viewed as harsh by some. Told him, we’re not learning to live with it, you’re asking us to learning to die with it, because people continue to die. It’s estimated that over 200,000 more people will die between now and the end of the year by the leading experts who haven’t been wrong yet.

Joe Biden: Did you hear what he said today? He said today at a rally that our doctors are the problem because they’re putting their lives on the line, busting their necks, he said, they’re making up deaths from COVID-19 because they get more money. They’re making up deaths. People aren’t really dying from COVID, they’re dying from other things, but they’re saying it’s COVID to make the numbers go up. My Lord.

Joe Biden: By the way, is Monica [Wadry 00:21:53] here? Monica is an ICU nurse. I spent some time with Monica on the phone and her two kids and Monica told me what my son-in-law who’s a doc in Philly told me when this all began. While we’re waiting for PPP, the mask, and the gowns, and all the gear, so many docs, so many nurses, so many first responders after they did their job were afraid to go home because they’d take it home, the virus home to their children.

Joe Biden: Monica told me how her husband would wait in the garage so she could change and put on a [inaudible 00:22:32] before she went in the house and shower. So many people, over a thousand Monicas have given their lives trying to save other lives. And this guy says that they’re raking it up because they want to make more money.

Joe Biden: Doctors and nurses go to work every single day, Donald Trump should stop attacking them and start doing his job. This is the same man who told us, when he was told about four weeks ago, three or four weeks ago that we’re losing a thousand lives a day, remember what he said? He said it is what it is. Ain’t that useful? It is what it is. Well, it is what it is because he is who he is. That’s the problem.

Joe Biden: Donald Trump waved the white flag, surrendered to the virus. But the American people don’t give up. We don’t give in. Unlike Donald Trump, we’re not going to surrender to this virus. We’re simply not going to surrender. Look, I put in place a plan with this pandemic responsibly. I’ve set it up back in May, and then again in June, and in July, the way we can bring this country together around testing, tracing and masking. It’s estimated by leading doctors in America that if we just wore these masks for the remainder of this calendar year-

Joe Biden: For the remainder of this calendar year, we could save up to another 100,000 lives. Dr. Fauci, who’s been not treated very well by the President, who’s been with three other presidents in the same role, one of the most respected guys in the world, he’s called for a basket mandate. This isn’t a political statement of us wearing these masks. For God’s sake, it’s a patriotic duty.

Joe Biden: The reason you're wearing the mask is not to save yourself, but to save your neighbor, the person across from you, the person who you're next to. But still Donald Trump refuses to listen to the science. He's politicized the race for vaccine as well. Instead of planning for its safe, equitable, and free distribution, what's he doing? He's talking about things that are just not in the realm possibility, "We'll have this by September. We'll have it by..." it goes on.

Joe Biden: Look folks, he refused to bring leaders, by the way, of both parties together. You know, the House of Representatives, Gwen can tell you, has already passed three major pieces of legislation, two CARES Act, and then the Heroes Act, provides all the money that is necessary to safely open schools and businesses, and do it in a way that they can stay open. But it costs money, look at all the people who've gone out of business, all of the small businesses.

Joe Biden: We know how to open business, we know what to do it safely, but it costs, to open our schools nationwide, it's estimated it'll cost \$200 billion to do it safely, to provide everybody with the PPE, [inaudible 00:25:50] everybody, change the ventilation systems, make sure you have separators, make sure you are in a position where we have the sanitary conditions that are wiped down, smaller classes, more teachers. But what are we doing? The money's already been there, they've already passed it. What's happened? The President hasn't got out of his golf bunker in his golf course in the summer, or the bunker in the White House since then to bring people together.

Joe Biden: Look, find anybody Democrat or Republican, who served in the Congress, the Senate, the House, ask them can ever remember a time when there's been a national crisis, and this is a national crisis, but the President hasn't brought them all together, and said, "We're staying here until we fix this. We're going to work it out." He hadn't even talked to y'all.

Joe Biden: Look folks, we're going to bring the Republicans and Democrats together, and deliver economic relief for working families, and schools, and businesses; I promise you. I know how to do this. As I said before, I'm not going to shut down the economy. I'm going to shut down the virus.

Joe Biden: Look, Donald Trump inherited a strong economy from Barack and me, but he squandered that economy, just like he squatted everything he's inherited. Frankly I've dealt with guys like Trump my whole life, guys who think they're better than you because they have a lot of money, look down on you because they live in a better home. But tell you what, we understand, we understand how this works. Folks, the people who built this country weren't Wall Street, and investment bankers, and CEOs, they were hard working Americans, middle class folks, working class folks, who built the middle class, and unions built the middle class.

Joe Biden: We know, as Gwen said, we can build back better, with an economy that rewards work not wealth. Right now it rewards wealth, not work. We can do without raising taxes on any [inaudible 00:28:10] working person in the middle-class. I give you my word as a Biden, if you

make less than \$400,000, if I'm elected president, you're not going to see a penny of your taxes go up, not a penny.

Joe Biden: He keeps lying about my plan, but I tell you what, I'm going to ask the wealthiest Americans and the biggest corporations, by the way 91 of the fortune 500 companies pay no tax at all, zero, zero tax. They make billions of dollars.

Joe Biden: Folks, it's about time people start paying their fair share. It's not a punishment. Pay your fair share. Why should a firefighter, why should a sheriff, why should a cop, why shouldn't educator, why should a nurse pay a higher tax rate, which you do, then they pay? You do that, you pay a higher tax rate.

Joe Biden: And by the way, why should you pay more taxes than Donald Trump? 750 bucks. This guy loves talking about corruption. I've released 22 years of my tax returns. You can go online and see them. And guess what? He hadn't released one single year of his tax returns. What the hell was he hiding? What's in there? Working families and middle-class people, you need help, they need help. Particularly first-time home buyers, being able to pay for a healthcare premium, childcare, carefree for your aging loved ones.

Joe Biden: Just to get a new hot water, and I don't know about you, but the kitchen tables I was raised around, you're sitting there, and I can hear my dad now, "Well, we can't get those four new tires, you're going to have to ride on those bald tires a little while longer till we get by next month; when that hot water heater goes out, what are we going to do?" Who's going to tell her she can't go back to the community college because you don't have the money. They are the conversations taking place all across America today, and what's Trump trying to do? Raise your cost for standard of living.

Joe Biden: He's going to be in the Supreme Court, even if we win, he'll still be the Supreme Court, in nine days, or 10 days, asking the Supreme Court, with our new justice, who was put on the court for the purpose of destroying the Affordable Care Act, to rip it out root and branch, eliminate it all.

Joe Biden: If they get their way, 100 million Americans will lose protections for preexisting conditions, including 2.5 million Wisconsinites, 2.5. So if you have diabetes, you ever had cancer, if you had breast... whatever it is, whatever your previous condition, you won't be able to afford it because they can jack up the price beyond your capacity. Women will once again, once again, be charged more for the same health care that a man is charged for just because they're a woman. People forget that that's what it was before we passed the Affordable Care Act.

Joe Biden: Look, Donald Trump thinks healthcare is a privilege; I think it's a right people should have. If we all get out and vote, we'll not only restore Obamacare, but we'll strengthen and build on it. So you can keep your private insurance, or you could choose a Medicare-like option that will add to Obamacare, which we tried, which we wanted to do the first time, but

couldn't get the votes. We'll increase subsidies to lower your premiums and deductibles, out of pocket spending, and surprise billings.

Joe Biden: And we will reduce the cost of prescriptions by 60%. I'm not making that up. That comes from saying, we're going to insist, and we have the votes to do it in this next election, that Medicare can negotiate with the drug companies to say how much they're going to be willing to pay for whatever drug they have. Look, folks, we're going to make sure we keep the protections for people with pre-existing conditions.

Joe Biden: Meanwhile, social security, the actuary of social security has said, if Donald Trump gets reelected, he says he's going to change social security, based on the changes he wants to make the actuary and social security said, "Social security will be bankrupt by 2023." I'm not making this stuff up, it's real. Folks, I'm going to protect social security, Medicare, and Medicaid. And guess what? He's not going to be able to do it because we're going to win this election.

Joe Biden: Look, let's not forget how weak Donald Trump has been, and chaotic. He talks about trade policy, my God, what a disaster he's been. Trump's trade policy has decimated, devastated the Wisconsin dairy industry. In 2017 to 2019, Wisconsin lost 15% of its dairy farms, and last year Wisconsin lost more dairy farms in any state in the nation. Since the start of the trade war, Wisconsin has seen mass lay off surge by 25%. And even before COVID hit, Wisconsin saw big declines in manufacturing jobs.

Joe Biden: After Trump rolled out his irresponsible tax giveaways, Harley Davidson slashed 800 manufacturing jobs, repurchased almost \$700 million of its own stock so the corporate heads could get and make a lot more money, and none of it went to the employees, and then shifted some of its production overseas; so much for helping.

Joe Biden: Look, my policies... Right now, by the way, the deficit with China is higher than it was in our administration. Look, at the end of the Trump tax loopholes that incentivized companies to ship jobs overseas, these new laws just got passed for real, adds 10%, I'm going to add a 10% surtax to any company to ships jobs overseas. And companies that invest and strengthen the American manufacturing, or bring jobs back home, we're going to offer a 10% tax credit.

Joe Biden: And by the way, the president of United States awards over \$600 billion in contracts a year for our military, for all the things we build, federal buildings, well it's not a violation of any trade law, no one's done it, but I promise you I'm going to do it; not a single solitary contract will be awarded, unless all the products used by that contractor are made in America, all of them, right here in America.

Joe Biden: And by the way, when I talk about my economic plan, it's not some liberal think tank that talks about how good it is; Moody's, a Wall Street major firms pointed out, after looking at my plan for the economy and his, that we will create 18.6 million jobs under the

Biden plan, a trillion dollars more in GDP than Trump. Folks look, the fact is that we're now in a situation where this President is in a-

Joe Biden: We're now in a situation where this President is in a position that he doesn't know what he's doing. If you notice, if you notice what Donald Trump has spent a lot of time doing, he spent a lot of time rolling out irresponsible corporate tax cuts. In the meantime, do you realize that during this pandemic, the billionaires in America, billionaires, they're all listed, have made over \$300 billion more? \$300 billion more? How about you guys? You're all doing great, right? You got all that money. Look, folks. We're in a situation where the President now finds himself... The thing that bothers me most about all he's done is the way he talks about our military being suckers and losers. Think about this. A lot of you women and men served in the military. A lot of us [inaudible 00:36:58] served. My son Bo gave up the Attorney General's job in the state of Delaware to volunteer to go to Iraq for a year. He won the Bronze Star, the conspicuous service medal. He came home with cancer after being near [inaudible 00:00:37:14]. He came home anyway. He was given months to live, and guess what? He wasn't a loser. He wasn't a sucker. He was a patriot, just like your sons and daughters, your parents and grandparents. Look, folks. If you ever wonder, Trump keeps talking about how strong he is. He's strong and the rest of the nations listen to him. Everybody's afraid of him. Well, let me tell you what. He's the first President I'm aware of in American history that six generals, including his former Chief of Staff, six of them left, resigned, and said he wasn't fit to be Commander in Chief.

Joe Biden: General Stanley McChrystal, Special Operations Commander. He's the guy oversaw the Bin Laden raid. Bill McRaven, and 22, he oversaw. He was a SEAL. He head up the SEALs. And 22 4-Stars have endorsed me, saying they trust me to be the next Commander in Chief of the United States Military. Folks, it's about respect. It's about support, and that's why the Military Times, which his staff tried to wipe out, Military Times just wrote an article saying more active duty troops support Biden than Trump. So much for the guy who talks about what a tough guy he is and why everybody listens to him. Look, that's why we have to support the military, and we have to make sure we considerably invest more, which I don't have to take the time to talk to you tonight about, but invest significantly more in dealing with the Veterans Administration.

Joe Biden: While Donald Trump fails to condemn white supremacy, we can vote to deliver racial justice. Folks, a season of protest has broken out all over this nation, and protesting is not burning and looting and violence, and must never be tolerated and won't. That's not protesting. But those protests are cries for justice. The names of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Jacob Blake, they're not going to soon be forgotten. Not by me, not by us, not by this country. We have to vote to meet the challenge of climate crisis as well. More frequent, extreme weather. Literally, the planet's at stake. We're told the number of years before it's irreversible is getting narrower and narrower. The West is on fire. More forest land has been burned to the ground than the entire square miles of Rhode Island and Connecticut combined.

Joe Biden: The Midwest is flooding. Here in Wisconsin, extreme weather incurs big cost for your infrastructure. Lake Michigan set a record high this past January, and the South and East hurricanes are more severe. Oceans are rising. My state's only three feet above sea level, literally. People are worried what happens if we don't change this. Folks, Donald Trump thinks that when you say climate change, he says hoax. Well, this stable genius, as he calls himself, also thinks that wind power causes cancer. The way to stop hurricanes coming across the warm Atlantic from Africa is to maybe drop a nuclear bomb on them. The same stable genius said the problem we had in the Revolutionary War, we didn't have enough airports. And of the Revolutionary War, God saved the... Anyway.

Joe Biden: Look, when I hear climate change, I think the health of our children, the security of the planet, and I also think it creates jobs. Jobs here in Wisconsin, all across the country. Folks, combating climate change means saving the planet, protecting our health, and creating millions of good-paying jobs, union jobs right here in Milwaukee and all across America. We can change the path we're on, but we have to act now, because we can't afford four more years of Donald Trump. This election, I promise you, your grandkids are going to write about how it set the path for at least the generation here in America.

Joe Biden: You know, in 2008 and 2012, we came to y'all, Barack and me, and we asked for your help. You helped us, and each day we were in office, we worked for you and the entire country. I'm going to do that again. My 2020 campaign is a broad coalition. We welcome Democrats and Republicans and Independents. I'm running as a proud Democrat, but I'm going to govern as an American president. There will be no blue States or red States, just the United States. I'll work as hard for those who vote against me as those who voted for me, because that's what a president is supposed to do. The duty to care. The duty to care for everyone.

Joe Biden: Look, you too have a sacred duty to vote. It matters. Wisconsin matters. So if you haven't already, and most of you probably have, make a plan, vote. Get out the vote. If you've already voted, get your mom, dad, brother, sister, neighbor. Get them to vote. Go to [iwillvote.com/wi](https://www.iwillvote.com/wi). You've got to get it done to make sure everyone knows where to vote, when to vote. Look, a press article yesterday, speaking of Donald Trump, two days ago, actually, said, and I quote, "Never before in modern presidential politics has a candidate been so reliant on wide-scale efforts to depress the vote as Donald Trump." So let's be careful here. Guess what? He's not going to be able to stop us, not at all. As I said, he'll not silence the over 85 million people who have already voted. They've had enough. People are coming out in droves, waiting three, four, five, six hours in other states just to vote. Let me conclude by saying I'll never forget the phrase used by President Kennedy when he decided to send us to the moon, get to the moon. He said, when asked why, he said, "We refuse to postpone. We're the United States of America. We refuse to postpone the incredible opportunities available to the American people." I refuse to postpone the enormous possibilities we have. I've been around a while, but I'd never been more optimistic about America's chances than I am today. I really mean it. There's nothing beyond our capacity. Nothing. There's no limit to what America can do. We're the only country in the history of the world that's come out of every crisis stronger than when we went in.

Joe Biden: The only thing that can tear America apart is America itself, and that's exactly what Donald Trump has been doing from the beginning of his campaign, last time out. Dividing America, pitting Americans against one another based on race, gender, religion, national origin, ethnicity. It's wrong. That's not who we are. Everybody knows who Donald Trump is. Let's let them know who we are, who we are in the last four days. We choose hope over fear, unity over division, science over fiction, and yes, truth over lies.

Joe Biden: So folks, it's time to stand up and take back our democracy. We can do this. We'll be better than we been. We can be who we want to be at our best, the United States of America. I promise you, we can do this. You helped me get there. I promise you, I'll take responsibility. When I make a mistake, I'll acknowledge it, but I will take responsibility and I won't let you down. God bless you all, and may God protect our troops. Thank you for your patience. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you. All right. Thanks, everybody. I appreciate it. You've got to be freezing. All right. They're telling me I'm going this way.

Nov. 1st, 2020 Joe Biden Philadelphia Pennsylvania

Joe Biden Campaign Event Speech Transcript

Philadelphia November 1

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Joe Biden held a ‘Souls to the Polls’ campaign event in Philadelphia on November 1. Read the transcript of his speech remarks here.

Joe Biden: Hello, hello, hello. Hello, Philadelphia. It’s great to these everyone. Thank you, thank you, thank you. I want to thank Bishop Reid. I really mean it. Sharon Baptist Church for letting us borrow your parking lot. And the DNC Vice Chair, I tell you what, that man can make a speech, can’t he? He’s pretty darn impressive. Vice Chair Blake, for all you do for our party and all you do to get out the vote. And thank you Congressman Dwight Evans for coming out and speaking today. And for all of you, all of you, all you do to fight for the people of Philadelphia and every single day in Congress. I also want to say thank you to Bishop Hunter and Reverend Mark Tyler, State Representative Morgan. Where’s Morgan. Is he ... there you go. Okay. Thank you for being here. Thank you for being here. And Bishop Louis Felton, and also want to thank Sharon Baptist choir, church choir. Aren’t they great?

Joe Biden: You know, one of the things I most enjoyed about being back on the campaign trail was meeting with the Black faith leaders all around the country. The churches I get to go to during the primaries and over 400 Black leaders, church leaders, supporting us. Almost every Sunday I’d get to sit in the pew and get inspired. I’d go to mass first early in the morning, then I go to the Black church to get some hope and some invigoration, man. I’d talked to people. I talked to people, hear what was on their minds. Pray with them. And that’s what, it was renewing. It was not about me, but our entire family. Jill would be with me and my grandkids. One of my grandkids is with me today, who’s a senior here in Philadelphia in college.

Joe Biden: I also thought a lot about this campaign. It’s been unlike any other campaign in history. There’s one thing that remains the same, we have to earn our democracy. We have to get out and vote. And as my late friend John Lewis reminded us, freedom is not a state, freedom is an act. We have to defend it. We have to vote. And this is the most important election of our lifetimes. We’re at an inflection point. So we have to vote like we never did before. Every day, every day is a new reminder of how high the stakes are, of how far the other side will go to try to suppress the turnout, especially here in Philadelphia. President Trump is terrified of what will happen in Pennsylvania. He knows if the people of Pennsylvania get to have their say, if you don’t have your say, he doesn’t stand a chance.

Joe Biden: But the American people, the American people will not be silenced. Over 90 million people have already voted. Already voted. They’ve had enough. They’ve had enough. There’s

too much on the line to sit it out, but we only have two more days. Two more days we can put an end to this presidency that has from the very beginning sought to divide us, to tear us apart.

Joe Biden: Folks, in two days we can put an end to a president that has failed to protect this nation. In two days, we can put an end to a presidency that fanned the flames of hate, poured gasoline on every opportunity he had all across this nation. As I said, millions of Americans have already voted. Millions more will vote in the two days ahead, but there's still a lot of Pennsylvanians who haven't voted yet, and we need every single one of you to get out and vote on Tuesday.

Joe Biden: My message is simple, Pennsylvania is critical in this election. I live in Delaware, but I'm a Pennsylvania boy born in Scranton. And I want to tell you, the last time Donald Trump ran he won this state by 44,000 votes. So every single vote matters. The power, the power to change this country is literally in your hands. I don't care how hard Donald Trump tries, there is nothing, nothing he's going to do to stop this nation from voting. No matter what he tries.

Joe Biden: And folks, when America's vote, America will be heard. When America's heard, I believe the message is going to be loud and clear. It's time for Donald Trump to pack his bags and go home. Time to breathe some life back into this nation. We're done. We're tired of the tweets, the anger, the hate, the failure, the irresponsibility. We got a lot of work to do. I'm I elected your president, we're going to do it and we're going to act and we're going to start from the very first day. We're going to act to get COVID under control. It's almost criminal the way he has handled it.

Joe Biden: On day one of my presidency I'm going to put in action a plan I've been talking about for months, masking, social distancing, testing, tracing, a plan for full and fair and free distribution of therapeutics, vaccines, when we get one. A plan to address the disproportionate way this virus ... vaccines when we get a one. A plan to address the disproportionate way this virus has been hitting and devastating the black community across America.

Joe Biden: Folks, every single day we're seeing race-based disparities in every aspect of this virus. Higher infections rates, lower access to testing, harder time quarantining safely, lower access to quality treatment when you become infected, and tragically, higher mortality rates, three times as many African Americans are dying as white Americans ... when they get the virus One in 100 Black Americans, excuse me, one in 1,000 Black Americans have died from COVID-19. And if we don't change between now and January, it's estimated one in 500 by the end of this pandemic. That is a mass casualty event in the Black community. And it's totally unnecessary. Totally uncalled for. My public health plan will ensure the needs of communities that are being hit the hardest by this virus are a priority, not an afterthought.

Joe Biden: We're going to have the plan to get our economy back on track. Not to get the back where we were, but to build back better, to make sure everyone is dealt in on a full scale share of the American dream. We're going to address systemic racism and build real rural economic

opportunity and equality for the Black community. The blinders have been taken off. The American people have seen, they've seen how bad things are. To make it easier to start a business, to buy your first home, to pursue an education after high school without being burdened with debt, to invest in HBCUs that do so much to mold Black leaders of tomorrow.

Joe Biden: I mean it. It's not just talk. I mean it. We're going to have to deliver racial justice in America. I see in all the protests here in Philadelphia and across the country a cry for justice. Folks, protesting is not burning or looting and violence must never be tolerated. It won't. But the names of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Jacob Blake, Walter Wallace Jr., they will not soon be forgotten. They will not be forgotten by me, they will not be forgotten by you, and they'll not be forgotten by the American people because here's what they're going to do. They're inspiring a new wave of justice in America. And George Floyd's little girl, six years old, said to me when I went to be with the family ... I knelt down to say hi to her and she looked at me and she said, "Daddy is going to change the world." Daddy, that's what she said to me. Six years old. Daddy.

Joe Biden: Look, we can change the world. Not in one fell swoop. We can change it. We all know this country has to come together. We can not afford four more years of anger, hate, and division that we've seen under this president. Folks, look, from the day he announced, from the moment he came down that escalator, what did he say in New York? He said, "We're going to go out and get those rapist Mexicans." Rapist Mexicans. He put a ban on all Muslims coming to the United States. And the way he talked about the African-American community. The way he talked about the Hispanic community.

Joe Biden: Look, folks, we got to come together. I'm running as a proud Democrat, but I will govern as an American president for everybody. I will work as hard for those who don't support me as those who do support me. I mean it. That's the job of a president, the duty to care, the duty to care for everyone. In President Biden's America, there will be no red states or blue states, there will only be the United States of America.

Joe Biden: Look, our faith in our country is being tested, but our faith in God is helping us through because of all of you. Thank you for your commitment to the greatest commandment, love our neighbors as ourselves. And for our dedication to never grow weary of doing good. Being with you all reminds me of that gospel hymn that inspired so many of us. When I last talked to John Lewis, as he's dying, he reminded me of it. I don't feel no ways tired. I've come too far from where I started from. Nobody told me the road would be easy. I don't believe he brought me this far to leave me. He did not leave us. We are not tired. The road hasn't been easy, but we've come too far to stop now.

Joe Biden: So please vote. Get everyone you know to vote. We need to get every soul in Philadelphia to the polls. Your voice, your vote matters. Your voice deserves to be heard. And if you still have an absentee ballot, get it to a dropbox as soon as you can. Or you can vote on election day, but make a plan. And I mean it, make a plan now. Help get out the vote. Go to [iwillvote.com/pa](https://www.iwillvote.com/pa).

Joe Biden: Folks, folks, you know I've been doing this awhile. One of the reasons I got elected in the first place in Delaware across the line was because of the folks in Pennsylvania. All the media and Pennsylvania, all the media in Delaware for the first 25 years of my career was all Philadelphia television. There wasn't no Delaware television. And I was very happy to have the moniker of being known as Pennsylvania's third Senator. I know Philadelphia well. I married a Philly girl, by the way. And by the way, I got my Eagles jacket on.

Joe Biden: Folks, here's what I want to say and I'll conclude. You've been here a long time. I'll never forget when President John F. Kennedy said, when he promised that we're going to go to the moon. He said, he said words and my colleagues in the senate always used to kid me for repeating. He said, "We're doing it because we Americans, we refuse to postpone." Well, I refuse to postpone the incredible opportunities available to the American people. I refuse to postpone what we can do. There's nothing beyond the capacity of the United States of America. Nothing. There's no limit to America's future. The blinders have been taken off. The only thing could tear America apart is America itself. And that's exactly what Trump's been trying to do from the very beginning, dividing America based on race, religion, gender, national origin. It's wrong. It's not who we are. This is not who we are. Everybody knows who Donald Trump is. Let's keep showing them who we are.

Joe Biden: Folks, and I mean this, this is not just campaign rhetoric. We choose hope over fear. We choose unity over division. We choose science over fiction and yes, we choose truth over lies, the multiple lies he repeats. It's time to stand up. It's time to take back our democracy. We can do this. We're better than this. We're better than what we've been. We can be at our best. This is the United States of America. God bless you all and may God protect our troops. I love you. I love you. You brought me to the dance. Thank you, thank you, thank you. God love you all.

Joe Biden: Keep the faith. Every time I walk into my grandpop's house in Scranton, walk out the door, Bishop B'd yell, "Joey, keep the faith." When my grandmother was alive, she'd yell, "No Joey, spread it." Let's spread the faith.

Nov. 2nd, 2020 Joe Biden Cleveland Ohio

Joe Biden Drive-in Rally Speech Transcript Cleveland November 2

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Joe Biden held a drive-in campaign rally event in Cleveland, Ohio on November 2. Read the transcript of his speech remarks here.

[...]

Joe Biden: Hello, Cleveland. Whoa. Thank you, thank you, thank you, thank you. And you guys can push the other something real quick, I tell you. Thank you very, very much. And Courtney, thank you for that introduction. And I want to thank Representative Marcia Fudge. We've been hanging out in the back here in the tent, along with [inaudible 00:06:51] out there, and Joyce is out here. Joyce Beattie, I can't see it. Oh, there you are. Okay, I see you guys. And by the way, I want you all to meet, I got four of my grandchildren with me today. All my grandkids, stand up, stand up.

Joe Biden: They're my good luck charms. They're my heart. And Marcy and Joyce and Tim Ryan. Tim, you over there too? Hey, Tim. Tim, you've been so great the whole campaign. Thank you very, very, very much. And he as tough as nails. They're all incredible leaders and we need to send them back to Congress, every single one of them.

Joe Biden: Folks, I want to thank my buddy, Sherrod Brown. No one fights harder for the dignity of working people than Sherrod does. Sherrod won reelection in '18 about at the same margin that Trump did. And so when Sherrod tells me to come to Ohio the day before, I come to Ohio. That's what I do because he and I have something in common. We married way up. He married a Pulitzer prize winner. I married a professor, and I tell you what, Connie you've been wonderful. Connie actually reviewed my wife's book, I found out.

Joe Biden: Anyway, I want to thank you for being here. Folks, Ohio, one more day, one more day. Tomorrow. Tomorrow we have an opportunity to put an annual presidency. That's divided this nation. Tomorrow we can put an ad to a president as has failed to protect this nation. And tomorrow we can put it down to a president who has fanned the flames of hate all across this country. Millions of Americans have already voted. Almost a hundred million have voted so far, a hundred million voted already, and more are going to vote today. And my message is simple. The power to change the country is in your hands. I don't care how much Donald Trump tries, there's nothing, nothing...

Joe Biden: No matter how much Donald Trump tries, there's nothing, nothing he's going to do to stop the people in this nation from voting. Folks, he hasn't figured it out. Presidents don't determine who gets to vote. Voters determine who's going to be the president. When America votes, America will be heard. When America is heard, I believe the message is going to be loud and clear. It's time for Donald Trump to pack his bags and go home. We're done. We're done with the chaos. We're done with the tweets, the anger, the hate, the failure, the irresponsibility. We've got a whole lot of work to do.

Joe Biden: When I'm elected your president, I'm going to act, and I'm going to act on day one. Folks, we're going to act to get this COVID under control. On day one of my presidency, we're going to put it in action a plan that I've been talking about for months, and he's been paying no attention to. Masking, social distancing, testing, tracing. A plan for a fair and full and free distribution of therapeutics and vaccines, when we get one. Imagine, imagine where we'd be, had this president, from the beginning, just wore a mask instead of mock wearing a mask.

Joe Biden: I can tell you this. We wouldn't have 9 million confirmed COVID cases in this nation, wouldn't have over 230,000 deaths, wouldn't be seen those new record numbers of cases we're seeing every single day, right now. Nearly 100,000 cases in one day, just two days ago. 100,000 new cases. We wouldn't be facing another 200,000 projected deaths in the next few months.

Joe Biden: This president knew, last January, the virus was deadly, but he hid it from the American people. He knew it was worse than the flu. He lied to the American people. He knew it wasn't going to disappear, but he kept telling us a miracle was coming. And just Friday, you had the gall... Figure this, now. The president of the United States of America, who's responsible for so many deaths, he had the gall to suggest that American doctors, the people who have been on the front lines of this crisis for nine months, along with nurses and so many others, many of whom have died, to suggest that doctors are falsely inflating deaths due to COVID because they want to make more money.

Joe Biden: I'm serious, man. This guy's a disgrace. The people of this nation have suffered. They've sacrificed for nine months, not more than those doctors and nurses and those healthcare workers. And this president is questioning their character, their integrity, their commitment to their fellow Americans. As I said, it's a disgrace. And last night, Trump said he was going to fire Dr. Fauci. Isn't that wonderful? I got a better idea. Elect me, and I'm going to hire Dr. Fauci, and we're going to fire Donald Trump.

Joe Biden: Donald Trump waved the white flag of surrender to this virus. He did that. His own chief of staff said, last week, we're giving up on the virus. We're not going to do anything about it. I'm never going to raise the white flag and surrender. We're going to beat this virus. We're going to get it under control, I promise you. Look, the first step to beating the virus is beating Donald Trump.

Joe Biden: Donald Trump keeps telling us what a great jobs president he is. I was just with Barack in Detroit and Flint. It was great to be with a president of some character, a president respected around the world, a president our kids could and did look up to. But did you know that, after President Obama and I bet on American workers and helped rescue the auto industry, nearly 500,000 jobs created here in Ohio. Meanwhile, 330,000 of those have been lost since Trump's become president. You know, Donald Trump is going to be the first president in 90 years... that's a lot of presidents... in 90 years, is going to finish his four years in office with fewer jobs than when he got elected to office.

Joe Biden: It's no surprise. Remember the lies he told all the workers. He told the families of the GM plant in Lordstown. He said, "Don't move. Don't sell your house." But then the plant shut down. And after the first debate in Cleveland, I met an Ohio woman named Tiffany whose husband lost their job at the plant. And he had to take a job eight hours away in another state. He drives home weekends, 16 hours round trip, to be home with his kids. So much for "Don't worry."

Joe Biden: What about his threat and his grudge against Goodyear? What about his broken promise to protect pensions for workers, especially [inaudible 00:14:35] employer pensions? And what about... He stopped the overtime for millions of American workers, over \$1,200,000,000 for American workers, the president and I was helping your delegation put in place. But let's not forget how Donald Trump is wreaking chaotic with China on trade. Farm bankruptcies are way up. Exports are way down. Agricultural exports to China during the Trump years have been 40% lower than they were when we were in our second term.

Joe Biden: And he even says, because of his bailouts to the farmers... that's your tax dollars, by the way... his bailout of the farmers, "Our farmers are doing better now than when they actually had a farm." Can you believe that? Our farmers are doing better now than when they actually had a farm because they were able to be bailed out, although they may not have a farm anymore.

Joe Biden: Who does this guy think he is? My policies are going to hold China accountable. I'll end the Trump tax loopholes that incentivized companies to ship jobs overseas. I'll add a 10% surtax on companies who do ship jobs overseas. But for companies who bring and come back and invest in American manufacturing and bring jobs back home, I'll offer a 10% tax credit. And folks, it's no violation of any trade agreement, but no government contracts. And the president has about \$600 billion in contracts from the military on down. No government contract will be given it to a company that isn't have all the products, including the supply line, all products made in America, every product.

Joe Biden: Look, and our future will be made right here, right here in Ohio. Folks, we're in a position that we can do so much more, so much more. Folks, Donald Trump forgot and betrayed Ohio workers. Quite frankly, I grew up around guys like Donald Trump. I grew up in neighborhoods like probably many of you did, working class neighborhoods where most people didn't have a college education. But we had guys like Trump we used to play against, when we

played ball and Scranton and [inaudible 00:08:07]. And because they had more money than we did, they kind of look down their nose on us.

Joe Biden: I got to admit to you. I got a bit of a chip on my shoulder, when I read about... Once we won the nomination and things began to look a little better, I read from serious press people... they're decent, honorable people... that if I get elected, I'll be the first president who didn't have an Ivy League degree, in a long time. Well, let me tell you something. Somehow that's got to mean I didn't belong, because I went to a state university. But let me tell you what. It's about time a guy from a state university graduated into the White House because, if I'm there, you're going to be there, too. Look, Trump sees the world from Park Avenue, looking down-

Joe Biden: Trump sees the world from Park Avenue, looking down on Wall Street. I see it from Scranton and Claymont, where I grew up. I shaved from here in Cleveland. Wall Street didn't build America, the middle class built America. And guess what? Unions built the middle class. That's a fact. The day is long past time, we start rewarding work, not wealth in this country. Under my plan, if you make less than \$400,000, you won't pay a single penny, more in taxes. You have my word on it. But I tell you what, the wealthiest of MOS, big corporations, 91 of which don't pay any tax, that paid zero federal income tax. They're going to start paying their fair share. Why? Listen to me, why should a firefighter, an educator, a cop, why should a welder, why should a steel worker pay the higher tax rate than the super wealthy?

Joe Biden: It's not right. Why should you pay for taxes than Donald Trump for God's sake? Look, I released 22 years of my tax returns. You can look them up online. Donald Trump didn't release any. Wonder what the hell he's hiding. I wonder why he won't let anybody know what his tax returns are. Who's he owe the money to? This is the guy, by the way we found out recently has a secret bank account in China. Paid 50 times more tax in Beijing than he did in the United States. And overall, the one income tax the New York Times got, he paid \$750 in federal taxes. How about you? And when he was asked how he could pay so little, remember what he said? He said, "because I'm smart. I know how to game the system." And that's the kind of guy you want as president? That can game the system, be a billionaire pay 750 bucks in taxes. While you all break your necks, break your necks to pay a fair share.

Joe Biden: We're going to act to protect healthcare by the way. Trump and Republicans just jammed through a new Supreme Court nomination for one basic reason. Within a week after the election, they're going to be before the Supreme Court and this new nominee is going to be out of the court. It's all about destroying the Affordable Care Act, getting rid of it completely. They've been trying to do it now for nine years, if they get their way, 100 million Americans will lose protections for preexisting conditions, including nearly 5 million folks here in Ohio. Look, Donald Trump doesn't understand healthcare. He thinks it's a privilege. I think healthcare is a right.

Joe Biden: By the way, because of the way he ruined the economy, even before the pandemic, 10 million Americans have already lost their employer-based healthcare because the employer

has gone out of business. Now he wants to go after the 22 million, who have healthcare only because of the Affordable Care Act. I'm not only restore the Affordable Care Act, I'll build on it. You can keep your private insurance, or you can choose a Medicare-like public option in the new plan. I'm going to increase subsidies and lower premiums and deductibles, out of pocket expenses and surprise billings. We're going to reduce drug costs by 60% by allowing Medicare to negotiate drug prices for all of us. Folks, folks, it's going to cost more money, but guess how I'm going to pay for it? Trump's going to start paying some taxes.

Joe Biden: We're going to make sure we keep protections for people with pre-existing conditions. Meanwhile, the Social Security expert, the person the Social Security department says if Donald Trump's plan that he announced, if he's reelected, he's going to put in place, if in fact it's put in place, it would bankrupt Social Security by 2023. This guy really cares a lot about this, doesn't he? He really understands, [inaudible 00:22:56] my parents before me and everyone else paying into Social Security. So go home and tell your parents and grandparents, what a great deal they're going to get if Trump gets reelected. But folks, the fact is I'm going to protect your Social Security. I guarantee it. Because I got people behind me who're going to make sure it's protected. We're going to protect Social Security, and we're going to have a situation where guess what? We have a majority in the United States Senate. Well, folks, look, the thing that's bothered me most, maybe emotionally bothered me the most, but substantively as well. That this president has done, there's been nothing worse than the way he's spoken about those who have served in uniform. He called you all losers and suckers. My son Beau was the attorney general of the state of Delaware. My son Beau volunteered. He had to give up the seat of attorney general to volunteer, to go to Iraq for a year. He won the Bronze Star, the Conspicuous Service Medal, and he saw the people die in Iraq. He was not a loser. He was not a sucker, he was a Patriot, just like all your sons and daughters, parents, or grandparents who served. Folks, six generals who worked in the white house with the president of United States and admirals worked in his administration have since left. And they've said he is unfit to be Commander in Chief. Best of my knowledge, that's never happened before for any president of the United States. And that's why special operations commander Stanley McChrystal, as well as the commander special ops and the Navy Seals who took out Bin Laden, along with Bill McRaven, Admiral McRaven, along with 22 other four stars, they've endorsed me saying they'd be proud to have me as their Commander in Chief.

Joe Biden: This president likes to portray himself as a tough guy, a macho man. When the last time you saw a president of United States, literally being laughed at by the world leaders when he spoke to the United Nations? I don't ever recall that ever happening. Can you believe when the president of United States, who acts like Vladimir Putin's puppy, Putin put bounties on the heads of American soldiers in Afghanistan. Trump spoke to him six times and he was too frightened to challenge him. Why? Donald Trump is not strong, he's weak. This is a president who not only doesn't understand sacrifice, he doesn't understand courage. Physical courage it takes for so many of you to put on that uniform. We must support our military. Let's make this vote for them as well. God love them.

Joe Biden: We have to vote to meet the challenge, the climate crisis as well. We can act to meet that climate crisis. Trump calls the climate crisis a hoax. I see it as a great opportunity to improve our health as well as great millions of good paying jobs. I see America's working to build and install 500,000 charging stations all across this country. American consumers switching to clean electric vehicles. We can own the electric vehicle market, creating minutes of jobs here in Cleveland and in Ohio and in Detroit.

Joe Biden: Folks, I see the federal government harnessing the purchasing power by buying these electric vehicles. Made in America, made in Ohio, made in Detroit, made in America-

Joe Biden: Made in Ohio, made in Detroit, made in America. It's going to mean one million, according to the experts, one million new good paying auto jobs in the automobile industry alone. Folks, if we don't act China's going to own the market. China's going to own it all. And we will act, in addition to deliver racial justice in America. Folks, protesting is not burning and looting, violence must never be tolerated and it won't, but these protests are a cry for justice. The names of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Jacob Blake will soon not be forgotten. You know I've met with all these families. Well I met with Floyd's little girl, I think she was six years old. I knelt down to say, or to be at eye level with her. She looked at me and she said, I swear to God, said, "Mr. Vice President, my daddy is going to change in the world. My dad is going to change the world."

Joe Biden: Folks, I'm not going to forget. You're not going to forget. This country's not going to forget. This is going to inspire a new wave of justice in America. But guess what? Because we have the X generation, I mean the Z generation, that in fact is the most open, least prejudice, best educated generation in American history. They're already moving. They're already insisting on justice. They know who we are. A new wave of justice America, but also true justice isn't just about how they deal with police, it's about jobs. It's about building wealth. It's about families. It's about education. It's about opportunity. It's about being able to make a decent living. Nobody should have to work two jobs to stay out of poverty. That's why, honk if you agree with me that a \$15 minimum wage is necessary nationwide. Honk.

Joe Biden: Honk, if you think assistance for a down payment, for a real shot of home ownership should be coming forward with me with \$15,000 for first time homeowner, to start a small business, send the child to college debt-free. Folks, Ohio in 2008, 2012, you place your trust in me and Barrack. In 2020, I'm asking you to trust me again. I'm proud of the coalition this campaign is built. To welcome Democrats, Republicans and Independents. I'm running as a proud Democrat, but I'll govern as an American president. There will be no red States and blue States, just the United States.

Joe Biden: And I promise you I'll work as hard for those who don't support me as those who do. That's the job of a president, to care, to care about everybody, everybody. That's the duty of a president. And look, you too, have a duty, a duty to vote. Folks, make a plan, go to [Iwillvote.com/OH](https://www.Iwillvote.com/OH). Folks, the amazing thing about this moment in our history, on the one hand, we're facing the biggest threat of who we are, what we believe, and what we seen, what we've

been in our lifetimes. Another hand, our future has never been more promising. I've said it many times, the character of America is literally on the ballot.

Joe Biden: The character of our country, but I'm more optimistic about America's future today than when I was elected to the United States Senate as a 29 year-old kid. Let me tell you why. We are better positioned than any nation in the world to lead the 21st century. Our workers are three times as productive as other workers. We have the biggest economy in the world. We have the strongest military in the history of the world. We have the most innovative entrepreneurs in the world and we are virtually energy independent. We have more great research universities in America than all the rest of the world combined, out of which all these doing inventions have occurred.

Joe Biden: No other nation can match us. We lead by the example of our power, not just by the power of our example. The only thing that can tear America apart is America itself. And that's exactly what Donald Trump has tried to do from the beginning of his campaign, divide America. The only way he can win, separate us. Pit Americans against one another based on race, gender, ethnicity, national origin. It's wrong. It's not who we are, but it's his only prospect.

Joe Biden: Everybody knows who Donald Trump is. Let's keep showing them who we are. We choose hope over fear. We choose unity over division. We choose science over fiction and yes, we choose truth over lies. Folks, it's time to stand up. It's time to take back our democracy. We can do this. We're so much better than this. We can be our best, ladies and gentlemen. This is the United States of America. There's not a damn thing we can't do, nothing. So let's get up and do it. God bless you all and may God protect our troops. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you.

Joe Biden & Kamala Harris Election Day Eve Rally Speech Transcript November 2

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Joe Biden and Kamala Harris held their final campaign rally before Election Day on November 2 in Pittsburgh. John Legend and Lady Gaga performed. Read the transcript of Harris and Biden's speeches here.

[...]

Kamala Harris: We are now a matter of hours away, guys, from the end of this election, and the work that we do tomorrow will determine whether we put a champion for the working class people in office or we continue to be pushed around by President Trump. See, to me, guys, the choice is easy. So tomorrow let's get a plan, let's go out, and let's vote. And let's vote for Joe Biden. Pittsburgh, help me in welcoming the next president of the United States, Joe Biden

Joe Biden: Whoa. Hello, Pittsburgh. I'm Jill Biden's husband and Lady Gaga's friend. We go back a while. One thing I wasn't going to say, but I'll said now, she spent a lot of time helping me with the Violence Against Women Act and helping so many women who needed help. God love you, you're wonderful. Thank you, thank you, thank you.

Joe Biden: Folks. John, thanks, old buddy, for sharing your story. And thanks to Mr. Mayor. I don't know where you are, I can't see out here, but I'll tell you what, thanks for the passport into town. And thanks for all the speakers we heard tonight, as well as the incredible, as I said, Lady Gaga. I don't know whether ... You couldn't see, but all my grandkids are over there, Lady Gaga. And when you were singing, knew every word of every song. They were jumping and moving. I got to get a picture with them. Anyway.

Joe Biden: My buddy Congressman Mike Doyle, Governor Tom Wolf, thank you for standing with me and fighting for the dignity of working people. Everyone you've heard from across the state, as well as in Philadelphia, we hear you loud. We hear clearly. Congressman Boyle been with me a while. Remarkable, great friend and friend of his family. His dad and I grew up five blocks away from one another in Scranton.

Joe Biden: Bobby Casey, Patti LaBelle, and John Legend. My Lord, John, I'm voting for you after I heard that speech you made. Look at the second future gentleman, Doug. Doug, I love you. You are a good man. And I want to thank the next vice president of the United States, a woman I am so proud to be running alongside of, Kamala Harris.

Joe Biden: Look, I know as a Scranton boy and then raised on the border of Southern Pennsylvania in Claymont, Delaware, I know it's not always easy to bring Western and Eastern Pennsylvania together. But you know what, the Steelers got a big win yesterday, and the Eagles got a big win last night, so we can both be happy. And folks, I have a feeling we're coming together for a big win tomorrow.

Joe Biden: My Lord, there's a lot of you out here on this cold night. Thank you. And by the way, in the parking garage, don't jump. I need you. Don't jump.

Joe Biden: Folks, look, 18 months ago, we kicked off the campaign at Teamsters Local 249 right here in Pittsburgh. I chose Western Pennsylvania for my first stop as a candidate, and now for my last stop before Election Day, because you represent the backbone of this country. Hard work and families. We're asking nothing but a fair shot, an even chance. Ordinary people doing extraordinary things. The qualities that built this country, that created and sustain the middle class. And by the way, as I said twice earlier today, unions built the middle class.

Joe Biden: Look. We've been through a lot in this country since we announced. America is facing a confluence of crises unlike anything in living memory. We're still in the battle for the soul of America. Decency, honor, respect. Where has it gone with this president? Let me tell you something, folks. Tomorrow's the beginning of a new day. Tomorrow we can put an end to a presidency that has left hardworking Americans out in the cold. Tomorrow we can put an end to a presidency that has divided this nation and fanned the flames of hate. Tomorrow we can put an end to a presidency that has failed to protect this nation.

Joe Biden: Ladies and gentlemen, millions of Americans have already voted. Close to a hundred million. And millions more will vote tomorrow. And my message to you is simple: the power to change this country is in your hands. In your hands. I don't care how hard Donald Trump tries, there's nothing, nothing that's going to stop the people of this nation from voting, period. And when America votes, America will be heard. And America's heard. I believe the message to be loud and clear, it's time for Donald Trump to pack his bags and go home. I honest to God believe the vast majority of Americans are done with the chaos, the corruption, the failure, the irresponsibility, the indifference to American lives, the indifference to America's dignity. We've got a lot of work to do. Not division and distraction, but real, real, real healing of this country.

Joe Biden: If you elect me your president, I'm going to heal this country, and we're going to act. We're going to act to get COVID under control beginning on day one. I'll put in action a plan I've been talking about for months. Masking, social distancing, testing, tracing. A plan for full and fair and free distribution of therapeutics and a vaccine, when it comes.

Joe Biden: Imagine where we could be if the president only wore a mask from the beginning instead of mocked it. I can tell you this, as every expert will tell you, we wouldn't have 9 million COVID cases in this nation. We wouldn't have over 230,000 deaths and nearly a hundred thousand cases nationwide just two days ago. We wouldn't be facing another 200,000

predicted deaths in the next few months. That's what the experts are telling us. We don't change, 200,000 more people will die by the end of the year.

Joe Biden: The President knew in January, as Kamala said, that this virus was deadly, but he hid it from the American people. He knew it was worse than the flu, but he lied to us. He knew it wasn't going to disappear. He kept telling us a miracle was coming, it'd be over by Easter.

Joe Biden: Last Friday, he had the gall to suggest that America's doctors, who've been on the front lines of this crisis for nine months along with the nurses and so many other first responders, he suggested those doctors were falsely inflating the deaths due to COVID because they wanted more money. For God's sake. No, I really mean it. Think about it. Our frontline healthcare workers, they've suffered and sacrificed for nine months, and this president is questioning their character, their integrity, their commitment to their fellow Americans. It's a disgrace. And last night, Trump went on to say he was going to fire Dr. Fauci. Well, I've got a better idea. Let's fire Trump, and I'll hire Fauci.

Joe Biden: Think about it. Look, Donald Trump has waved the white flag of surrender. Remember he said, "I'm the commander-in-chief, and I'm going to fight this fight." Give me a break. He waved the white flag of surrender. I'll never surrender. We're going to beat this virus. We're going to get it under control. And the first step to beating this virus is beating Donald Trump.

Joe Biden: Folks. Well, let me tell you something. Donald Trump keeps telling us what a great jobs president he is. As we say in my faith, bless me, Father, for he has ... I don't know. Jobs president. Here's the truth. Donald Trump is going to be the first president in 90 years, that's a lot of presidents, the first president in 90 years to finish his term in office with fewer jobs than when he started. An independent analysis, not from some liberal think tank, but by Moody's, a Wall Street firm, projects that my plan will create 7 million more jobs and a trillion dollars more economic growth than anything the President has proposed.

Joe Biden: Folks, we can do this. I'm going to end Trump's tax loopholes that incentivize companies to ship jobs overseas. That's why there's not as many jobs here. And I'm going to add a 10% surtax on any company that ships jobs overseas. But companies who invest in American manufacturing, bring jobs back, we'll give them a 10% tax credit.

Joe Biden: And by the way, president of the United States awards about over \$600 billion of contracts a year because of everything from building aircraft carriers to all that we do, all the government spends. I promise you this, and it violates no trade agreement, there will be no government contracts given out on my watch that don't make all of their products here in America. The future will be right here in America, in Pennsylvania.

Joe Biden: Folks, Trump sees the world from Park Avenue, from Wall street. That's all he can see. Well, I see it from Scranton, where I grew up. I see it from Pennsylvania and Delaware.

Wall Street didn't build this country; working people built the country, the middle class built the country, and unions built the middle class.

Joe Biden: My dad used to have an expression. He said, "Joe, the only way you can deal with the abuse of power is with power." Well, the only outfit that can deal with the abuse of power of corporate America are union power. That's the only way it can be dealt with. And I warn you all, if I'm elected, you're going to see the most pro-union president in American history sitting in the White House.

Joe Biden: Look. I believe we should be about rewarding work, not wealth. Under my plan, as Kamala said, if you make less than 400,000 bucks, you're not going to pay a penny more in taxes. But finally, finally, the wealthiest among us, the biggest corporations, 91 of which of the Fortune 500 paid zero in income tax, you're going to start paying your fair share. Why? Why should an iron worker, a firefighter, an educator, a nurse pay at a higher tax rate than the super wealthy?

Joe Biden: Folks, and here's a good one, why should you be paying more than Donald Trump pays in taxes? New York Times said he paid \$750 in taxes one year. And guess what. When they asked him about it a little before that, he said the reason he only paid that is because he was smart, he knew how to game the system. Well, I'm sick of the wealthy guys gaming the system. Most are willing to pay their fair share, but let me tell you ...

Joe Biden: By the way, he loves to talk about corruption. Oh, my Lord. He loves to talk about corruption. And you found out last week, he's the only person I've ever heard of has a secret bank account in China where he paid, according to the Times, 50 times more taxes in Beijing than he did in the United States. Folks, as my mother would've said, enough is enough is enough. Look. We're going to act to protect healthcare as well. Trump and the Republicans for the last 10 years have been trying like the devil to eliminate the healthcare plan. By the way, because of economic policies and so many companies going out of business, 10 million Americans have already lost their healthcare.

Joe Biden: And now Trump and the Republicans, they jam through a Supreme Court nominee for one overwhelming reason: they wanted to destroy the Affordable Care Act. If they get their way, by the way ... This is not hyperbole. By the way, guess what's going to happen. Seven days after tomorrow, they're going to be in the Supreme Court arguing to wipe out, root and branch, all of the Affordable Care Act. Well, you can say that again because a lot of people are hurting.

Joe Biden: I can remember as a kid growing up in Claymont and Wilmington in a three-bedroom house, nice house, three-bedroom, split-level home with four kids and a grandpa. The walls were thin. I can remember one night, my dad, I could hear him restless in the room next to us, talking to my mom, and asking her the next morning, "What's the matter?" She said, "Your dad, we just lost our health insurance." How many people you know, staring at the

ceiling, wondering what in God's name are they going to do without health insurance? How many of them? How many ...

Joe Biden: ... without health insurance, how many of them? How many of them are worried like we were when our son came home from Iraq and was lying dying? I wonder what I would have done had they been able to come in, but for Obamacare and say, "Sorry, sorry, suffer the last month in the hospital in peace without your insurance, you've outrun your insurance." How many people do you know? And many of you worry about it, worry about your kids, worry about what's happening. Well, if they get their way, 100 million Americans will lose protections for pre-existing conditions, including five million Pennsylvanians. It's wrong. It's wrong. Donald Trump, look, folks, being a great consumer of healthcare I feel very strongly about this. Donald Trump thinks healthcare is a privilege. I think it's a right.

Joe Biden: I'll not only restore healthcare, I'll build on it. You can keep your private insurance if you have it, or you can choose a Medicare like option. We're going to increase subsidies to lower your premiums and deductibles, out of pocket spending, surprise billings. How are you going to do that? Because Trump and his buddies are going to pay more taxes so you don't have to do more. And we're going to reduce, if it didn't sound so strange I wouldn't even explain, you're going to reduce prescription drug costs by 60%. You know how? By making sure Medicare can negotiate with the insurance companies for the cost of drugs. We're going to make sure you keep the protections for pre-existing conditions. Meanwhile, these guys are for real, unfortunately.

Joe Biden: Meanwhile, Trump's announced what he'll do if he gets re-elected with regard to social security. The actuary of social security has said if Trump were elected and gets passed what he wants it will bankrupt social security by 2023. Now, you all may think I'm making it up. But just like I said when Paul Ryan was the Speaker of the House. I said, "They're going to cut Medicare," and everybody looked, "No, no." They tried to cut it by \$5 billion right off the bat. Folks, these guys are serious. They've never fully supported these programs. I'll protect social security, Medicare and Medicaid. You have my word on it. But folks, as we used to say in the Senate, if you excuse a point of personal privilege, there's nothing that has made me more angry about this President than the way he's spoken about those of you have served in uniform. Losers and suckers, he referred to you.

Joe Biden: Our son, Beau, his two children are with me tonight, he gave up his job as Attorney General to volunteer to go to Iraq for a year. He won the Bronze Star, the Speaker's Service Medal, he came home with brain cancer. And guess what? He wasn't a sucker. He was a patriot like all of your sons and daughters. It angers the hell out of me the way he talks about our veterans. Your parents, your grandparents, all who have served. To the best of my knowledge, he's the first President of the United States who has six generals and admirals who worked in his administration who have since left and said he was unfit to be Commander-in-Chief. Folks, that's my General Stanley McChrystal, a former commander of special operations who oversaw the Bin Laden raid, Admiral Bill McRaven, and 22 other four stars endorsed me because they know I'll have their back.

Joe Biden: It's not happened before. Trump likes to portray himself as a tough guy, the macho man. Wouldn't you like to have a shot? Anyway, the macho man. And he says people listen to him because he's tough around the world. When's the last time you ever heard of a President of the United States literally being laughed out loud by world leaders when he spoke with United Nations? So much for listening to him. When was the last time a President of the United States met with the NATO leaders at the NATO Summit, other world leaders, chancellors, presidents, prime ministers, and before they realize it, they were all making fun of him as he left the room? Folks, and can you believe we have a President who acts like Vladimir Putin's puppy? Putin put bounties on the heads of American soldiers in Afghanistan, where I've been to many times. It's a rough area, man.

Joe Biden: But Trump has talked to him six times since then and he's been frightened to say or challenge him at all. Donald Trump isn't strong, he's weak. This is a President who not only does it not understand sacrifice, doesn't understand courage, physical courage it takes to be in uniform. Folks, we're going to support our military. They're the backbone and spine of this country. Folks, we have to vote to meet the challenge of climate crisis. Donald Trump calls it a hoax. I call it about our health and the ability to create millions of good paying jobs right here in Western Pennsylvania. We can combat climate change with American ingenuity and manufacturing, creating millions of new high paying union jobs. Let me be clear, I will not ban fracking in Pennsylvania. I'll protect those jobs, period, no matter what Donald Trump says. But I tell you what, I will, I will no longer fund oil companies with subsidies, period.

Joe Biden: Folks, we have to restore the backbone of this country, but we also have to unify. Look, we're going to act to deliver racial justice in America. Protesting is not burning and looting. The violence will not be tolerated. But the protests, there's a cry for justice. The names of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Jacob Blake, Walter Wallace, they're not going to be soon forgotten by me, not by anyone in this country. And they're going to inspire a new wave of justice in America. When I met with Floyd's family, when I went down to Texas, he has a little daughter, six years old, and I was in the room and I knelt down to talk to her. She looked at me and she said, "Mr. Vice President," she said, "my daddy is going to change America. My daddy is going to change America." Well, guess what? We also know that the American people realize we've got to change. We also know that justice isn't just about criminal justice, it's about knowing the true justice about jobs and building wealth for your families. No one should be working two jobs to stay in poverty. We need a minimum of \$15 an hour minimum wage. And for people struggling, first term home buyers, they're going to get a \$15,000 tax credit from me. We're going to provide capital for young entrepreneurs to start small businesses, provide free community college, which by the way, costs a lot of money, six billion a year. We spend about that much money giving breaks out for race horses, folks, as well as free tuition for students attending state universities if they come from families making less than 125 grand. Folks, we can do this, Pennsylvania. In 2008 and 2012, you placed your trust in me and Barack. In 2020, I'm asking you seeking your trust again. I take nothing for granted.

Joe Biden: This is a battle for the soul of America. We have to win this. We have to win this together. Bring the country together. I'm proud of the coalition this campaign has built,

welcoming Democrats and Republicans and independents. I'm running as a proud Democrat, but I will govern as an American President. There will be no red states and blue states. There'll be the United States of America. I promise you I'll work as hard for those who don't support me as those who do. That's the job of a President, the duty to care for everyone, the duty to heal. That's the President's job. So please vote. If you still have your absentee ballot, get into a drop box as soon as you can or vote tomorrow in person. Just make a plan and help get out the vote. The power is in your hands, Pennsylvania.

Joe Biden: And here's the amazing thing, here's the amazing thing about this moment in our history, the character of the country is on the ballot. On the one hand, we're facing the biggest threats to who we are and what we believe that we've seen in our lifetimes. But on the other hand, our future has never been more promising. I've said it many times. I'm more optimistic about America's future today than I was when I got invited and got elected as a 29 year old kid. And here's why, we're in a better position than any nation in the world to lead the 21st century. Fact, our workers are three times as productive. We have the biggest economy in the world, the strongest military in the history of the world, the most innovative entrepreneurs. We're virtually energy dependent. We have more great research universities, out of which every major new changes come, than all the rest of the world combined, literally.

Joe Biden: No nation in the world can match us. We lead by the power of our example, not just example of our power. The only thing that can tear America apart is America itself. No one else can challenge us. And that's exactly what Donald Trump has been doing from the beginning of this campaign, dividing America, tearing us apart, pitting Americans against one another based on our race, our gender, our ethnicity, our religion. It's wrong. That's not who we are. And folks, everybody knows who Donald Trump is. Let's keep showing them who we are. We choose hope over fear. We choose unity over division. We choose science over fiction. And yes, we choose truth over lie after lie after lie. Folks, it's time to stand up and take back our democracy. We can do this. We can be better than what we've been. We can be who we are at our best, the United States of America. God bless you all. And may God protect our troops. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you.

Nov. 2nd, 2020 Joe Biden Beaver County Pennsylvania

Joe Biden Campaign Speech Beaver County, Pennsylvania November 2

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Joe Biden held a campaign event in Beaver County, Pennsylvania on November 2, the day before the election. Read the transcript of his speech remarks here.

Joe Biden: You all must be crazy. As my mother from Scranton said, God love you. Thanks for being here. The one thing I've always been able to count on my whole career, unions. I know how to say union. I'm working for those unions. Hey folks, it's good to be back in Beaver County. The fact is that we've been in a situation for a while here that... and Greg, thanks for the introduction, I do appreciate it.

Joe Biden: One of the things about the iron workers is that I think you're all crazy. You know what I mean? I remember iron workers endorsed me early on when I first ran for the Senate as a kid. A guy name Tommy [Shrank 00:00:47], and I used to walk in the union all the time and say anybody who's crazy enough to walk up 16 stories on beam and shoot a rivet has to be nuts. But thank God you are. Where I grew up, you either joined a trade, you became a cop, you became a firefighter or a priest. I wasn't competent at being any one of them, so look what happened to me.

Joe Biden: Folks look, Conner thank you for being here and thank you for all you've done. Ladies and gentlemen, this is about more than just an election this time out. There's an awful lot at stake, and of course you're going to send Conner back. That's all right, I'm used to babies. Babies are allowed to cry, and anybody's allowed to cry if they want. Anybody's allowed to make noise too. Oh, well, look, I wanted to come by to say thank you personally. Thank you very, very much for what you've done. As the Mayor's here, they tell me... I don't know where the Mayor is. Where's the Mayor? There you are, hey Mr. Mayor, thank you pal. Being Mayor's a real job. They know where you live and Terry and Rob I want to thank you and everybody all over Beaver County.

Joe Biden: Folks, look, the fact is that from the very beginning of my career, I found myself in a situation where I've relied on labor. And I hope I'm demonstrated that labor can rely on me. We're in a home stretch now. We're in a home stretch and as my coach used to say in high and college, "It's go time. It's go time." Tomorrow's the day. Tomorrow we're going to send Conner back to Congress. We're going to hear what labor has to say. We're going to win Pennsylvania and we're going to show the world what America stands for.

Joe Biden: Folks, as I said, I wanted to come by and thank you personally for canvassing. And thank the Mayor and everyone else that I just mentioned to you. The fact is that there's a lot at stake in this election. We are really at one of those inflection points. This is going to be more than just who governs the next four years. What happens now, what happens tomorrow is going to determine what this country looks like for a couple generations. And that's not a joke. I really generally believe that.

Joe Biden: There's so damn much at stake. And as we get this home stretch, you find yourself going home. At least I found myself going home. This is like home. I'm from Scranton, Pennsylvania. I grew up in Claymont, Delaware. And it used to be a steel town that had steel workers, used to have 5,800 steel workers in the town. All gone, all gone now. We got to get it back. We're not going to get it back in Claymont, but we can get it back here in the United States.

Joe Biden: And folks, the fact is that as I said we're heading to a home stretch. We know the stakes have never been higher. We know they've never been higher. My dad used to have an expression. He'd say, "Joey," he lost a job in Scranton when coal died when I was a kid. And we moved on to Claymont, Delaware. He took us home to my grand pops house. And he made what I call the longest walk a mom or dad has to make. Up a short flight of stairs to the kids bedrooms to say, "Honey, I'm sorry. You can't go back to that school. You can't play in that Little League club anymore. Dad lost his job. We're going to have to move. We can't stay where we are." And he made that walk, took us over to my grand pop's house in Scranton and what happened was he said, "I'm going down to Delaware. There's jobs down there. I'll come home every weekend. It'll probably take me a year to get one. I can bring everybody down." And so that's exactly what happened.

Joe Biden: From that point on, when my dad would talk about a job, he'd say, "Joey, a job's about a lot more than a paycheck. It's about your dignity. It's about respect. It's about your place in the community. It's about being able to look your kid in the eye and say, honey, it's going to be okay." Not many people are saying that these days. Too many people are worried.

Joe Biden: I've never forgotten growing up in a hard working family in Scranton. The lesson that Donald Trump has never learned, because he can only see the world from Park Avenue. He can't see what families like yours and mine have gone through. So he refuses to do the work to get this virus under control. He refuses to do the work to get our schools and our small businesses the resources they needed to stay open. Firefighters, teachers, cops, a whole lot of hard working folks. Refused to bring Congress together. They passed the money, but he refused to bring them together to provide for their families, the working families. Because he thinks Wall Street built this country. Well I got news for him, you already know it, Wall Street didn't build America, middle class did and unions built the middle class. Unions built the middle class. That's a fact. That is a natural fact.

Joe Biden: Look, I see the world from Scranton. I see this world from working class towns all around this state. And that's why I build back better plan that I'm going to do is for the first

time in a long time, we're going to start rewarding work, not wealth. We're not going to raise taxes for anybody making less than \$400,000 bucks a year. If you make more than that, guess what? You're going to start paying your fair share. You're going to start stepping up.

Joe Biden: I'm going to ask the big corporations, the wealthy, to step up. 90 of the Fortune 500 companies, trying to railroad you guys, 90 of them, didn't pay a penny in taxes. We're going to invest the money that we collect of working people, creating millions of good paying union jobs. Two trillion dollars to build a more resilient infrastructure, roads, bridges, water systems. A whole lot more. Done by certified labor. And by the way, no matter how many times Trump tries to lie about it, I will not ban fracking. I never said I would.

Joe Biden: But I'm going to end Trumps incentives, to send jobs overseas. We have a trade strategy right now where you get 10% cut in your tax if you send a job overseas. We're going to reverse it. You bring a job home, you get 10% and I want to promise you one thing, the president has control of \$600 billion, handing out contracts for construction. For everything from building aircraft carriers, to public housing. Well here's the promise I'm making to you, not one single contract will be let to a contractor who doesn't have products that are all made in America. That's a guarantee. Every one.

Joe Biden: We're allowed to do that now, but we've never done it. It's about time we stepped up and made sure people... by the way, one other thing I want to mention here. Donald Trump talks about himself as a tough guy. I grew up with guys like him around in Scranton. They thought because they had more money than us they could look down their nose at us. They thought that because they came from well known families, they somehow were better. Well let me tell you something, he talks about how tough he is, how hard working he is, how he's done so much. Let me tell the things that bothered me most in this campaign and I have to tell you, the way he talked about our veterans as being losers, losers? What's this guy all about? Who is he? He doesn't understand what's going on.

Joe Biden: Folks, my son was the Attorney General of Delaware. He gave up his seat to go fight in Iraq for a year. He won the Bronze Star, [inaudible 00:09:02] service medal. And he came home and he died of cancer, but he came home and guess what? He was no loser. Trump's a loser. And all of you who served. All of you who have served. I really mean it. Think about it, think about it. Is there any wonder why... this is the first president that I'm aware of. The six top Generals to work for him, six, four star Admirals and Generals, they all left to say he wasn't worthy of being Commander in Chief. They quit.

Joe Biden: McRaven, [inaudible 00:09:44] Special Forces. There are the guys who did a lot commanding. They both endorsed me and they came along, 22 Four Stars stepped up and endorsed me because they knew I'd have their back as Commander in Chief. This guy doesn't get it.

Joe Biden: I really mean it, many of you served. Took physical courage to do it. He doesn't get it. Folks, we owe the military. One percent of the Americans, are protecting the other 99% of us. We owe them big.

Joe Biden: Look, we can only get this done though, we can only get this done in Pennsylvania, Pennsylvanians vote. We got to make sure everybody returns their ballot or votes tomorrow. Make sure everyone, everyone you know does the same. It's time to rebuild the backbone of this country. The middle class, and this time bring everybody along. Everybody. It's time to unite this country. There's an amazing thing about this moment on history; on the one hand we're facing the biggest threat to who we are, what we believe in our lifetimes, but on the other hand our future has never been more promising.

Joe Biden: I've said it many times, I'm more optimistic about America's future today, than when I got elected as a 29 year old kid to the Senate. Here's why: we're in a better position than any nation in the world to lead the 21st century. Our workers are three times productive as workers around the world. We have the biggest economy in the world. The strongest military in the history of the world. We have the most innovative entrepreneurs. We're virtually energy independent and we have more great research universities than the rest of the world combined.

Joe Biden: No other nation can touch us. No other nation can lead us. We can lead by the power of our example, not just the example of our power. The only thing that can tear America apart is America itself, and that's exactly what Donald Trump's been trying to do from the very beginning. Divide America. Pitting American's against one another. Rural versus urban. Based on race, gender, ethnicity, national origin, our religion. That's wrong. That's not who we are. Everybody knows who Donald Trump is. But we're about honor, integrity, dignity. This is the United States of America. We've got to let them show who we are. We choose, we choose hope over fear. We choose unity over division. We choose science over fiction, and yeah we choose truth over lies, constant lies.

Joe Biden: [inaudible 00:13:03]. It's time to stand up, take back this democracy. We can do this. We're so much better than we've been. We can be [inaudible 00:13:23]... you have ever seen, I guarantee you a seat at the table. God love you all, and thank you, thank you, thank you. Let's get this vote out. May God protect our troops. Thank you.

Joe Biden: I want to do something that I feel very proud about. The son I told you about who I lost, I want his two children to come up here with me. Come here. This is Natalie, don't be silly.

Nov. 2nd, 2020 Joe Biden Pittsburg Pennsylvania

Joe Biden Campaign Event Speech Transcript

Pittsburgh, PA November 2

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Joe Biden held a campaign event in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania on November 2. Read the transcript of his speech remarks here.

[...]

Joe Biden: Hello Pittsburgh. It's good to be back. I'll tell you what. First off, let's honk for the outstanding band, The Funky Fly Project. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you. And special thanks to local and state elected officials who are here. I want to thank them a lot and I want to also thank your police department. I tell you what. They got a one heck of a motorcycle escort.

Joe Biden: You know, it was great seeing Franco again. I live in the other side of the state just below that town called Philadelphia, and I get in trouble because I talk about how much I like Pittsburgh and how much I like the Steelers. Now, let me tell you why. Franco and I were just in Latrobe together last month, and Franco and his teammate, a guy named Rocky Bleier, back in the day when the Rooney's were really wonderful to me and my family. Because just a month after I was elected the United States Senate, I was 29 years old. It was December 18th. And it was a week before Christmas. I got a phone call, when I was hiring staff in Washington, saying a tractor trailer broadsided my wife and my three children Christmas shopping, and killed my wife and killed my wife and would kill my daughter. My two boys were very badly injured.

Joe Biden: So I hustled home as quick as I could. And I stayed with them in that hospital room because they were really in tough shape. But on the 23rd, I believe it was, I decided that I was going to go out to Kmart and get a plastic Christmas tree. You know, those kinds they have on display, because you weren't allowed to have any Christmas paraphernalia in the hospital that could catch fire, but I could get one of those. So I went out and I was only gone, it was the only time I was gone. I was gone for about, I guess, an hour, hour and a half.

Joe Biden: And I came back and both my boys for the first time, they were little guys, three and four years old, almost four and five. They had smiles on their face and each of them were holding a football signed by the entire steel curtain, the Pittsburgh team. And I said, "What happened, boys?" And they was the first time they smiled. And they said, "Rocky Bleier and Franco Harris came," because guess what happened? The Rooneys, really fine, fine people, the Rooneys decided that they were going to send Rocky and Franco to see my boys. No publicity. They didn't do any press. Didn't let anybody know.

Joe Biden: ... he, they didn't do any press, didn't let anybody know, they spent 45 minutes with my boys, they got in the plane and went home.

Joe Biden: That's who we are as a country. That's something the President doesn't understand, looking out for each other. The thousand acts of kindness, the decency that people used to show to one another, and still do, that he just doesn't get.

Joe Biden: Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh there's one more day, one more day to show who we are once again. Tomorrow we can end the presidency that has divided this nation. Folks in Homewood know, tomorrow we can put an end to a presidency that has failed to protect the nation. Tomorrow we can put an end to a presidency that has fanned the flames of hate across this nation, pouring gasoline on every racial incident in the country.

Joe Biden: Millions of Americans have already voted, over almost a hundred million now. Millions more will vote tomorrow. My message is simple, the power to change this country is in your hands. And I don't care how hard Donald Trump tries, there's nothing, nothing he can do to stop the people of this nation from voting, no matter how he tries.

Joe Biden: There was a press article last week, and it read as follows, "Never before in modern presidential history has a candidate been so reliant on wide-scale efforts to repress the vote as Trump." Trump doesn't want y'all voting. He don't want Americans voting. He thinks only wealthy folks should vote. When America votes though, America will be heard. When America's heard, the message is going to be out loud and clear: it's time for Donald Trump to pack his bags and go home, go home.

Joe Biden: Look, we're done with the chaos, we're done with the racism, we're done with the tweets, the anger, the hate, the failure, the irresponsibility, but we got a lot of work to do folks. If I'm elected president, we're going to act, on day one we're going to act to get COVID under control, on day one of my presidency I'll put in action a plan that I've been talking about for months, masking, social distancing, testing, tracing, a plan for full and fair and free distribution of therapeutics and vaccines when we get one.

Joe Biden: And most importantly, but he hasn't done yet, a plan, a plan that addresses the fact that we can get everybody access to the vaccine when it comes. Folks there's over 300 million people in America, everyone, everyone is going to get help. A plan to address the disproportionate way the virus is hitting the black community and minority communities. We're seeing race-based disparities all across every aspect of this virus; higher infection rates, lower access to testing, a harder time, quarantine safely, lower access to quality treatment when you become infected, and tragically higher mortality rates, three times as high as the white population. One in 1000 black Americans have died from COVID so far. And by the end of this pandemic, if things continue as he's allowing them to do until the next president takes office, there will be another 200,000 deaths projected. And that would mean one in 500 African-Americans will have died because of COVID.

Joe Biden: That is absolutely outrageous. That is an attack, a mass casualty for black Americans. And this President, he knew in January how bad this virus was, in January he knew it. Some of you may remember vaguely if you turned on the television at the time, I wasn't in office but I was talking about the fact that he got intelligence briefings laying out how dangerous it was coming from China, and where it was happening. And he said, no he didn't read his intelligence briefing in the morning. Well, that didn't surprise me, he doesn't read.

Joe Biden: But turns out he knew exactly how dangerous it was. Remember what he said to Bob Woodward, the famous journalist? He went on tape and he said to Woodward, he knew in January how dangerous it was and how many people could die, and he said nothing. He didn't say a thing to you, me, or anybody else. He kept it secret. He hid it from the American people. He knew it was worse than the flu. He lied to the American people. He knew it wasn't going to disappear. He kept telling us, America was coming, or maybe we should inject bleach into our veins. I mean, whatever, God, what a... anyway.

Joe Biden: And just Friday, this past Friday, had the gall to suggest that the American doctors and nurses, who are literally risking their lives to save lives on the front line of this crisis for nine months, that he suggested that these folks, know what he said they're doing? He said, "Doctors are falsely inflating the deaths due to COVID because they want to make more money."

Joe Biden: Now think about that, president of the United States of America. But then again, it doesn't surprise me, he wouldn't do anything unless he could make more money, not a joke. Everything to him is about how do you help yourself?

Joe Biden: Folks, look the people of this nation have suffered and sacrificed for nine months, none more so than our doctors and our frontline healthcare workers. And it's the President questioning their character, and their integrity, their commitment to his fellow Americans, the President questioning that? It's a flat disgrace. And then last night Trump said, he's going to fire Dr. Fauci. I got a better idea, let's fire Trump, and I'll hire Dr. Fauci.

Joe Biden: Look, the President has waved the white flag of surrender in this virus. I'll never do that. He's chief of staff said last week, "We're not going to control this virus." We're not going to control the virus, the first step to beating the virus is defeating Donald Trump.

Joe Biden: Look folks, if we didn't know this was happening, and somebody made a movie about this five years ago you'd think it was all crazy, but it's real. It's real what's happening. Donald Trump, by the way, he keeps telling us what a great jobs president he has been, how many jobs he's created. Well, I was just with President Obama in Detroit, in Flint, Michigan, my buddy. It was great to be with a president with real character. A President respected around the world, a President our kids could look up to. But did you know President Obama and I helped create more jobs in the last three years of our administration than Trump did the first three years of his, even before the pandemic hit? Did you know Donald Trump is going to be

the first president in 90 years who's going to finish with his four years in office with fewer jobs under his leadership than when he started as president?

Joe Biden: And black unemployment remains too high, too many black businesses are shuttered for good. Black-owned businesses are shutting down twice as fast as other businesses, and business communities of color have shuttered because they didn't get the help, the money that Congress has passed. Congress passed over \$2 trillion. You know the first thing what the President did? He fired the Inspector General, who's supposed to follow where the money went. And guess what? Minority businesses, small businesses, they didn't get the help. It went to the Mar-a-Lago crowd. Not a joke, his wealthy friends. He fired the Inspector General.

Joe Biden: You know, he sees the world from Park Avenue-

Joe Biden: He sees the world from Park Avenue. I have seen it from Scranton. I see it from where I grew up. I see it from here in Pittsburgh. Wall Street didn't build this country, working people built this country. That's always whose built the country, the middle class, and unions built the middle class.

Joe Biden: Folks, I believe we should be rewarding work not wealth in this country. Do you all realize that just as the pandemic started, the listed billionaires in America made another \$300 billion? Not a joke, \$300 billion they made in the middle of the pandemic. What's going on here, folks?

Joe Biden: Well, I've got a plan, and under my plan I commit to you no one making less than \$400 grand is going to see a penny in taxes raised. But for a change, the wealthiest and the biggest corporations, 91 of the Fortune 500 companies pay zero in taxes after making billions of dollars. Well, guess what? Under a Biden administration, they're going to start paying their fair share. Why should a firefighter, an educator, a nurse, a steelworker pay a higher tax rate, and this is the God's truth, a higher tax rate than the super wealthy? And by the way, why should you pay more taxes than Donald Trump?

Joe Biden: I've released 23 years of my tax returns. I had the dubious distinction of being listed as "the poorest man in Congress" for 36 years. And then when I got elected vice president it says, "It's probable no man has ever assumed the office vice president with fewer assets than Joe Biden." I assumed they weren't speaking about intellectual assets. It could have been, but who knows?

Joe Biden: Well, look, here's my point, Trump and the only taxes that we've been able to find out through the New York Times in the one year he has, he paid \$750 in taxes. Trump keeps talking about corruption. When's the last time he heard of a president having a secret bank account in China? Which he did, we just found out, where he payed 50 times more tax in China than he did in the United States. Every time he starts talking about corruption, I say, "Release your tax return. What in the hell are you hiding? What are you hiding?" Not one.... Anyway, I won't get into it.

Joe Biden: Look, we're going to act to protect healthcare. Trump is going to Trump, like he just jammed through a Supreme Court nomination. You know why they did? To try to destroy the Affordable Care Act. Well, if they get their way, a hundred million Americans will lose the protections for preexisting conditions, including more than 5 million people here in the United States... I mean, excuse me, here in the state of Pennsylvania, over a hundred million in the United States. Millions of black Americans will be left uninsured and denied health coverage because of pre-existing conditions. And there are more preexisting conditions in poor communities than there are in others.

Joe Biden: Donald Trump thinks healthcare is a privilege. I think it's a right. Look, I'll not only restore Obamacare, I'll build on it. You can keep your private insurance. If you like it, you can choose Medicare like public option. I'm going to increase subsidies to lower your premiums, deductibles, out-of-pocket expenses, out-of-pocket spending, surprise billing. I'm going to lower prescription drugs by 60%, and that's the truth. But by the way, how are you going to do it, Joe? Because those wealthy people are going to start paying their fair share.

Joe Biden: It's not about punishing everyone, it's about being fair. We'll make sure that protections for people with pre-existing conditions remain. And meanwhile, Trump said, he's publicly said if he's reelected, he's going to defund Social Security payments. The actuary in social security department said if he does that, that will eliminate, eliminate Medicare by 2023, after all the who people rely on Medicare. It's not going to happen, by the way. We're not going to let it happen, but that's his plan. Go home and tell your grandparents and parents, we'll protect Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid, which he won't do. And finally, we need a vote now to deliver some racial justice in America. Look, a season of protest has broken out all across this nation. Protesting is not burning and looting and violence, that can't be tolerated, it won't. But those protests are a cry for justice. In the name of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Jacob Blake, Walter Wallace, Jr., they're not going to soon be forgotten. They're not going to be forgotten by me, not by us, not by this country. They'll inspire a whole new wave of justice in America.

Joe Biden: When I met with Floyd's family, he has a little daughter who survived him, she's six years old, and I knelt down and I talked to her. I started talking to her. You know what she said? She looked at me, she said, "Mr. Vice President, Daddy is going to change the world. Daddy's going to change the world."

Joe Biden: Folks, the country is ready. The country is ready, but not with Donald Trump as president. Now he wants us to believe so much he's done for black Americans. You might have seen the debate I had with him. I was standing next to "Abraham Lincoln". He said, "Not since Abraham Lincoln has anyone done as much for the African American community as I have." I turned to him and asked him, "Abe," he got offended. He got offended. Look, Pittsburgh, honk if you think his commitment of having done more for the African-American community than Abraham Lincoln is true. Honk your horn. Silence. You got it, man. Pittsburgh, honk if you think it's a bunch of malarkey, his lying. You got it.

Joe Biden: Look, the truth is, Donald Trump has done more harm black America than any president in modern history. This is the same man who started the Birther Movement against my buddy, Barack Obama. This is the first man, this is the man who when the first black woman running for vice president, he looks at her and he calls her a monster. Oh yeah, man.

Joe Biden: And remember on stage with him When I asked about the Proud Boys, that racist group of white supremacists. I said, “Would you deny them?” He turned and he said, “I’m going to tell them to stand down and stand by.” When in God’s name did you ever expect an American president to say, who refused to denounce white supremacy, doesn’t believe systemic racism is a problem and won’t even say black lives matter. Black lives matter. And we’re going to work to deliver real police and criminal reform, justice reform. We know, we know what true justice is all about. It’s not only about a criminal justice system that’s fair, but it’s about being able to build wealth, jobs, homes, families. Folks, we’re in a situation where, think about it, how many people you know are working two jobs and still being in poverty? We need a national minimum wage of \$15 an hour for everybody, period. Honk if you agree with me. Honk if you agree with me and my proposal.

Joe Biden: For first-term homebuyers, first-time home buyers, I promise you are going to get a \$15,000 down payment for the first home. Honk.

Joe Biden: Honk for new capital to start businesses, because black entrepreneurs are equally successful as any other entrepreneurs, but they can’t get access. That’s why Barack and I started a program to give \$1.5 billion to local small business associations to lend money. That brought 30 billion off the sideline. Well, I’ve changed that to \$15 billion, and we’re going to bring 150 off the sideline.

Joe Biden: Look, in addition to that, think about this. Education. Education is the key to movement. Well, guess what? There’s going to be free college education for state universities when I’m your president. I’m going to triple funding. And by the way, we can afford this, I promise you. I’m going to triple funding for Title I schools so a child can get a good public education, no matter what their zip code is. Allowing every three and four and five year olds to go to school, not daycare. That increases by 58% the prospects that child will go all the way through 12 years. And honk if you agree with me. I’m going to invest \$70 billion in HBCUs at minority serving institutions. For real. [inaudible 00:28:35] institutions so future generations of black students can continue to get the very best education.

Joe Biden: Folks, Pennsylvania, 2008 and 2012, you placed your trust in Barack and me. Now in 2020, I’m asking for your trust again in me and Kamala. By the way, she is one smart, bright, tough woman, man. I’m so proud. She said yes. Look, I’m running as a proud Democrat, but I will govern as an American president. That’s the job of a president, the duty to represent everyone, everyone. And you too have a duty. If you haven’t already voted, to vote tomorrow. Make a plan, get out to vote. Go to iowavote.com/pa and ask yourself if Donald Trump is so proud of his record, especially for African Americans, why does he make it so hard for us to vote?

Joe Biden: And then remember the final words of my good friend and American hero, John Lewis, who recently died. He said “The vote is the most powerful non-violent change agent you have in a democratic society. You must use it, because if not, it’s guaranteed you’ll lose it.”

Joe Biden: Folks, please, please. Here’s the amazing thing. Here’s the amazing thing, folks. It’s about this moment in history. On the one hand, we’re facing the biggest threats about who we are and what we believe that we’ve seen in our lifetimes. But on the other hand, our future has never been more promising. I said it many times. I’m more optimistic about America’s future today than I was when I got elected as a 29-year-old kid. And I mean it. Here’s why. We’re better positioned than any nation in the world to lead the 21st century. Our workers are three times as productive as workers in the biggest economies in the world. We have the strongest military in the history of the world. We have the most innovative entrepreneurs. We’re virtually energy independent.

Joe Biden: (silence) We can do this. We’re better than we’ve been. We can be our best when we’re the United States of America. God bless you all and may God protect our troops. Go vote. We can get this done; I promise you.

Sept 29, 2020 Joe Biden, Donald Trump 1st presidential debate

Donald Trump & Joe Biden 1st Presidential Debate Transcript 2020

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Full transcript of the first 2020 presidential debate between Donald Trump and Joe Biden. The debate was moderated by Chris Wallace of Fox News on September 29, 2020 in Cleveland, Ohio.

Chris Wallace: Good evening from the Health Education Campus of Case Western Reserve University and the Cleveland Clinic. I'm Chris Wallace of Fox News and I welcome you to the first of the 2020 Presidential Debates between President Donald J. Trump and former Vice President Joe Biden. This debate is sponsored by the Commission on Presidential debates. The Commission has designed the format, six roughly 15 minute segments with two minute answers from each candidate to the first question, then open discussion for the rest of each segment. Both campaigns have agreed to these rules. For the record, I decided the topics and the questions in each topic. I can assure you none of the questions has been shared with the Commission or the two candidates.

Chris Wallace: This debate is being conducted under health and safety protocols designed by the Cleveland Clinic, which is serving as the Health Security advisor to the Commission for all four debates. As a precaution, both campaigns have agreed the candidates will not shake hands at the beginning of tonight's debate. The audience here in the hall has promised to remain silent. No cheers, no boos, or other interruptions so we, and more importantly you, can focus on what the candidates have to say. No noise except right now, as we welcome the Republican nominee, President Trump, and the Democratic nominee Vice President Biden.

Vice President Joe Biden: How you doing, man?

President Donald J. Trump: How are you doing?

Vice President Joe Biden: I'm well.

Chris Wallace: Gentlemen, a lot of people been waiting for this night, so let's get going. Our first subject is the Supreme Court. President Trump, you nominated Amy Coney Barrett over the weekend to succeed the late Ruth Bader Ginsburg on the Court. You say the Constitution is clear about your obligation and the Senate's to consider a nominee to the Court. Vice President Biden, you say that this is an effort by the President and Republicans to jam through on an appointment in what you call an abuse of power. My first question to both of you tonight, why are you right in the argument you make and your

opponent wrong? And where do you think a Justice Barrett would take the court? President Trump, in this first segment, you go first. Two minutes.

President Donald J. Trump: Thank you very much, Chris. I will tell you very simply. We won the election. Elections have consequences. We have the Senate, we have the White House, and we have a phenomenal nominee respected by all. Top, top academic, good in every way. Good in every way. In fact, some of her biggest endorsers are very liberal people from Notre Dame and other places. So I think she's going to be fantastic. We have plenty of time. Even if we did it after the election itself. I have a lot of time after the election, as you know. So I think that she will be outstanding. She's going to be as good as anybody that has served on that court. We really feel that. We have a professor at Notre Dame, highly respected by all, said she's the single greatest student he's ever had. He's been a professor for a long time at a great school.

President Donald J. Trump: And we won the election and therefore we have the right to choose her, and very few people knowingly would say otherwise. And by the way, the Democrats, they wouldn't even think about not doing it. The only difference is they'd try and do it faster. There's no way they would give it up. They had Merrick Garland, but the problem is they didn't have the election so they were stopped. And probably that would happen in reverse, also. Definitely would happen in reverse. So we won the election and we have the right to do it, Chris.

Chris Wallace: President Trump, thank you. Same question to you, Vice President Biden. You have two minutes.

Vice President Joe Biden: (05:29) Well, first of all, thank you for doing this and looking forward to this, Mr. President.

President Donald J. Trump: Thank you, Joe.

Vice President Joe Biden: The American people have a right to have a say in who the Supreme Court nominee is and that say occurs when they vote for United States Senators and when they vote for the President of United States. They're not going to get that chance now because we're in the middle of an election already. The election has already started. Tens of thousands of people already voted and so the thing that should happen is we should wait. We should wait and see what the outcome of this election is because that's the only way the American people get to express their view is by who they elect as President and who they elect as Vice President.

Vice President Joe Biden: Now, what's at stake here is the President's made it clear, he wants to get rid of the Affordable Care Act. He's been running on that, he ran on that and he's been governing on that. He's in the Supreme Court right now trying to get rid of the Affordable Care Act, which will strip 20 million people from having health insurance now, if it goes into court. And the justice, I'm not opposed to the justice, she seems like a very

fine person. But she's written, before she went in the bench, which is her right, that she thinks that the Affordable Care Act is not Constitutional. The other thing that's on the court, and if it's struck down, what happens? Women's rights are fundamentally changed. Once again, a woman could pay more money because she has a pre-existing condition of pregnancy. They're able to charge women more for the same exact procedure a man gets.

Vice President Joe Biden: And that ended when we, in fact, passed the Affordable Care Act, and there's a hundred million people who have pre-existing conditions and they'll be taken away as well. Those pre-existing conditions, insurance companies are going to love this. And so it's just not appropriate to do this before this election. If he wins the election and the Senate is Republican, then he goes forward. If not, we should wait until February.

President Donald J. Trump: There aren't a hundred million people with pre-existing conditions. As far as a say is concerned, the people already had their say. Okay, Justice Ginsburg said very powerfully, very strongly, at some point 10 years ago or so, she said a President and the Senate is elected for a period of time, but a President is elected for four years. We're not elected for three years. I'm not elected for three years. So we have the Senate, we have a President-

Vice President Joe Biden: He's elected to the next election.

President Donald J. Trump: During that period of time, during that period of time, we have an opening. I'm not elected for three years. I'm elected for four years. Joe, the hundred million people is totally wrong. I don't know where you got that number. The bigger problem that you have is that you're going to extinguish 180 million people with their private health care, that they're very happy this.

Vice President Joe Biden: That's simply not true.

President Donald J. Trump: Well, you're certainly going to socialist. You're going to socialist medicine-

Chris Wallace: Gentlemen, we're now into open discussion.

Vice President Joe Biden: Open discussion.

Chris Wallace: Open discussion, yes, I agree. Go ahead, Vice President.

Vice President Joe Biden: Number one, he knows what I proposed. What I proposed is that we expand Obamacare and we increase it. We do not wipe any. And one of the big debates we had with 23 of my colleagues trying to win the nomination that I won, were saying that Biden wanted to allow people to have private insurance still. They can. They do. They will under my proposal.

President Donald J. Trump: That's not what you've said and it's not what your party is saying.

Vice President Joe Biden: That is simply a lie.

President Donald J. Trump: Your party doesn't say it. Your party wants to go socialist medicine and socialist healthcare.

Vice President Joe Biden: The party is me. Right now, I am the Democratic Party.

President Donald J. Trump: And they're going to dominate you, Joe. You know that.

Vice President Joe Biden: I am the Democratic Party right now.

President Donald J. Trump: Not according to Harris.

Vice President Joe Biden: The platform of the Democratic Party is what I, in fact, approved of, what I approved of. Now, here's the deal. The deal is that it's going to wipe out pre-existing conditions. And, by the way, the 20, the 200 mil- the 200,000 people that have died on his watch, how many of those have survived? Well, there's seven million people that contracted COVID. What does it mean for them going forward if you strike down the Affordable Care Act?

President Donald J. Trump: Joe, you've had 308,000 military people dying because you couldn't provide them proper healthcare in the military. So don't tell me about this.

Vice President Joe Biden: I'm happy to talk about this.

President Donald J. Trump: And if you were here, it wouldn't be 200, it would be two million people because you were very late on the draw. You didn't want me to ban China, which was heavily infected. You didn't want me to ban Europe.

Chris Wallace: All right, gentlemen, Mr. President.

President Donald J. Trump: You would have been much later, Joe, much later.

Chris Wallace: Mr. President.

President Donald J. Trump: We're talking about two million people.

Vice President Joe Biden: You're not going to be able to shut him up.

Chris Wallace: Mr. President, as the moderator, we are going to talk about COVID in the next segment. But go ahead.

Vice President Joe Biden: Let me finish. The point is that the President also is opposed to Roe V. Wade. That's on the ballot as well and the court, in the court, and so that's also at stake right now. And so the election is all-

President Donald J. Trump: You don't know what's on the ballot. Why is it on the ballot? Why is it on the ballot? It's not on the ballot.

Vice President Joe Biden: It's on the ballot in the court.

President Donald J. Trump: I don't think so.

Vice President Joe Biden: In the court.

President Donald J. Trump: There's nothing happening there.

Vice President Joe Biden: Donald would you just be quiet for a minute.

President Donald J. Trump: You don't know her view on Roe V. Wade? You don't know here view.

Chris Wallace: Well, all right. All right. Let's talk. We've got a lot to unpack here, gentlemen. We've got a lot of time. On healthcare, and then we'll come back to Roe V. Wade.

Vice President Joe Biden: All right.

Chris Wallace: Mr. President, the Supreme Court will hear a case a week after the election in which the Trump Administration, along with 18 state Attorney Generals are seeking to overturn Obamacare, to end Obamacare.

President Donald J. Trump: That's right.

Chris Wallace: You have spent the last week-

President Donald J. Trump: Because they want to give good healthcare.

Chris Wallace: If I may ask my question, sir.

Vice President Joe Biden: Good healthcare.

Chris Wallace: Over the last four years, you have promised to repeal and replace Obamacare, but you have never in these four years come up with a plan, a comprehensive plan, to replace Obamacare.

President Donald J. Trump: Yes, I have. Of course, I have. The individual mandate.

Chris Wallace: [crosstalk 00:11:26] when I finish I'm going to give an opportunity-

President Donald J. Trump: Excuse me. I got rid of the individual mandate, which was a big chunk of Obamacare.

Chris Wallace: That's not a comprehensive place.

President Donald J. Trump: That is absolutely a big thing. That was the worst part of Obamacare.

Chris Wallace: I didn't ask, sir.

President Donald J. Trump: Chris, that was the worst part of Obamacare.

Chris Wallace: You're debating him not me. Let me ask my question.

President Donald J. Trump: Well, I'll ask Joe. The individual mandate was the most unpopular aspect of Obamacare.

Chris Wallace: Mr. President.

President Donald J. Trump: I got rid of it. And we will protect people.

Chris Wallace: Mr. President, I'm the moderator of this debate and I would like you to let me ask my question and then you can answer.

President Donald J. Trump: Go ahead.

Chris Wallace: You, in the course of these four years, have never come up with a comprehensive plan to replace Obamacare, and just this last Thursday you signed a largely symbolic Executive Order to protect people with pre-existing conditions five days before this debate. So my question, sir, is what is the Trump healthcare plan?

President Donald J. Trump: Well, first of all, I guess I'm debating you, not him, but that's okay. I'm not surprised. Let me just tell you something. There's nothing symbolic. I'm cutting drug prices. I'm going with Favored Nations, which no President has the courage to do because you're going against big pharma. Drug prices will be coming down 80 or 90%. You could have done it during your 47 year period in government, but you didn't do it. Nobody's done it. So we're cutting healthcare.

Chris Wallace: What about pre-existing conditions?

President Donald J. Trump: All of the things that we've done.

Vice President Joe Biden: He has not done healthcare.

President Donald J. Trump: I'll give you an example. Insulin, it was destroying families, destroying people, the cost. I'm getting it for so cheap it's like water, you want to know the truth. So cheap. Take a look at all of the drugs that what we're doing. Prescription drug prices, we're going to allow our Governors now to go to other countries to buy drugs because when they paid just a tiny fraction of what we do.

Chris Wallace: Okay, like I say, this is open discussion.

President Donald J. Trump: This is big stuff.

Chris Wallace: Sir, you'll be happy. I'm about to pick up on one of your points to ask the Vice President, which is, he points out that you would like to add a public option to Obamacare.

Vice President Joe Biden: Yes.

Chris Wallace: And the argument that he makes and other Republicans make is that that is going to end private insurance.

Vice President Joe Biden: It is not.

Chris Wallace: If I start asking the question.

President Donald J. Trump: That's not what your party says, by the way.

Chris Wallace: And it will end private insurance and create a government takeover of health.

Vice President Joe Biden: It does not. It's only for those people who are so poor they qualify for Medicaid they can get that free in most States, except Governors who want to deny people who are poor Medicaid. Anyone who qualifies for Medicare, excuse me, Medicaid would automatically be enrolled in the public option. The vast majority of the American people would still not be in that option. Number one. Number two.

President Donald J. Trump: Joe, you agreed with Bernie Sanders, who's far left, on the manifesto, we call it. And that gives you socialized medicine.

Vice President Joe Biden: Look, hey.

President Donald J. Trump: Are you saying you didn't agree?

Vice President Joe Biden: I'm not going to listen to him. The fact of the matter is I beat Bernie Sanders.

President Donald J. Trump: Not by much.

Vice President Joe Biden: I beat him by a whole hell of a lot.

President Donald J. Trump: Not by much.

Vice President Joe Biden: I'm here standing facing you, old buddy.

President Donald J. Trump: If Pocahontas would have left two days early you would have lost every primary.

Vice President Joe Biden: All he knows how to do-

President Donald J. Trump: On Super Tuesday, you got very lucky.

Vice President Joe Biden: Look he's the deal. I got very lucky. I'm going to get very lucky tonight as well.

President Donald J. Trump: With what?

Vice President Joe Biden: And tonight I'm going to make sure.

President Donald J. Trump: With what?

Vice President Joe Biden: Because here's the deal, here's the deal. The fact is that everything he's saying so far is simply a lie. I'm not here to call out his lies. Everybody knows he's a liar.

President Donald J. Trump: But you agree. Joe, you're the liar. You graduated last in your class not first in your class.

Vice President Joe Biden: God, I want to make sure-

Chris Wallace: Mr. President, can you let him finish, sir?

Vice President Joe Biden: No, he doesn't know how to do that.

President Donald J. Trump: You'd be surprised. You'd be surprised. Go ahead, Joe.

Vice President Joe Biden: The wrong guy, the wrong night, at the wrong time.

President Donald J. Trump: Listen, you agreed with Bernie Sanders and the manifesto.

Vice President Joe Biden: There is no manifesto, number one.

Chris Wallace: Please let him speak, Mr. President.

Vice President Joe Biden: Number two.

President Donald J. Trump: He just lost the left.

Vice President Joe Biden: Number two.

President Donald J. Trump: You just lost the left. You agreed with Bernie Sanders on a plan that you absolutely agreed to and under that plan [crosstalk 00:15:10], they call it socialized medicine.

Chris Wallace: Mr. President.

Vice President Joe Biden: I'll tell you what, he is not for any help for people needing healthcare.

President Donald J. Trump: Who is, Bernie?

Vice President Joe Biden: Because he, in fact, already has costs 10 million people their healthcare that they had from their employers because of his recession. Number one. Number two, there are 20 million people getting healthcare through Obamacare now that he wants to take it away. He won't ever look you in the eye and say that's what he wants to do. Take it away.

President Donald J. Trump: No, I want to give them better healthcare at a much lower price, because Obamacare is no good.

Vice President Joe Biden: He doesn't know how. He doesn't know how to do that.

President Donald J. Trump: I've already fixed it.

Vice President Joe Biden: He has never offered a plan.

President Donald J. Trump: We've already fixed it to an extent. Obamacare, as you might know but probably don't, Obamacare is no good.

Chris Wallace: Gentlemen, you realize if you're both speaking at the same time. Let the President. Go ahead, sir.

President Donald J. Trump: Obamacare is no good. We made it better and I had a choice to make very early on. We took away the individual mandate. We guaranteed pre-existing conditions, but took away the individual mandate. Listen, this is the way it is. And that destroyed ... They shouldn't even call it Obamacare, then I had a choice to make, do I let my people run it really well or badly? If I run it badly, they'll probably blame him, but they'll blame me. But more importantly, I want to help people. Okay. I said, "You've got to run it so well." And I just had a meeting with them. They said the problem is, no matter how well you run Obamacare, it's a disaster. It's too expensive. Premiums are too high,

that it doesn't work. So we do want to get rid of it. Chris, we want to get rid of that and give something that's cheaper and better.

Chris Wallace: I understand that, sir. But I have to give you roughly equal time.

President Donald J. Trump: Go ahead.

Chris Wallace: Please let the Vice President talk, sir.

President Donald J. Trump: Good.

Vice President Joe Biden: He has no plan for healthcare.

President Donald J. Trump: Of course, we do.

Chris Wallace: Please.

Vice President Joe Biden: He sends out wishful thinking. He has Executive Orders that have no power. He hasn't lowered drug costs for anybody. He's been promising a healthcare plan since he got elected. He has none, like almost everything else he talks about. He does not have a plan. He doesn't have a plan. And the fact is this man doesn't know what he's talking about. [crosstalk 00:17:14].

Chris Wallace: All right, I have one final question for you.

Vice President Joe Biden: Sure.

Chris Wallace: Mr. Vice President, if Senate Republicans, we were talking originally about the Supreme Court here, if Senate Republicans go ahead and confirm Justice Barrett there has been talk about ending the filibuster or even packing the court, adding to the nine justices there. You call this a distraction by the President. But, in fact, it wasn't brought up by the President. It was brought up by some of your Democratic colleagues in the Congress. So my question to you is, you have refused in the past to talk about it, are you willing to tell the American tonight whether or not you will support either ending the filibuster or packing the court?

Vice President Joe Biden: Whatever position I take on that, that'll become the issue. The issue is the American people should speak. You should go out and vote. You're voting now. Vote and let your Senators know strongly how you feel.

President Donald J. Trump: Are you going to pack the court?

Vice President Joe Biden: Vote now.

President Donald J. Trump: Are you going to pack the court?

Vice President Joe Biden: Make sure you, in fact, let people know, your Senators.

President Donald J. Trump: He doesn't want to answer the question.

Vice President Joe Biden: I'm not going to answer the question.

President Donald J. Trump: Why wouldn't you answer that question? You want to put a lot of new Supreme Court Justices. Radical left.

Vice President Joe Biden: Will you shut up, man?

President Donald J. Trump: Listen, who is on your list, Joe? Who's on your list?

Chris Wallace: Gentlemen, I think we've ended this-

Vice President Joe Biden: This is so un-Presidential.

President Donald J. Trump: He's going to pack the court. He is not going to give a list.

Chris Wallace: We have ended the segment. We're going to move on to the second segment.

Vice President Joe Biden: That was really a productive segment, wasn't it? Keep yapping, man.

President Donald J. Trump: The people understand, Joe.

Vice President Joe Biden: They sure do.

President Donald J. Trump: 47 years, you've done nothing. They're understand.

Chris Wallace: All right, the second subject is COVID-19, which is an awfully serious subject. So let's try to be serious about it. We have had more than seven million cases of coronavirus in the United States and more than 200,000 people have died. Even after we produce a vaccine, experts say that it could be months or even years before we come back to anything approaching normal. My question for both of you is, based on what you have said and done so far, and what you have said you would do starting in 2021, why should the American people trust you more than your opponent to deal with this public health crisis going forward? In this case, the question goes to you first, sir. Two minutes, uninterrupted.

Vice President Joe Biden: Good luck. 200,000 dead. As you said, over seven million infected in the United States. We, in fact, have 4% of the world's population, 20% of the deaths. 40,000 people a day are contracting COVID. In addition to that, about between 750 and 1000 people a day are dying. When he was presented with that number, he said,

“It is what it is.” Well, it is what it is because you are who you are. That’s why it is. The President has no plan. He hasn’t laid out anything. He knew all the way back in February how serious this crisis was. He knew it was a deadly disease. What did he do? He’s on tape as acknowledging he knew it. He said he didn’t tell us or give people a warning of it because he didn’t want to panic the American people. You don’t panic. He panicked. In addition to that, what did he do?

Vice President Joe Biden: He went in and we were insisting that the people we had in the ground in China should be able to go to Wuhan and determine for themselves how dangerous this was. He did not even ask Xi to do that.

President Donald J. Trump: Wrong.

Vice President Joe Biden: He told us what a great job Xi was doing. He said we owe him debt of gratitude for being so transparent with us. And what did he do then? He then did nothing. He waited and waited and waited. He still doesn’t have a plan.

President Donald J. Trump: Wrong.

Chris Wallace: Sir, it’s his two minutes.

President Donald J. Trump: It’s so wrong.

Vice President Joe Biden: I laid out back in March, exactly what we should be doing. And I laid out again in July, what we should be doing. We should be providing all the protective gear possible. We should be providing the money the House has passed in order to be able to go out and get people the help they need to keep their businesses open. Open schools cost a lot of money. You should get out of your bunker and get out of the sand trap in your golf course and go in the Oval Office and bring together the Democrats and Republicans and fund what needs to be done now to save lives.

President Donald J. Trump: So, if we would have listened to you.

Chris Wallace: Wait, wait. You have two minutes, sir.

President Donald J. Trump: If we would’ve listened to you, the country would have been left wide open, millions of people would have died, not 200,000. And one person is too much. It’s China’s fault. It should have never happened. They stopped it from going in, but it was China’s fault. And, by the way, when you talk about numbers, you don’t know how many people died in China. You don’t know how many people died in Russia. You don’t know how many people died in India. They don’t exactly give you a straight count, just so you understand. But if you look at what we’ve done, I closed it and you said, “He’s xenophobic. He’s a racist and he’s xenophobic,” because you didn’t think I should have closed our country. Wait a minute.

Chris Wallace: Sir, it's his two minutes.

President Donald J. Trump: You didn't think we should have closed our country because you thought it was terrible. You wouldn't have closed it for another two months. By my doing it early, in fact, Dr. Fauci said, "President Trump saved thousands of lives." Many of your Democrat Governors said, "President Trump did a phenomenal job." We worked with the Governor. Oh really, go take a look. The Governors said I did a phenomenal job. Most of them said that. In fact, people that would not be necessarily on my side said that, "President Trump did a phenomenal job." We did. We got the gowns. We got the masks. We made the ventilators. You wouldn't have made ventilators. And now we're weeks away from a vaccine. We're doing therapeutics already. Fewer people are dying when they get sick. Far fewer people are dying. We've done a great job.

President Donald J. Trump: The only thing I haven't done a good job, and that's because of the fake news, no matter what you say to them, they give you a bad press on it. It's just fake news. They give you good press, they give me bad press because that's the way it is, unfortunately. But let me just say something. I don't care. I've gotten used to it. But I'll tell you, Joe, you could never have done the job that we did. You don't have it in your blood. You could've never done that, Joe.

Vice President Joe Biden: I know how to do the job. I know how to get the job done.

President Donald J. Trump: Well, you didn't do very well in Swine Flu. H1-N1, you were a disaster. Your own Chief of Staff said you were a disaster.

Vice President Joe Biden: 14,000 people died, not 200,000.

President Donald J. Trump: A far less lethal disease, by the way.

Chris Wallace: Sir, you made a point. Let him answer it.

Vice President Joe Biden: And there was no one ... We didn't shut down the economy. This is his economy he shut down. The reason it's shut down is because, look, you folks at home. How many of you got up this morning and had an empty chair at the kitchen table because someone died of COVID? How many of you are in a situation where you lost your mom or dad and you couldn't even speak to them, you had a nurse holding a phone up so you could in fact say goodbye?

President Donald J. Trump: We would have lost far more people, far more people. You would have been months late. You're months behind me, Joe.

Vice President Joe Biden: His own CDC Director says we could lose as many as another 200,000 people between now and the end of the year. And he said, if we just wear a mask, we can save half those numbers. Just a mask. And by the way, in terms of the whole notion

of a vaccine, we're for a vaccine, but I don't trust him at all. Nor do you. I know you don't. What we trust is a scientist.

President Donald J. Trump: You don't trust Johnson & Johnson, Pfizer?

Part 2

Chris Wallace: Okay, gentlemen, gentlemen. Let me move on to questions about the future because you both have touched on two of the questions I'm going to ask. Focusing on the future first, President Trump, you have repeatedly either contradicted or been at odds with some of your governments own top scientists. The week before last, the Head of the Centers for Disease Control, Dr. Redfield said it would be summer before the vaccine would become generally available to the public. You said that he was confused and mistaken. Those were your two words. But Dr. Slaoui, the head of your Operation Warp Speed, has said exactly the same thing. Are they both wrong?

President Donald J. Trump: Well, I've spoken to the companies and we can have it a lot sooner. It's a very political thing because people like this would rather make it political than save lives.

Vice President Joe Biden: God.

President Donald J. Trump: It is a very political thing. I've spoken to Pfizer, I've spoken to all of the people that you have to speak to, Moderna, Johnson & Johnson, and others. They can go faster than that by a lot. It's become very political because the left... Or I don't know if I call them left, I don't know what I call them.

Chris Wallace: So you're suggesting that the head of your Operation Warp Speed, Dr. Slaoui-

President Donald J. Trump: (00:42) I disagree with him. No, I disagree with both of them. And he didn't say that. He said it could be there, but it could also be much sooner. I had him in my office two days ago.

Chris Wallace: He talked about the summer, sir, before it's generally available, just like Dr. Redfield.

President Donald J. Trump: Because he said it's a possibility that we'll have the answer before November 1st. It could also be after that.

Chris Wallace: I'm talking about when it's generally available, not-

President Donald J. Trump: Well, we're going to deliver it right away. We have the military all set up. Logistically, they're all set up. We have our military that delivers soldiers and they can do 200,000 a day. They're going to be delivering-

Vice President Joe Biden: This is the same man who told you-

President Donald J. Trump: It's all set up.

Vice President Joe Biden: ... by Easter, this would be gone away. By the warm weather, it'd be gone. Miraculous, like a miracle. And by the way, maybe you could inject some bleach in your arm, and that would take care of it. This is the same man.

President Donald J. Trump: That was said sarcastically, and you know that. That was said sarcastically.

Vice President Joe Biden: So here's the deal. This man is talking about a vaccine. Every serious company is talking about maybe having a vaccine done by the end of the year, but the distribution of that vaccine will not occur until sometime beginning of the middle of next year to get it out, if we get the vaccine. And pray God we will. Pray God we will.

Chris Wallace: Mr. Vice President, I want to pick up-

President Donald J. Trump: You'll have the vaccine sooner than that.

Chris Wallace: I want to pick up on this question though. You say the public can trust the scientists, but they can't trust President Trump. In fact, you said that again tonight. Your running mate, Senator Harris, goes further, saying that public health experts quote, "Will be muzzled, will be suppressed." Given the fact that polls already show that people are concerned about the vaccine and are reluctant to take it, are you and your running mate, Senator Harris, contributing to that fear?

Vice President Joe Biden: No more than the question you just asked him. You pointed out he puts pressure and disagrees with his own scientists.

Chris Wallace: But you're saying you can't-

Vice President Joe Biden: Everybody knows-

Chris Wallace: Or Senator Harris is saying you can't trust the scientist.

Vice President Joe Biden: Well, no, no. You can trust the scientist. She didn't say that. You can trust the-

Chris Wallace: She said that public health experts quote, "Will be muzzled, will be suppressed."

Vice President Joe Biden: Yes. Well, that's what he's going to try to do, but there's thousands of scientists out there, like here at this great hospital that don't work for him. Their job doesn't depend on him. They're the people... And by the way-

President Donald J. Trump: We spoke to the scientists that are in charge-

Vice President Joe Biden: By the way-

President Donald J. Trump: ... they will have the vaccine very soon.

Chris Wallace: Let him finish.

Vice President Joe Biden: Do you believe for a moment what he's telling you in light of all the lies he's told you about the whole issue relating to COVID? He still hasn't even acknowledged that he knew this was happening, knew how dangerous it was going to be back in February, and he didn't even tell you. He's on record as saying it. He panicked or he just looked at the stock market. One of the two. Because guess what? A lot of people died and a lot more are going to die unless he gets a lot smarter, a lot quicker-

Chris Wallace: Mr. President?

President Donald J. Trump: Did you use the word smart? So you said you went to Delaware State, but you forgot the name of your college. You didn't go to Delaware State. You graduated either the lowest or almost the lowest in your class. Don't ever use the word smart with me. Don't ever use that word.

Vice President Joe Biden: Oh, give me a break.

President Donald J. Trump: Because you know what? There's nothing smart about you, Joe. 47 years you've done nothing.

Vice President Joe Biden: Well, let's have this debate-

President Donald J. Trump: Let me just tell you something, Joe. If you would have had the charge of what I was put through, I had to close the greatest economy of the history of our country. And by the way, now it's being built again and it's going up fast.

Chris Wallace: We'll get to the economy in the next segment, sir.

President Donald J. Trump: Okay. It's going up fast. I look forward to talking about it.

Chris Wallace: Okay. When it comes to how the virus has been handled so far, the two of you have taken very different approaches, and this is going to affect how the virus is handled going forward by whichever of you ends up becoming the next president. I want to quickly go through several of those. Reopenings. Vice President Biden, you have been much more reluctant than President Trump about reopening the economy and schools. Why, sir?

Vice President Joe Biden: Because he doesn't have a plan. If I were running it, I'd know what the plan is. You've got to provide these businesses the ability to have the money to be able to reopen with the PPE, as well as with the sanitation they need. You have to provide them classic-

President Donald J. Trump: Tell that to Nancy Pelosi.

Vice President Joe Biden: Will he just shush for a minute?

President Donald J. Trump: Tell that to Nancy Pelosi, and Schumer [crosstalk 00:04:52] Chuck.

Vice President Joe Biden: Nancy Pelosi and Schumer, they have a plan. He won't even meet with them. The Republicans won't meet in the Senate. He sits in his golf course. Well, I mean, literally, think about it. Think about it.

President Donald J. Trump: You probably play more than I do, Joe.

Chris Wallace: What about this question of reopenings and the fact-

President Donald J. Trump: Well, he wants to shut down this country and I want to keep it open, and we did a great thing by shutting it down-

Vice President Joe Biden: You just admitted you'd shut it down.

President Donald J. Trump: Wait a minute, Joe. Let me shut you down for a second, Joe, just for one second. He wants to shut down the country. We just went through it. We had to, because we didn't know anything about the disease. Now we've found that elderly people with heart problems and diabetes and different problems are very, very vulnerable. We learned a lot. Young children aren't, even younger people aren't. We've learned a lot, but he wants to shut it down. More people will be hurt by continuing. If you look at Pennsylvania, if you look at certain states that have been shut down, they have Democrat governors, all, one of the reasons they shut down is because they want to keep it shut down until after the election on November 3rd.

Chris Wallace: All right. I want to move onto another-

President Donald J. Trump: Because it's a political thing.

Chris Wallace: I want to move onto another subject.

Vice President Joe Biden: I got to respond to that.

Chris Wallace: I want to move-

President Donald J. Trump: But those states-

Chris Wallace: Gentlemen, I want to move onto another subject.

President Donald J. Trump: Those states are not doing well that are shut down right now.

Vice President Joe Biden: I got to respond to that.

President Donald J. Trump: He wants to shut down the whole country.

Chris Wallace: President Trump, you have begun to increasingly question the effectiveness of masks as a disease preventer. And in fact, recently you have cited the issue of waiters touching their masks and touching plates. Are you questioning the efficacy of masks?

President Donald J. Trump: No, I think masks are okay. You have to understand, if you look... I mean, I have a mask right here. I put a mask on when I think I need it. Tonight, as an example, everybody's had a test and you've had social distancing and all of the things that you have to, but I wear masks-

Vice President Joe Biden: Just like your rally.

President Donald J. Trump: ... when needed. When needed, I wear masks.

Chris Wallace: Okay. Let me ask-

President Donald J. Trump: I don't wear a mask like him. Every time you see him, he's got a mask. He could be speaking 200 feet away from him and he shows up with the biggest mask I've ever seen. I will say this-

Chris Wallace: Vice President Biden, go ahead, sir.

Vice President Joe Biden: Look, the way to open businesses is give them the wherewithal to be able open. We provided money, the-

Chris Wallace: But I was asking you, sir, about masks.

Vice President Joe Biden: Well, masks make a big difference. His own head of the CDC said if we just wore masks between now, if everybody wore a mask and social distanced between now and January, we'd probably save up to 100,000 lives. It matters. It matters.

President Donald J. Trump: And they've also said the opposite. They've also said-

Vice President Joe Biden: No serious person has said the opposite. No serious person.

Chris Wallace: Okay. I want to ask you-

President Donald J. Trump: Dr. Fauci. Dr. Fauci said the opposite.

Vice President Joe Biden: He did not say the opposite.

Chris Wallace: I want to ask you, we've got a little than a minute left in this segment.

President Donald J. Trump: He said very strongly, "Masks are not good." Then he changed his mind. He said, "Masks are good."

Chris Wallace: I want to ask-

President Donald J. Trump: I'm okay with masks. I'm not fighting masks.

Chris Wallace: I want to ask you both about one last subject because your different approaches has even affected the way that you have campaigned. President Trump, you're holding large rallies with crowds packed together, thousands of people.

President Donald J. Trump: Outside.

Chris Wallace: Outside. Yes, sir. Agreed. Vice President Biden, you are holding much smaller events with-

President Donald J. Trump: Because nobody will show up.

Chris Wallace: ... people with masks.

President Donald J. Trump: Well, it's true. Nobody shows up to his rallies.

Chris Wallace: All right. In any case, why you holding the big rallies? Why you not? You go first, sir.

President Donald J. Trump: Because people want to hear what I have to say. I mean-

Chris Wallace: But are not worried about us spreading disease?

President Donald J. Trump: ... I'm doing my job as a president, and I'll have 25, 35,000 people show up at airports. We use airports and hangers and we have a lot of people-

Chris Wallace: Are you not worried about the disease issues, sir?

President Donald J. Trump: Well, so far we have had no problem whatsoever. It's outside. That's a big difference according to the experts. We do them outside, we have tremendous crowds, as you see, and literally on 24 hours notice. And Joe does the circles and has three people someplace.

Vice President Joe Biden: By the way, did you see one of the last big rallies he had? A reporter came up to him to ask him a question, he said, “No, no, no. Stand back, put on your mask, put on a mask. Have you been tested? I’m way far away from those other people.” That’s what he said, “I’m going to be okay.” He’s not worried about you. He’s not worried about the people out there [crosstalk 00:08:48].

President Donald J. Trump: We’ve had no negative effect.

Vice President Joe Biden: No negative effect. Come on.

President Donald J. Trump: We’ve had no negative effect, and we’ve had 35, 40,000 people at these rallies.

Chris Wallace: All right. Do you want to just quickly finish up? Because I want to move on to our next-

Vice President Joe Biden: Yes, I would. He’s been totally irresponsible the way in which he has handled the social distancing and people wearing masks, basically encouraged them not to. He’s a fool on this.

President Donald J. Trump: If you could get the crowds, you would have done the same thing. But you can’t. Nobody cares.

Chris Wallace: Gentlemen, can we move on to the-

President Donald J. Trump: No cares.

Chris Wallace: Gentlemen, can we move on to the economy?

President Donald J. Trump: Yes.

Chris Wallace: The economy is, I think it’s fair to say, recovering faster than expected from the shutdown-

President Donald J. Trump: Much faster.

Chris Wallace: ... in the second quarter. The unemployment rate fell to 8.4% last month. The Federal Reserve says the hit to growth, which is going to be there, is not going to be nearly as big as they had expected. President Trump, you say we are in a V-shaped recovery. Vice President Biden, you say it’s more of a K-shape. What difference does that mean to the American people in terms of the economy? President Trump, in this segment you go first.

President Donald J. Trump: So we built the greatest economy in history. We closed it down because of the China plague. When the plague came in, we closed it down, which was very

hard psychologically to do. He didn't think we should close it down and he was wrong. Again, two million people would be dead now instead of... Still, 204,000 people is too much. One person is too much. Should have never happened from China. But what happened is we closed it down and now we're reopening and we're doing record business. We had 10.4 million people in a four month period that we've put back into the workforce. That's a record the likes of which nobody's ever seen before. And he wants to close down the... He will shut it down again. He will destroy this country.

President Donald J. Trump: A lot of people, between drugs and alcohol and depression, when you start shutting it down, you take a look at what's happening at some of your Democrat-run states where they have these tough shutdowns. And I'm telling you it's because they don't want to open it. One of them came out last week, you saw that, "Oh, we're going to open up on November 9th." Why November 9th? Because it's after the election. They think they're hurting us by keeping them closed. They're hurting people. People know what to do. They can social distance. They can wash their hands, they can wear masks. They can do whatever they want, but they got to open these states up.

President Donald J. Trump: When you look at North Carolina, when you look, and these governors are under siege, Pennsylvania, Michigan, and a couple of others, you got to open these states up. It's not fair. You're talking about almost it's like being in prison. And you look at what's going on with divorce, look at what's going on with alcoholism and drugs. It's a very, very sad thing. And he'll close down the whole country. This guy will close down the whole country and destroy our country. Our country is coming back incredibly well, setting records as it does it. We don't need somebody to come in and say, "Let's shut it down."

Chris Wallace: All right. Your two minutes, sir. We're now moved to you. As I said, posing the question, the president says it's a V-shape recovery, you say it's a K-shaped recovery. What's the difference?

Vice President Joe Biden: The difference is millionaires and billionaires like him in the middle of the COVID crisis have done very well. Billionaires have made another \$300 billion because of his profligate tax proposal, and he only focused on the market. But you folks at home, you folks living in Scranton and Claymont and all the small towns and working class towns in America, how well are you doing? This guy paid a total of \$750 in taxes.

President Donald J. Trump: That's wrong.

Chris Wallace: Sir, wait. No. Sir-

President Donald J. Trump: [crosstalk 00:12:19].

Chris Wallace: Yeah, I understand. You've agreed to the two minutes, so please let him have it.

Vice President Joe Biden: Do I get my time back? The fact is that he has in fact, worked on this in a way that he's going to be the first president of the United States to leave office, having fewer jobs in his administration than when he became president. Fewer jobs than when he became president. First one in American history.

Vice President Joe Biden: Secondly, the people who have lost their jobs are those people who have been on the front lines. Those people who have been saving our lives, those people who have been out there dying. People who've been putting themselves in the way to make sure that we could all try to make it. And the idea that he is insisting that we go forward and open when you have almost half the states in America with a significant increase in COVID deaths and COVID cases in the United States of America, and he wants to open it up more. Why is he want to open it up? Why does he take care of the... You can't fix the economy until you fix the COVID crisis. And he has no intention of doing anything about making it better for you all at home in terms of your health and your safety.

Vice President Joe Biden: Schools. Why aren't schools open? Because it costs a lot of money to open them safely. They were going to give, his administration going to give the teachers and school students masks, and then they decided no, couldn't do that because it's not a national emergency. Not a national emergency. They've done nothing to help small businesses. Nothing. They're closing. One in six is now gone. He ought to get on the job and take care of the needs of the American people so we can open safely.

Chris Wallace: All right. Your time is up, sir. We are going to get to-

President Donald J. Trump: I have to respond to that.

Chris Wallace: Well, you both had two minutes, sir.

President Donald J. Trump: Excuse me, he made a statement.

Chris Wallace: And so did you.

President Donald J. Trump: No, people want their schools open. They don't want to be shut down. They don't want their state shut down. They want their restaurants. I look at New York. It's so sad what's happening in New York. It's almost like a ghost town, and I'm not sure it can ever recover what they've done to New York. People want their places open. They want to get back to their lives.

Vice President Joe Biden: People want to be safe.

President Donald J. Trump: They'll be careful, but they want their schools open.

Vice President Joe Biden: People want to be safe.

President Donald J. Trump: I'm the one that brought back football. By the way, I brought back Big Ten football. It was me and I'm very happy to do it-

Chris Wallace: All right. Let's-

President Donald J. Trump... and people of Ohio are very proud of me. And you know how I found out? When [crosstalk 00:14:35].

Chris Wallace: Gentlemen, we're going to get to your economic plans going forward in a moment, but first, Mr. President, as you well know, there's a new report that in 2016, the year you were elected president, and 2017, your first year as president, that you paid \$750 a year in federal income tax each of those years. I know that you pay a lot of other taxes, but I'm asking you this specific question. Is it true that you paid \$750 in federal income taxes each of those two years?

President Donald J. Trump: I paid millions of dollars in taxes, millions of dollars of income tax. And let me just tell you, there was a story in one of the papers that paid-

Vice President Joe Biden: Show us your tax returns.

President Donald J. Trump: I paid \$38 million one year, I paid \$27 million one year.

Vice President Joe Biden: Show us your tax returns.

President Donald J. Trump: You'll see it as soon as it's finished, you'll see it. You know, if you wanted to, go to the Board of Elections. There's 118 page or so report that says everything I have, every bank I have, I'm totally under leveraged because the assets are extremely good, and I built a great company.

Chris Wallace: Sir, I'm asking you a specific question, which is-

President Donald J. Trump: But let me tell you-

Chris Wallace: I understand all of that.

Vice President Joe Biden: Release your tax return.

Chris Wallace: I understand all of that-

President Donald J. Trump: Let me-

Chris Wallace: No, Mr. President, I'm asking you a question. Will you tell us how much you paid in federal income taxes in 2016 and 2017?

President Donald J. Trump: Millions of dollars.

Chris Wallace: You paid millions of dollars in-

President Donald J. Trump: Millions of dollars, yes.

Chris Wallace: So not 750?

President Donald J. Trump: Millions of dollars. And you'll get to see it. And you'll get to see it.

Vice President Joe Biden: When? Inshallah?

President Donald J. Trump: But let me just tell you-

Vice President Joe Biden: In [crosstalk 00:16:04]?

President Donald J. Trump: Chris, let me just say something, that it was the tax laws. I don't want to pay tax. Before I came here, I was a private developer, I was a private business people. Like every other private person, unless they're stupid, they go through the laws, and that's what it is. He passed a tax bill that gave us all these privileges for depreciation and for tax credits. We build the building and we get tax credits, like the hotel on Pennsylvania Avenue. Which by the way, was given to me by the Obama administration, if you can believe that. Now the man got fired right after that happened, but that's-

Chris Wallace: Vice President Biden, you want to respond?

Vice President Joe Biden: Yeah, I do want to respond. Look, the tax code that put him in a position that he pays less tax than on the money a school teacher makes is because of him... He says he's smart because he can take advantage of the tax code. And he does take advantage of the tax code. That's why I'm going to eliminate the Trump tax cuts. And I'm going to eliminate those tax cuts.

President Donald J. Trump: That's okay.

Vice President Joe Biden: And make sure that we invest in the people who in fact need the help. People out there need help.

President Donald J. Trump: But why didn't you do it over the last 25 years?

Vice President Joe Biden: Because you weren't president-

President Donald J. Trump: Why didn't you do it over the last 25 years?

Vice President Joe Biden: Because you weren't president and screwing things up.

President Donald J. Trump: You were a Senator and [crosstalk 00:17:21]-

Vice President Joe Biden: You're the worst president America has ever had. Come on.

President Donald J. Trump: Hey, Joe, let me just tell you, Joe. In 47 months, I've done more than you've done in 47 years, Joe. We've done things that you never even thought of doing.

Chris Wallace: Okay. Gentlemen?

President Donald J. Trump: Including fixing the broken military that you gave me, including taking care of your debts.

Chris Wallace: Mr. President, we're talking about the economy. I'd like to ask you about your plans going forward because Mr. Vice President, your economic plan-

President Donald J. Trump: He has none.

Chris Wallace: ... if you were to be elected president focuses a lot on big government, big taxes, big spending. I want to focus first on the taxes. You propose more than \$4 trillion over a decade in new taxes on individuals making more than \$400,000 a year.

Chris Wallace: ... on individuals making more than \$400,000 a year and on corporations. President Trump says that that kind of an increase in taxes is going to hurt the economy as it's just coming out of a recession.

Vice President Joe Biden: Well, just take a look at what is the analysis done by Wall Street firms, points out that my economic plan would create 7 million more jobs than his in four years, number one. And number two, it would create an additional \$1 trillion in economic growth, because it would be about buying American. The federal government spends \$600 billion a year on everything from ships, to steel, to buildings and the like. And under my proposal, we're going to make sure that every penny of that has to be made by a company-

Chris Wallace: But respectfully, sir, I'm talking about taxes, not spending.

Vice President Joe Biden: By the way, I'm going to eliminate a significant number of the taxes. I'm going to make the corporate tax 28%. It shouldn't be 21%. You have 91 companies federal, I mean, the fortune 500, who don't pay a single penny in tax making billions of dollars.

President Donald J. Trump: Why didn't you do it before, when you were vice president with Obama?

Vice President Joe Biden: Because you in fact passed that, that was your tax proposal.

President Donald J. Trump: I got it done. And you know what happened?

Vice President Joe Biden: Yeah, you got it done-

President Donald J. Trump: Our economy boomed like it's never boomed before.

Vice President Joe Biden: The economy-

Chris Wallace: Mr. President-

Vice President Joe Biden: Let me finish.

Chris Wallace: Mr. President, let me pick up on that. You would continue your free market approach, lower taxes, more deregulation, correct?

Vice President Joe Biden: Not lower tax for the American people.

Chris Wallace: But let me-

President Donald J. Trump: Excuse me.

Chris Wallace: You talk about the economy booming. It turns out that in Obama's final three years as president more jobs were created, a million and a half more jobs, than in the first three years of your presidency.

President Donald J. Trump: They had the slowest economic recovery since 1929. It was the slowest recovery. Also, they took over something that was down here. All you had to do is turn on the lights and you pick up a lot. But they had the slowest economic recovery since 1929, and let me tell you about the stock market. When the stock market goes up, that means jobs. It also means 401ks. If you got in, if you ever became president with your ideas, you want to terminate my taxes. I'll tell you what, you'll lose. Half of the companies that have poured in here will leave. And plenty of companies that are already here, they'll leave for other places. [crosstalk 00:20:25] They will leave and you will have a depression, the likes of which you've never seen.

Vice President Joe Biden: Look-

Chris Wallace: Mr. Vice President.

Vice President Joe Biden: ... we inherited the worst recession, short of a depression in American history. I was asked to bring it back. We were able to have an economic recovery that created the jobs you're talking about. We handed him a booming economy, he blew it.

President Donald J. Trump: It wasn't blooming.

Vice President Joe Biden: He blew it.

President Donald J. Trump: He was in booming. It was the weakest recovery since 1929.

Chris Wallace: Wait, wait, is it fair to say he blew it when, in fact-

President Donald J. Trump: When COVID came along.

Chris Wallace: ... when there was record low unemployment before COVID.

Vice President Joe Biden: Yeah, because what he did, even before COVID, manufacturing went in the hole. Manufacturing went in a hole-

President Donald J. Trump: Excuse me, Chris, wait.

Vice President Joe Biden: ... number one. Number two-

President Donald J. Trump: Chris.

Vice President Joe Biden: Number three.

President Donald J. Trump: They said it would take... No, you're on number two.

Vice President Joe Biden: No.

President Donald J. Trump: Chris, Chris. They said it would take-

Vice President Joe Biden: This guy-

President Donald J. Trump: a miracle to bring back manufacturing. I brought back 700,000 jobs. They brought back nothing. They gave up on manufacturing.

Vice President Joe Biden: We did not. [crosstalk 00:21:21]

President Donald J. Trump: ... standard fare.

Vice President Joe Biden: I'm the guy that brought back the automobile industry.

President Donald J. Trump: He totally gave up on manufacturing.

Chris Wallace: All right, let him-

Vice President Joe Biden: I was asked to bring back Chrysler and General Motors. He brought them back right here in the state of Ohio and Michigan. He blew it. They're gone. He blew it. And in fact, they're gone-

President Donald J. Trump: Ohio had the best year it's ever had last year. Michigan had the best year they've ever had.

Vice President Joe Biden: That is not true.

President Donald J. Trump: Many car companies came in from Germany, from Japan, went to Michigan, went to Ohio and they didn't come in with you. [crosstalk 00:21:47].

Chris Wallace: Mr. Vice President, go ahead.

Vice President Joe Biden: And so you take a look at what he's actually done. He's done very little. His trade deals are the same way. He talks about these great trade deals. He talks about the art of the deal. China's perfected the art of the steel. We have a higher deficit with China now than we did before. We have the highest trade deficit-

President Donald J. Trump: China ate your lunch- [crosstalk 00:00:22:07].

Vice President Joe Biden: ... with Mexico.

President Donald J. Trump: China ate your lunch, Joe. And no wonder your son goes in and he takes out billions of dollars. He takes out billions of dollars to manage. He makes millions of dollars. And also, while we're at it, why is it just out of curiosity, the mayor of Moscow's wife gave you a son three and a half million dollars?

Vice President Joe Biden: That is not true.

President Donald J. Trump: What did he do to deserve it? What did he do with-

Vice President Joe Biden: None of that is true.

President Donald J. Trump: ... to deserve \$183,000?

Chris Wallace: Sir, you've asked him a question, let him answer it.

Vice President Joe Biden: None of that is true.

President Donald J. Trump: Oh really, he didn't get three and a half million?

Chris Wallace: Mr. President-

Vice President Joe Biden: Is totally-

Chris Wallace: Mr. President, please. You've asked a question- [crosstalk 00:22:41]

Vice President Joe Biden: Totally discredited. Totally discredited. And by the way-

President Donald J. Trump: Well wait, he didn't get three and a half million dollars, Joe?

Vice President Joe Biden: Mr. Vice-

President Donald J. Trump: He got three and a half million

Chris Wallace: Mr. President.

President Donald J. Trump: ... dollars.

Vice President Joe Biden: That is not true.

President Donald J. Trump: Oh, really?

Chris Wallace: Mr. President, it's an open discussion. Please- [crosstalk 00:22:56]

President Donald J. Trump: It's a fact.

Vice President Joe Biden: It is not a fact.

Chris Wallace: Well, you have raised an issue, let the Vice President answer.

Vice President Joe Biden: It's been totally discredited.

President Donald J. Trump: Did Burisma pay him 183,000 a month, with no experience in energy?

Chris Wallace: Mr. President-

Vice President Joe Biden: My son did nothing wrong at Barisma-

President Donald J. Trump: I think he did.

Chris Wallace: Mr. President, let him answer. [crosstalk 00:23:13].

Vice President Joe Biden: He doesn't want to let me answer, because he knows I have the truth. His position has been totally thoroughly discredited-

President Donald J. Trump: By who?

Vice President Joe Biden: And you can-

President Donald J. Trump: The media.

Vice President Joe Biden: by everybody. Well, by the media, by our allies.

President Donald J. Trump: By the media, because they refuse to talk about it-

Vice President Joe Biden: By the World Bank-

President Donald J. Trump: ... because they're embarrassed.

Vice President Joe Biden: By everyone, has discredited. And matter of fact [crosstalk 00:23:30] Matter of fact-

Chris Wallace: Mr. President, please stop.

Vice President Joe Biden: Even the people who testified under oath-

President Donald J. Trump: So let me ask you this, Joe- [crosstalk 00:23:35].

Chris Wallace: Go ahead, I'm listening to you.

Vice President Joe Biden: Even the people under-

President Donald J. Trump: He got three and a half million dollars from Moscow.

Vice President Joe Biden: ... testified under oath in his administration said I did my job and I did it very well.

President Donald J. Trump: Oh, really?

Vice President Joe Biden: I did it honorably.

President Donald J. Trump: I'd like to know who they are.

Vice President Joe Biden: Well, I'll give you the list of the people who-

President Donald J. Trump: I'll fire them.

Chris Wallace: No, no. Go ahead, sir.

Vice President Joe Biden: I'm sure that you've already fired most of them, because they did a good job.

President Donald J. Trump: Some people don't do a good job.

Vice President Joe Biden: Well, here's the- [crosstalk 00:23:57]

Chris Wallace: Go ahead. You get the- [crosstalk 00:23:57] Wait a minute. You get the final word, Mr.-

Vice President Joe Biden: Well, it's hard to get any word in with this clown. Excuse me, this person.

President Donald J. Trump: Hey, let me just tell you, Joe-

Vice President Joe Biden: No, no. Mr. President- [crosstalk 00:24:05]

President Donald J. Trump: Three and a half million, Joe.

Vice President Joe Biden: That is simply not true.

President Donald J. Trump: Why did he deserve three and a half million from Moscow?

Vice President Joe Biden: Look, here's the deal. We want to talk about families and ethics. I don't want to do that. I mean, his family, we could talk about all night. His family's already-

President Donald J. Trump: My family-

Chris Wallace: No, no- [crosstalk 00:06:20].

President Donald J. Trump: My family lost a fortune by coming down and helping us with governance.

Vice President Joe Biden: And that's such a- [crosstalk 00:24:25]

Chris Wallace: Mr. President-

President Donald J. Trump: Every single one of them lost a fortune-

Vice President Joe Biden: This is not about my family or his family. It's about your family, the American people. [crosstalk 00:24:32] That's not true. It doesn't want to talk about what you need. You, the American people, it's about you. That's what we're talking about here. [crosstalk 00:24:42]

Chris Wallace: That's the end of the segment. We're moving on.

Vice President Joe Biden: He didn't take that.

Chris Wallace: Vice President-

President Donald J. Trump: Chris, can I be honest? It's a very important question-

Vice President Joe Biden: Try to be honest.

Chris Wallace: No.

President Donald J. Trump: He stood up-

Chris Wallace: The answer to the question is no.

President Donald J. Trump: ... and the threatened Ukraine-

Chris Wallace: Sir-

President Donald J. Trump: ... with a billion dollars-

Vice President Joe Biden: That is absolutely not true.

Chris Wallace: Stop. [crosstalk 00:25:02] Gentlemen, I hate to raise my voice, but I- [crosstalk 00:25:05] Why should I be different than the two of you? So here's the deal.

Vice President Joe Biden: That's a good point.

Chris Wallace: We have six segments. We have ended that segment. We're going to go to the next segment. In that segment, you each are going to have two uninterrupted moments. In those two interrupted minutes, Mr. President, you can say anything you want. I'm going to ask a question about race, but if you want to answer about something else, go ahead. But I think that the country would be better served, if we allowed both people to speak with fewer interruptions. I'm appealing to you, sir, to do that.

President Donald J. Trump: Well, and him too.

Chris Wallace: Well, frankly, you've been doing more interrupting than he has.

President Donald J. Trump: Well, that's all right, but he does plenty.

Chris Wallace: Well, sir, less than-

President Donald J. Trump: He does plenty.

Chris Wallace: No, less than you have. Let's please continue on. The issue of race. Vice-President Biden, you say that President Trump's response to the violence in Charlottesville three years ago, when he talked about very fine people on both sides, was what directly led you to launch this run for president.

President Donald J. Trump: Oh yeah, sure.

Chris Wallace: President Trump, you have often said that you believe you will have done more for Black Americans than any president with the possible exception of Abraham Lincoln.

President Donald J. Trump: That's true.

Chris Wallace: My question for the two of you, is why should voters trust you rather than your opponent to deal with the race issues facing this country over the next four years? Vice President Biden, you go first.

Vice President Joe Biden: It's about equity and equality. It's about decency. It's about the constitution. And we have never walked away from trying to require equity for everyone, equality for the whole of America. But we've never accomplished it, but we've never walked away from it like he has done. It is true, the reason I got in the race is when those people... Close your eyes, remember what those people look like coming out of the fields, carrying torches, their veins bulging, just spewing anti-Semitic bile and accompanied by the Ku Klux Klan. A young woman got killed and they asked the president what he thought. He said, "There were very fine people on both sides." No president's ever said anything like that. [crosstalk 00:27:10].

Chris Wallace: It is his-

Vice President Joe Biden: Now-

Chris Wallace: ... minute sir.

Vice President Joe Biden: ... second point I'd make to you, is that when Floyd was killed, when Mr. Floyd was killed, there was a peaceful protest in front of the White House. What did he do? He came out of his bunker, had the military use tear gas on them so he could walk across to a church and hold up a Bible. And then what happened after that? The Bishop of that very church said that it was a disgrace. The general who was with him said all he ever wants to do is divide people, not unite people at all. This is a president who has used everything as a dog whistle, to try to generate racists hatred, racist division.

Vice President Joe Biden: This is a man who, in fact, you talk about helping African-Americans, one in 1000 African Americans has been killed because of the coronavirus. And if he doesn't do something quickly, by the end of the year, one in 500 will have been killed. One in 500 African Americans. This man is as a savior of African-Americans? This man cares at all? This man's done virtually nothing. Look, the fact is that you have to look at what he talks about. You have to look at what he did. And what he did has been disastrous for the African-American community.

President Donald J. Trump: So-

Chris Wallace: President Trump, you have two minutes. Why should Americans trust you over your opponent to deal race issues?

President Donald J. Trump: You did a crime bill, 1994, where you call them super predators. African-Americans are super predators and they've never forgotten it. They've never forgotten it.

Vice President Joe Biden: I've never said-

Chris Wallace: No, no, sir. It's his two minutes.

President Donald J. Trump: So you did that and they call you a super predator and I'm letting people out of jail now, that you have treated the African-American population community, you have treated the black community about as bad as anybody in this country. You did the 1990... And that's why, if you look at the polls, I'm doing better than any Republican has done in a long time, because they saw what you did. You call them super predators, and you've called them worse than that. Because you look back at your testimony over the years, you've called them a lot worse than that. As far as the church is concerned and as far as the generals are concerned, we just got the support of 250 military leaders and generals, total support. Law enforcement, almost every law enforcement group in the United States. I have Florida. I have Texas. I have Ohio. I have every... Excuse me, Portland, the sheriff just came out today and he said, "I support President Trump."

President Donald J. Trump: I don't think you have any law enforcement. You can't even say the word law enforcement. Because if you say those words, you're going to lose all of your radical left supporters. And why aren't you saying those words, Joe? Why don't you say the words law enforcement? Because you know what? If called us in Portland, we would put out that fire in a half an hour. But they won't do it, because they're run by radical left Democrats. If you look at Chicago, if you look at any place you want to look, Seattle, they heard we were coming in the following day and they put up their hands and we got back Seattle. Minneapolis, we got it back, Joe, because we believe in law and order, but you don't. The top 10 cities and just about the top 40 cities are run by Democrats, and in many cases radical left. And they've got you wrapped around their finger, Joe, to a point where you don't want to say anything about law and order. And I'll tell you what, the people of this country want and demand law and order and you're afraid to even say it.

Chris Wallace: All right. I want to return to the question of race. Vice President Biden, after the grand jury in the Breonna Taylor case decided not to charge any of the police with homicide, you said it raises the question, "Whether justice could be equally applied in America." Do you believe that there is a separate but unequal system of justice for Blacks in this country?

Vice President Joe Biden: Yes, there is. There's systemic injustice in this country, in education and work and in law enforcement and the way in which it's enforced. But look, the vast majority of police officers are good, decent, honorable men and women. They risk their lives every day to take care of us, but there are some bad apples. And when they occur, when they find them, they have to be sorted out. They have to be held accountable. They have to be held accountable. And what I'm going to do as President of the United States is call together an entire group of people at the White House, everything from the civil rights groups, to the police officers, to the police chiefs, and we're going to work this out.

Vice President Joe Biden: We're going to work this out. So we changed the way in which we have more transparency, in when these things happen. These cops aren't happy to see what happened to George Floyd. These cops aren't happy to see what happened to Breonna Taylor. Most don't like it, but we have to have a system where people are held accountable when... And by the way, violence in response is never appropriate, never appropriate. Peaceful protest is, violence is never appropriate.

Chris Wallace: All right, Mr.-

President Donald J. Trump: What is peaceful protest? When they run through the middle of the town-

Chris Wallace: President Trump-

President Donald J. Trump: ... and burn down your stores and kill people all over the place- [crosstalk 00:32:14].

Vice President Joe Biden: That is not peaceful protest.

President Donald J. Trump: No it's not, but you say it is.

Chris Wallace: President Trump, I'd like to continue with the issue of race. I promise we're going to get to the issue of law and order in a moment.

President Donald J. Trump: Fine.

Chris Wallace: This month, your administration directed federal agencies to end racial sensitivity training that addresses white privilege or critical race theory. Why did you decide to do that, to end racial sensitivity training? And do you believe that there is systemic racism in this country, sir?

President Donald J. Trump: I ended it because it's racist. I ended it because a lot of people were complaining that they were asked to do things that were absolutely insane. That it a radical revolution that was taking place in our military, in our schools, all over the place. And you know it, and so does everybody else. And he would know it- [crosstalk 00:33:02]

Chris Wallace: What is radical about racial sensitivity training?

President Donald J. Trump: If you were a certain person, you had no status in life. It was sort of a reversal. And if you look at the people, we were paying people hundreds of thousands of dollars to teach very bad ideas and frankly, very sick ideas. And really, they were teaching people to hate our country And I'm not going to do that. I'm not going to allow that to happen. We have to go back to the core values of this country. They were teaching people that our country is a horrible place. It's a racist place. And they were teaching people to hate our country. And I'm not going to allow that to happen.

Chris Wallace: Vice President Biden.

Vice President Joe Biden: Nobody's doing that. He's the racist.

President Donald J. Trump: You just don't know.

Vice President Joe Biden: Here's the deal. I know a lot more about this- [crosstalk 00:15:43].

Chris Wallace: Let him finish.

Vice President Joe Biden: The fact is that there is racial insensitivity. People have to be made aware of what other people feel like, what insults them, what is demeaning to them. It's important people know. Many people don't want to hurt other people's feelings, but it makes a big difference. It makes a gigantic difference in the way a child is able to grow up and have a sense of self-esteem. It's a little bit like how this guy and his friends look down on so many people. They look down their nose on people like Irish Catholics, like me, who grow up in Scranton. They look down on people who don't have money. They look down on people who are of a different faith. They looked down on people who are a different color. In fact, we're all Americans. The only way we're going to bring this country together is bring everybody together. There's nothing we cannot do, if we do it together. We can take this on and we can defeat racism in American.

Chris Wallace: Vice President... I mean, President Trump, sir.

President Donald J. Trump: During the Obama-Biden administration, there was tremendous division. There was hatred. You look at Ferguson, you look at, or you go to very... Many places, look at Oakland. Look what happened in Oakland. Look what happened in Baltimore. Look what happened... Frankly, it was more violent than what I'm even seeing now.

Vice President Joe Biden: Oh my Lord.

President Donald J. Trump: But the reason-

Vice President Joe Biden: This is ridiculous.

President Donald J. Trump: ... is that the Democrats that run these cities-

Vice President Joe Biden: Absolutely ridiculous.

President Donald J. Trump: ... don't want to talk, like you, about law and order.

Vice President Joe Biden: Violent crime-

President Donald J. Trump: And you still haven't mentioned. Are you in favor of law and order?

Vice President Joe Biden: I'm in favor of law. You- [crosstalk 00:35:15].

President Donald J. Trump: Are you in favor of law and order? [crosstalk 00:35:17]

Chris Wallace: You asked a question, let him finish. [crosstalk 00:35:18] Let him answer.

Vice President Joe Biden: Law and order with justice, where people get treated fairly.

President Donald J. Trump: Okay.

Vice President Joe Biden: And the fact of the matter is, violent crime went down 17%, 15% in our administration. It's gone up on his watch.

President Donald J. Trump: It went down much more in ours.

Chris Wallace: All right, we're done- [crosstalk 00:35:35] Mr. President, you're going to be very happy because we're now going to talk about law and order.

President Donald J. Trump: The places we had trouble were democratic run cities-

Chris Wallace: That's exactly my question. There has been a dramatic increase in homicides in America this summer particularly, and you often blame that on democratic mayors and democratic governors. But in fact, there have been equivalent spikes in Republican led cities, like Tulsa and Fort Worth. So the question is, is this really a...

Chris Wallace: It's like Tulsa and Fort worth. So the question is, is this really a party issue?

President Donald J. Trump: I think as a party issue, you can bring in a couple of examples but if you look at Chicago, what's going on in Chicago where a 53 people were shot and eight died shot, if you look at New York where it's going up, like nobody's ever seen anything. The numbers are going up a 100%, 150%, 200% crime, it is crazy what's going on and he doesn't want to say law and order because he can't because he'll lose his radical left supporters and once he does that, it's over with. But if he ever got to run this country and they ran it the way he would want to run it, we would have by the way our suburbs would be gone. And you would see problems like you've never seen before.

Vice President Joe Biden: He wouldn't know a suburb unless you took a wrong turn.

President Donald J. Trump: Oh, I know suburbs so much that you.

Chris Wallace: Gentlemen wait a minute.

Vice President Joe Biden: I was raised in the suburbs. This is not 1950. All these dog whistles and racism don't work anymore. Suburbs are by and large integrated. There's many people today driving their kids to soccer practice and/or black and white and Hispanic in the same car as there have been any time in the past, what really is a threat to the suburbs and their safety is his failure to deal with COVID. They're dying in the suburbs. His failure to deal with the environment, they're being flooded, they're being burned out because his refusal to do anything. That's why the suburbs are in trouble.

Chris Wallace: I do want to talk about this issue of law and order though. And in the joint recommendation that came from the Biden-Bernie Sanders task force, you talked about quote re-imagining policing. First of all, what does re-imagining policing mean and do you support? If I might finish the question, what does re-imagining policing mean and do you support the Black Lives Matter call for community control of policing?

Vice President Joe Biden: Look, what I support are the police having the opportunity to deal with the problems they face and I'm totally opposed to defunding the police offices. As a matter of fact police, local police, the only one defunding in his budget calls for a \$400 million cut in local law enforcement assistance. They need more assistance. They need when they show up for a 9-11 call to have someone with them as a psychologist or psychiatrist to keep them from having to use force and be able to talk people down. We have to have community policing like we had before where the officers get to know the people in the communities. That's when crime went down, it didn't go up. It went down. And so we have to be...

President Donald J. Trump: That's not what they are talking about this. That's not what it is about. He's talking about defunding the police.

Vice President Joe Biden: That is not true.

President Donald J. Trump: He doesn't have any law support. He has no law enforcement.

Vice President Joe Biden: That's not true.

President Donald J. Trump: He has almost nothing. Oh, really, who do you have name one group that supports you name one group that came out and supported you. Go ahead. Think we have time.

Vice President Joe Biden: We don't have time to do anything.

President Donald J. Trump: No, no think right now. Name one law enforcement group that came out in support of you.

Chris Wallace: Now, gentleman. I think I'm going to tell I'm going to take back the bottom line.

President Donald J. Trump: There aren't any.

Chris Wallace: And I want to get to another subject, which is the issue of protests in many cities that have turned violent in Portland, Oregon, especially we had more than a 100 straight days of protests, which I think you would agree, you talk about peaceful protests. Many of those turned into riots. Mr. Vice-president you say that people who commit crimes should be held accountable. The question I have though is as the democratic nominee, and earlier tonight, you said that you are the Democratic Party right now, have you ever called the Democratic Mayor of Portland or the Democratic Governor of Oregon and said, "Hey, you got to stop this, bring in the National Guard, do whatever it takes, but you'd stop the days and months of violence in Portland."

Vice President Joe Biden: I don't hold public office. Now I am a former vice president. I've made it clear. I've made it clear in my public statements that the violence should be prosecuted. It should be prosecuted and anyone who committed it should be prosecuted.

Chris Wallace: But you've never called for the people...

President Donald J. Trump: He's never done that.

Chris Wallace: Excuse me, sir. You had never called for the leaders in Portland and in Oregon to call and bring in the National Guard and knock off a 100 days of riots.

Vice President Joe Biden: They can in fact take care of it if he just stay out of the way.

President Donald J. Trump: Oh really? I sent in the US Marshalls to get the killer of a young man in the middle of the street and they shot him for three days Portland didn't do anything. I sent in the US Marshals they took care of business.

Chris Wallace: Go ahead sir.

Vice President Joe Biden: And by the way his own former spokesperson said, "Riots and chaos and violence help he cause." That's what this is all about.

President Donald J. Trump: I don't know who said that.

Vice President Joe Biden: I do.

President Donald J. Trump: Who?

Vice President Joe Biden: I think Kellyanne Conway.

President Donald J. Trump: I don't think she said that.

Vice President Joe Biden: She said that.

President Donald J. Trump: I don't think so.

Vice President Joe Biden: Here's the point, the point is that that's why he keeps trying to rile everything up. He doesn't want to calm things down instead of going in and talking to people and saying, "Let's get everybody together. Figure out how to deal with this." What's he do? He just pours gasoline in the fire constantly and every single solitary time.

Chris Wallace: Okay. And to end this, button up this segment I'm going to give you a minute to answer, sir. You have repeatedly criticized...

President Donald J. Trump: Does it mean I have to answer his stuff.

Chris Wallace: You have repeatedly...

President Donald J. Trump: Wait a second, you have made a statement.

Chris Wallace: You've been talking back and forth. I'm asking you.

President Donald J. Trump: I would love to end it.

Chris Wallace: You know sir if you want to switch seats we could very quickly can do that.

President Donald J. Trump: I'll send in the National Guard, it would be over. That'd be no problem. But I don't want to accept the National Guard.

Chris Wallace: You have repeatedly criticized the vice president for not specifically calling out Antifa and other left wing extremist groups. But are you willing tonight to condemn white supremacists and militia group and to say that they need to stand down and not add to the violence in a number of these cities as we saw in Kenosha and as we've seen in Portland.

President Donald J. Trump: Sure, I'm will to do that.

Chris Wallace:

Are you prepared specifically to do it.

President Donald J. Trump: I would say almost everything I see is from the left wing not from the right wing.

Chris Wallace: But what are you saying?

President Donald J. Trump: I'm willing to do anything. I want to see peace.

Chris Wallace: Well, do it, sir.

Vice President Joe Biden: Say it, do it say it.

President Donald J. Trump: What do you want to call them? Give me a name, give me a name, go ahead who do you want me to condemn.

Chris Wallace: White supremacist and right-wing militia.

Vice President Joe Biden: Proud Boys.

President Donald J. Trump: Proud Boys, stand back and stand by. But I'll tell you what somebody's got to do something about Antifa and the left because this is not a right wing problem this is a left wing...

Vice President Joe Biden: His own FBI Director said unlike white supremacist, Antifa is an idea not an organization-

President Donald J. Trump: Oh you got to be kidding me.

Vice President Joe Biden: ... not a militia. That's what his FBI Director said.

President Donald J. Trump: Well, then you know what, he's wrong.

Chris Wallace: We're done, sir. Moving onto the next... [crosstalk 00:42:46]

President Donald J. Trump: Antifa is bad.

Vice President Joe Biden: Every body in your administration tells you the truth, it's a bad idea. You have no idea about anything.

President Donald J. Trump: You know what, Antifa is a dangerous radical group.

Chris Wallace: All right, gentlemen we're now moving onto the Trump-Biden record.

President Donald J. Trump: And you ought to be careful of them, they'll over throw you.

Chris Wallace: I'm going to ask a question. When the president seeks a second term, it is generally a referendum on his record but vice president Biden, you'd like to quote one of your dad's sayings, which is don't compare me to the almighty, compare me to the alternative. And in this case sir you are the alternative. Looking at both of your records, I'm going to ask each of you. Why should voters elect you president over your opponent in this segment, President Trump you'll go first, two minutes.

President Donald J. Trump: Because there is never been an administration or president who has done more than I've done in a period of three and a half years. And that's despite the impeachment hoax and you so what happened today with Hillary Clinton, where it was

a whole big con job. But despite going through all of these things where I had a fight, both flanks and behind me and above there has never been an administration that's done what I've done. The greatest, before COVID came in the greatest economy in history, lowest unemployment numbers, everything was good. Everything was going.

President Donald J. Trump: And by the way, there was unity going to happen. People were calling me for the first time in years, they were calling and they were saying it's time maybe and then what happened? We got hit. But now we're building it back up again. A rebuilding of the military, including Space Force and all of the other things. A fixing of the VA which was a mess under him, 308,000 people died because they didn't have proper health care. It was a mess. And we now got a 91% approval rating at the VA, our vets. We take care of our vets. But we've rebuilt our military. And I'll tell you something, some people say maybe the most important by the end of the first term I'll have approximately 300 Federal judges and Court of Appeals judges, 300 and hopefully three great Supreme Court judges, justices that is a record the likes of which very few people and one of the reasons I'll have so many judges because President Obama and him left me 128 judges to fill.

President Donald J. Trump: When you leave office, you don't leave any judges. That's like, you just don't do that. They left 128 openings and if I were a member of his party, because they have a little different philosophy, I'd say, if you left us 128 openings you can't be a good president. You can't be a good vice president but I want to thank you because it gives us almost, it'll probably be above that number. By the end of this term, 300 judges. It's a record.

Chris Wallace: Looking at both of your records. Why should voters elect you President as opposed to president Trump, you have two minutes uninterrupted.

Vice President Joe Biden: Under this president, we become weaker, sicker, poor, more divided and more violent. When I was vice president, we inherited a recession. I was asked to fix it. I did. We left him a booming economy and he caused the recession. With regard to being weaker, the fact is that I've gone head to head with Putin and made it clear to him we're not going to take any of his stuff. He's Putin's puppy. He still refuses to even say anything to Putin about the bounty on the heads of American soldiers.

President Donald J. Trump: You son got three and a half million dollars.

Vice President Joe Biden: By the way, my son...

Chris Wallace: Wait a minute. Mr. President, your campaign agreed to both sides would get two minute answers, uninterrupted. Well, you're a side agreed to it and why don't you observe what your campaign agreed to as a ground rule. Okay, sir?

Vice President Joe Biden: (46:33) He never keeps his word.

Chris Wallace: No, that was a rhetorical question.

Vice President Joe Biden: Can you get back 30 seconds?

Chris Wallace: Yes. You may have, go ahead.

Vice President Joe Biden: So thirdly, we're poor. The billionaires have gotten much more wealthy by a tune of over \$3- \$400 billion more just since COVID. You in the home, you got less you're in more trouble than you were before. In terms of being more violent. When we were in office there were 15% less violence in America than there is today. He's President United States. It's on his watch. And with regard to more divided the nation, it can't stay divided. We can't be this way. And speaking of my son, the way you talk about the military, the way you talk about them being losers and being and just being suckers. My son was in Iraq. He spent a year there. He got the Brown Star. He got the Conspicuous Service Medal. He was not a loser. He was a Patriot and the people left behind there were heroes.

President Donald J. Trump: Really?

Vice President Joe Biden: And I resent-

President Donald J. Trump: Are you talking Hunter, are you talking about Hunter.

Vice President Joe Biden: I'm talking about my son, Beau Biden, you're talking about Hunter?

President Donald J. Trump: I don't know Beau. I know Hunter. Hunter got thrown out of the military. He was thrown out dishonorably discharged.

Vice President Joe Biden: That's not true he was not dishonorably discharged.

President Donald J. Trump: For cocaine use. And he didn't have a job until you became vice president.

Vice President Joe Biden: None of that is true.

President Donald J. Trump: Once you became vice president he made a fortune in Ukraine, in China, in Moscow and various other places.

Vice President Joe Biden: That is not true.

President Donald J. Trump: He made a fortune and he didn't have a job.

Vice President Joe Biden: My son like a lot of people at home had a drug problem. He's overtaking it. He's fixed it. He's worked on it. And I'm proud of him, I'm proud of my son.

President Donald J. Trump: But why was he given tens of millions of dollars?

Vice President Joe Biden: He wasn't given tens of millions of dollars. [crosstalk 00:48:23] It was all discredited.

Chris Wallace: We've already been through this. I think the American people would rather hear about more substantial subjects. Well, as the moderator, sir, I'm going to make a judgment call here.

President Donald J. Trump: I know but when somebody gets three and a half million dollars from the Mayor of Moscow.

Vice President Joe Biden: That is not true. That report is totally discredited.

President Donald J. Trump: Why did he get it?

Vice President Joe Biden: Mitt Romney on that committee said it wasn't worth taxpayer's money. That report was written for political reason.

Chris Wallace: I'd like to talk about climate change.

Vice President Joe Biden: So would I.

Chris Wallace: Okay. The forest fires in the West are raging now. They have burned millions of acres. They have displaced hundreds of thousands of people. When state officials there blamed the fires on climate change. Mr. President, you said, I don't think the science knows. Over your four years, you have pulled the US out of the Paris Climate Accord. You have rolled back a number of Obama Environmental records, what do you believe about the science of climate change and what will you do in the next four years to confront it?

President Donald J. Trump: I want crystal clean water and air. I want beautiful clean air. We have now the lowest carbon... If you look at our numbers right now, we are doing phenomenally. But I haven't destroyed our businesses. Our businesses aren't put out of commission. If you look at the Paris Accord, it was a disaster from our standpoint. And people are actually very happy about what's going on because our businesses are doing well. As far as the fires are concerned, you need forest management. In addition to everything else, the forest floors are loaded up with trees, dead trees that are years old and they're like tinder and leaves and everything else. You drop a cigarette in there the whole forest burns down. You've got to have forest management.

Chris Wallace: What do you believe about the science of climate change, sir?

President Donald J. Trump: I believe that we have to do everything we can to have immaculate air immaculate water and do whatever else we can that's good. We're planting a billion trees, the Billion Tree Project and it's very exciting for a lot of people.

Chris Wallace: You believe that human pollution, gas, greenhouse gas emissions contributes to the global warming of this planet.

President Donald J. Trump: I think a lot of things do, but I think to an extent, yes. I think to an extent, yes, but I also think we have to do better management of our forest. Every year I get the call. California's burning, California's burning. If that was cleaned, if that were, if you had forest management, good forest management, you wouldn't be getting those calls. In Europe, they live they're forest cities. They call forest cities. They maintain their forest. They manage their forest. I was with the head of a major country, it's a forest city. He said, "Sir, we have trees that are far more, they ignite much easier than California. There shouldn't be that problem." I spoke with the Governor about it. I'm getting along very well with the governor. But I said, "At some point you can't every year have hundreds of thousands of acres of land just burned to the ground." That's burning down because of a lack of management.

Chris Wallace: But sir if you believe in the science of climate change, why have you rolled back the Obama Clean Power Plan which limited carbon emissions and power plants? Why have you relaxed...?

President Donald J. Trump: Because it was driving energy prices through the sky.

Vice President Joe Biden: Why have you relaxed fuel economy standards that are going to create more pollution from cars and trucks?

President Donald J. Trump: Well, not really because what's happening is the car is much less expensive and it's a much safer car and you talk it about a tiny difference. And then what would happen because of the cost of the car you would have at least double and triple the number of cars purchased. We have the old slugs out there that are 10, 12 years old. If you did that, the car would be safer. It would be much cheaper by \$3,500.

Chris Wallace: But in the case of California they have simply ignored that.

President Donald J. Trump: No, but you would take a lot of cars off the market because people would be able to afford a car. Now, by the way, we're going to see how that turns out. But a lot of people agree with me, many people. The car has gotten so expensive because they have computers all over the place for an extra little bit of gasoline. And I'm okay with electric cars too. I think I'm all for electric cars. I've given big incentives for electric cars but what they've done in California is just crazy.

Chris Wallace: All right, Vice president Biden. I'd like you to respond to the president's climate change record but I also want to ask you about a concern. You propose \$2 trillion in green jobs. You talk about new limits, not abolishing, but new limits on fracking. Ending the use of fossil fuels to generate electricity by 2035 and zero none admission of greenhouse gases by 2050. The president says a lot of these things would tank the economy and cost millions of jobs.

Vice President Joe Biden: He's absolutely wrong, number one. Number two, if in fact, during our administration in the recovery act, I was in charge able to bring down the cost of renewable energy to cheaper than are as cheap as coal and gas and oil. Nobody's going to build another coal fired plant in America. No one's going to build another oil fire plant in America. They're going to move to renewable energy. Number one, number two, we're going to make sure that we are able to take the federal fleet and turn it into a fleet that's run on their electric vehicles. Making sure that we can do that, we're going to put 500,000 charging stations in all of the highways that we're going to be building in the future. We're going to build a economy that in fact is going to provide for the ability of us to take 4 million buildings and make sure that they in fact are weatherized in a way that in fact will they'll emit significantly less gas and oil because the heat will not be going out. There's so many things that we can do...

Vice President Joe Biden: Gas and oil because the heat will not be going out. There's so many things that we can do now to create thousands and thousands of jobs. We can get to net zero, in terms of energy production, by 2035. Not only not costing people jobs, creating jobs, creating millions of good-paying jobs. Not 15 bucks an hour, but prevailing wage, by having a new infrastructure that in fact, is green. And the first thing I will do, I will rejoin the Paris Accord. I will join the Paris Accord because with us out of it, look what's happening. It's all falling apart. And talk about someone who has no relationship with foreign policy. The rainforests of Brazil are being torn down, are being ripped down. More carbon is absorbed in that rainforest than every bit of carbon that's emitted in the United States. Instead of doing something about that, I would be gathering up and making sure we had the countries of the world coming up with \$20 billion, and say, "Here's \$20 billion. Stop tearing down the forest. And If you don't, then you're going to have significant economic consequences."

Chris Wallace: What about the argument that President Trump basically says, that you have to balance environmental interests and economic interests? And he's drawn his line.

Vice President Joe Biden: Well, he hasn't drawn a line. He wants to make sure that methane's not a problem. You can now emit more methane without it being a problem. Methane. This is a guy who says that you don't have to have mileage standards for automobiles that exist now. This is the guy who says that, the fact that-

President Donald J. Trump: Not true. Not true-

Vice President Joe Biden: It's all true. And here's the deal-

President Donald J. Trump: He's talking about the Green New Deal. And it's not 2 billion [crosstalk 00:55:45] or 20 billion, as you said [crosstalk 00:55:46]. It's \$100 trillion.

Vice President Joe Biden: I'm talking about the Biden plan [crosstalk 00:55:51]-

Chris Wallace: Let him go for a minute, and then you can go.

President Donald J. Trump: And rebuild the building.

Vice President Joe Biden: No.

President Donald J. Trump: It's the dumbest-

Vice President Joe Biden: That is not-

President Donald J. Trump: ... most ridiculous [crosstalk 00:55:56] where two car systems are out-

Vice President Joe Biden: Not true-

President Donald J. Trump: ... where they want to take out the cows too.

Vice President Joe Biden: Not true.

President Donald J. Trump: That's not true either, right?

Vice President Joe Biden: Not true.

President Donald J. Trump: This is a 100 trillion-

Vice President Joe Biden: Simply... Look-

President Donald J. Trump: That's more money than our country could make in 100 years [crosstalk 00:02:10]-

Vice President Joe Biden: That is simply not the case-

Chris Wallace: All right. Let me [crosstalk 00:02:12]. Wait a minute, sir. I actually have studied your plan, and it includes upgrading 4 million buildings, weatherizing 2 million homes over four years, building one and a half million energy efficient homes. So the question becomes, the president is saying, I think some people who support the president would say, that sounds like it's going to cost a lot of money and hurt the economy.

Vice President Joe Biden: What it's going to do, it's going to create thousands and millions of jobs. Good paying jobs [crosstalk 00:02:41].

Chris Wallace: Let him finish, sir.

Vice President Joe Biden: He doesn't know how to do that-

President Donald J. Trump: 100 million dollars.

Vice President Joe Biden: The fact is, it's going to create millions of good paying jobs, and these tax incentives for people to weatherize, which he wants to get rid of. It's going to make the economy much safer. Look how much we're paying now to deal with the hurricanes, deal with... By the way, he has an answer for hurricanes. He said, maybe we should drop a nuclear weapon on them, and they may-

President Donald J. Trump: I never said that at all-

Vice President Joe Biden: Yeah, he did say that-

President Donald J. Trump: They made it up.

Vice President Joe Biden: And here's the deal-

President Donald J. Trump: You make up a lot-

Vice President Joe Biden: ... we're going to be in a position where we can create hard, hard, good jobs by making sure the environment is clean, and we all are in better shape. We spend billions of dollars now, billions of dollars, on floods, hurricanes, rising seas. We're in real trouble. Look what's happened just in the Midwest with these storms that come through and wipe out entire sections and counties in Iowa. They didn't happen before. They're because of global warming. We make up 15% of the world's problem. But the rest of the world, we've got to get them to come along. That's why we have to get back into the Paris Accord.

Chris Wallace: All right, gentlemen-

President Donald J. Trump: Wait a minute, Chris. So why didn't he do it for 47 years? You were vice president-

Vice President Joe Biden: For 47-

President Donald J. Trump: So why didn't you get the world... China sends up real dirt into the air. Russia does. India does. They all do. We're supposed to be good. And by the way, he made a couple of statements. The Green New Deal is a hundred trillion dollars.

Vice President Joe Biden: That is not my plan [crosstalk 00:58:10]. The Green New Deal [crosstalk 00:58:14] is not my plan. [crosstalk 00:58:15]-

Chris Wallace: Gentlemen-

President Donald J. Trump: He made a statement about the military. He said I said something about the military. He and his friends made it up, and then they went with it. I never said it.

Chris Wallace: Okay. [crosstalk 00:58:24] Mr. Vice President-

President Donald J. Trump: He called the military stupid bastards.

Vice President Joe Biden: I did not say that-

President Donald J. Trump: He said it on tape. [crosstalk 00:58:32]-

Chris Wallace: Please, sir. [crosstalk 00:58:33] Stop.

President Donald J. Trump: I would never say that [crosstalk 00:58:35]-

Vice President Joe Biden: Play it. Play it-

Chris Wallace: Stop. Go ahead-

President Donald J. Trump: You're on tape-

Chris Wallace: Mr. Vice President answered his final question.

Vice President Joe Biden: The final question is, I can't remember which of all his rantings [crosstalk 00:04:44].

Chris Wallace: I'm having a little trouble myself, but...

Vice President Joe Biden: Yeah.

Chris Wallace: And about the economy and about this question of what it's going to cost.

Vice President Joe Biden: The economy-

Chris Wallace: The Green New Deal and the idea of what your environmental changes will do-

Vice President Joe Biden: The Green New Deal will pay for itself as we move forward. We're not going to build plants that, in fact, are great polluting plants-

Chris Wallace: So, do you support the Green New Deal?

Vice President Joe Biden: Pardon me?

Chris Wallace: Do you support the-

Vice President Joe Biden: No, I don't support the Green New Deal.

President Donald J. Trump: Oh, you don't? Oh, well, that's a big statement.

Vice President Joe Biden: I support [crosstalk 00:05:13]-

President Donald J. Trump: You just lost the radical left.

Vice President Joe Biden: I support [crosstalk 00:59:17] the Biden plan that I put forward.

Chris Wallace: Okay.

Vice President Joe Biden: The Biden plan, which is different than what he calls the radical Green New Deal.

Chris Wallace: All right, gentlemen, final segment, election integrity. As we meet tonight, millions of Americans are receiving mail-in ballots or going to vote early. How confident should we be that this will be a fair election, and what are you prepared to do over the next five plus weeks? Because it will not only be to election day, but also counting some mail-in ballots after election day. What are you prepared to do to reassure the American people that the next president will be the legitimate winner of this election. In this final segment, Mr. Vice President, you go first.

Vice President Joe Biden: Prepare to let people vote. They should go to [iwillvote.com](https://www.iwillvote.com), decide how they're going to vote, when they're going to vote, and what means by which they're going to vote. His own Homeland Security director, and as well as the FBI director, says that there is no evidence at all that mail-in ballots are a source of being manipulated and cheating. They said that. The fact is that there are going to be millions of people because of COVID that are going to be voting by mail-in ballots like he does, by the way. He sits behind the Resolute Desk and sends his ballot to Florida, number one. Number two, we're going to make sure that those people who want to vote in person are able to vote because there are enough poll watchers are there to make sure they can socially distance. The polls are open on time, and the polls stay open until the votes are counted. And this is all about trying to dissuade people from voting because he's trying to scare people into thinking that it's not going to be legitimate.

Vice President Joe Biden: Show up and vote. You will determine the outcome of this election. Vote, vote, vote. If you're able to vote early in your state, vote early. If you're able to vote in person, vote in person. Vote whatever way is the best way for you, because

you will... He cannot stop you from being able to determine the outcome of this election. And in terms of whether or not... When the votes are counted and they're all counted, that will be accepted. If I win, that will be accepted. If I lose, that'll be accepted. But by the way, if in fact he says, he's not sure what he's going to accept. Well, let me tell you something, it doesn't matter, because if we get the votes, it's going to be all over. He's going to go. He can't stay in power. It won't happen. It won't happen, so vote. Just make sure you understand, you have it in your control to determine what this country is going to look like the next four years. Is it going to change, or are you going to get four more years of these lies?

Chris Wallace: Mr. President, two minutes.

President Donald J. Trump: So when I listen to Joe talking about a transition, there has been no transition from when I won. I won that election. And if you look at crooked Hillary Clinton, if you look at all of the different people, there was no transition, because they came after me trying to do a coup. They came after me spying on my campaign. They started from the day I won, and even before I won. From the day I came down the escalator with our first lady, they were a disaster. They were a disgrace to our country, and we've caught them. We've caught them all. We've got it all on tape. We've caught them all. And by the way, you gave the idea for the Logan Act against General Flynn. You better take a look at that, because we caught you in a sense, and President Obama was sitting in the office.

President Donald J. Trump: He knew about it too. So don't tell me about a free transition. As far as the ballots are concerned, it's a disaster. A solicited ballot, okay, solicited, is okay. You're soliciting. You're asking. They send it back. You send it back. I did that. If you have an unsolicited... They're sending millions of ballots all over the country. There's fraud. They found them in creeks. They found some, just happened to have the name Trump just the other day in a wastepaper basket. They're being sent all over the place. They sent two in a Democrat area. They sent out a thousand ballots. Everybody got two ballots. This is going to be a fraud like you've never seen. The other thing, it's nice. On November 3rd, you're watching, and you see who won the election. And I think we're going to do well because people are really happy with the job we've done.

President Donald J. Trump: But you know what? We won't know. We might not know for months because these ballots are going to be all over. Take a look at what happened in Manhattan. Take a look at what happened in New Jersey. Take a look at what happened in Virginia and other places. They're not losing 2%, 1%, which by the way is too much. An election could be won or lost with that. They're losing 30 and 40%. It's a fraud, and it's a shame. And can you imagine where they say, "You have to have your ballot in by November 10th." November 10th. That's seven days after the election, in theory, should have been announced. We have major states [crosstalk 01:03:58] with that-

Chris Wallace: (01:03:58) Sir.

President Donald J. Trump: ... all run by Democrats-

Chris Wallace: Two minutes is two minutes.

President Donald J. Trump: All run by Democrats.

Chris Wallace: President Trump-

President Donald J. Trump: It's a rigged election.

Chris Wallace: You're going to be able to continue. You have been charging for months that mail-in balloting is going to be a disaster. You say it's rigged [crosstalk 00:01:04:11], that it's going to lead to fraud. But in 2018, in the last midterm election, 31 million people voted mail-in voting. That was more than a quarter of all the voters that year, cast their ballots by mail. Now that millions of mail-in ballots have gone out, what are you going to do about it? And are you counting on the Supreme Court, including a Justice Barrett, to settle any dispute?

President Donald J. Trump: Yeah. I think I'm counting on them to look at the ballots, definitely. I hope we don't need them, in terms of the election itself. But for the ballots, I think so, because what's happening is incredible. I read today where at least 1% of the ballots for 2016 were invalidated. They take them. We don't like them. We don't like them. They throw them out-

Chris Wallace: But what are you going to do about it-

President Donald J. Trump: ... left and right.

Chris Wallace: There are millions of ballots going out right now. What are you going to do-

President Donald J. Trump: What you do is you go and vote. You do a solicited ballot, and that's okay-

Chris Wallace: No. No. I know your complaint [crosstalk 01:05:05]. I'm asking you about the fact that millions of people have received-

President Donald J. Trump: You go and vote. You go and vote-

Chris Wallace: No. But what I'm saying is [crosstalk 01:05:11], what are you going to do about the fact that millions of people-

President Donald J. Trump: You either do, Chris, a solicited ballot, where you're sending it in, they're sending it back and you're sending. They have mailmen with lots of it. Did you see what's going on? Take a look at West Virginia, mailman selling the ballots.

They're being sold. They're being dumped in rivers. This is a horrible thing for our country.

Vice President Joe Biden: There is no [crosstalk 01:05:32]... There is no evidence of that-

President Donald J. Trump: This is not going to end well.

Vice President Joe Biden: There is no evidence of that-

President Donald J. Trump: This is not going to end well-

Chris Wallace: Okay. Vice President Biden, in fact, go ahead, sir-

Vice President Joe Biden: Five states have had mail-in ballots for the last decade or more. Five, including two Republican states. And you don't have to solicit the ballot. It's sent to you. It's sent to your home. What they're saying is that it has to be a postmark by election day. If it doesn't get in until the seventh, eighth, ninth, it still should be counted. He's just afraid of counting the votes-

President Donald J. Trump: You're wrong. You're wrong [crosstalk 01:06:04]. I love counting the votes [crosstalk 01:06:05]-

Chris Wallace: I want to continue with you on this [crosstalk 01:06:06] Vice President Biden-

President Donald J. Trump: Chris, he's so wrong when he makes a statement like that-

Chris Wallace: No. Excuse me. Vice President Biden, the biggest problem, in fact, over the years with mail-in voting has not been fraud, historically. It has been that sizable numbers, sometimes hundreds of thousands of ballots are thrown out because they have not been properly filled out, or there is some other irregularity, or they missed [crosstalk 01:06:28] the deadline. So the question I have is, are you concerned that the Supreme Court with a Justice Barrett will settle any dispute?

Vice President Joe Biden: I am concerned that any court would settle this, because here's the deal. When you get a ballot and you fill it out, you're supposed to have an affidavit. If you didn't know, you have someone say that, this is me. You should be able to, if in fact you can verify that's you before the ballot is thrown out, that's sufficient to be able to count the ballot because someone made a mistake and not dotting the correct I. Who they voted for, testify, say who they voted for, say it's you. That is totally legitimate.

Chris Wallace: All right.

President Donald J. Trump: Excuse me [crosstalk 01:07:11]-

Chris Wallace: No. No. No. I have a final [crosstalk 00:13:12]. Gentlemen, I have a final question [crosstalk 01:07:14]-

President Donald J. Trump: You know it can't be done. You know it can't, and already, there's been fraud [crosstalk 01:07:19]-

Vice President Joe Biden: Mail service delivers [crosstalk 01:07:21] 185 million pieces of mail a day [crosstalk 01:07:24]-

Chris Wallace: We can keep talking. In eight states, [crosstalk 01:07:27] election workers are prohibited, currently by law, eight states, from even beginning to process ballots, even take them out of the envelopes and flatten them until election day. That means that it's likely, because there's going to be a huge increase in mail-in balloting, that we are not going to know on election night who the winner is, that it could be days. It could be weeks-

President Donald J. Trump: Could be months-

Chris Wallace: ... until we find out who the new president is. First for you, sir. Finally, for the vice president, and I hope neither of you will interrupt the other. Will you urge your supporters to stay calm during this extended period, not to engage in any civil unrest? And will you pledge tonight that you will not declare victory until the election has been independently certified? President Trump, you go first-

President Donald J. Trump: I'm urging my supporters to go in to the polls and watch very carefully, because that's what has to happen. I am urging them to do it. As you know, today there was a big problem. In Philadelphia, they went in to watch. They're called poll watchers, a very safe, very nice thing. They were thrown out. They weren't allowed to watch. You know why? Because bad things happen in Philadelphia. Bad things. And I am urging my people. I hope it's going to be a fair election. If it's a fair election-

Chris Wallace: You're urging them what?

President Donald J. Trump: ... I am 100% on board. But if I see tens of thousands of ballots being manipulated, I can't go along with that. And I'll tell you why-

Chris Wallace: What does that mean, not go along-

President Donald J. Trump: ... from a common sense-

Chris Wallace: Does that mean you're going to tell your people-

President Donald J. Trump: I'll tell you what it means-

Chris Wallace: ... to take to the streets?

President Donald J. Trump: It means you have a fraudulent election. You're sending out 80 million ballots-

Chris Wallace: And what would you do about that?

President Donald J. Trump: They're not equipped... These people aren't equipped to handle it, number one. Number two, they cheat. They cheat. Hey, they found ballots in a wastepaper basket three days ago, and they all had the name military ballots. There were military. They all had the name Trump on them.

Chris Wallace: Vice President Biden-

President Donald J. Trump: You think that's good?

Chris Wallace: Vice President Biden, final question for you. Will you urge your supporters to stay calm while the vote is counted? And will you pledge not to declare victory until the election is independently certified?

Vice President Joe Biden: Yes. And here's the deal. We count the ballots, as you pointed out. Some of these ballots in some states can't even be opened until election day. And if there's thousands of ballots, it's going to take time to do it. And by the way, our military... They've been voting by ballots since the end of the Civil War, in effect. And that's what's going to happen. Why is it, for them, somehow not fraudulent. It's the same process. It's honest. No one has established at all that there is fraud related to mail-in ballots, that somehow it's a fraudulent process.

President Donald J. Trump: It's already been established. Take a look at Carolyn Maloney's race-

Chris Wallace: I asked you. You had an opportunity to respond [crosstalk 01:10:13]. Go ahead [crosstalk 01:10:14]. Vice President Biden, go ahead.

Vice President Joe Biden: He has no idea what he's talking about. Here's the deal. The fact is, I will accept it, and he will too. You know why? Because once the winner is declared after all the ballots are counted, all the votes are counted, that'll be the end of it. That'll be the end of it. And if it's me, in fact, fine. If it's not me, I'll support the outcome. And I'll be a president, not just for the Democrats. I'll be a president for Democrats and Republicans. And this guy-

President Donald J. Trump: I want to see an honest ballot cut-

Chris Wallace: Gentlemen, just say that's the end of it [crosstalk 01:10:45]. This is the end of this debate-

President Donald J. Trump: I want to see an honest ballot count.

Chris Wallace: We're going to leave it there-

President Donald J. Trump: And I think he does too-

Chris Wallace: ... to be continued in more debates as we go on. President Trump, Vice President Biden, it's been an interesting hour and a half. I want to thank you both for participating in the first of three debates that you have agreed to engage in. We want to thank Case Western Reserve University and the Cleveland Clinic for hosting this event. The next debate, sponsored by the Commission on Presidential Debates, will be one week from tomorrow, October 7th, at the University of Utah in Salt Lake City. The two vice presidential nominees, Vice President Mike Pence and Senator Kamala Harris will debate at 9:00 PM Eastern that night. We hope you watch. Until then, thank you, and good night. Thank you.

Oct 22, 2020 Joe Biden, Donald Trump 2nd presidential debate

Donald Trump & Joe Biden Final Presidential Debate Transcript 2020

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Full transcript of the second and final 2020 presidential debate between Donald Trump and Joe Biden. The debate was moderated by Kristen Welker of NBC News on October 22, 2020 in Nashville, Tennessee.

Kristen Welker: (00:18) Good evening, everyone. Good evening. Thank you so much for being here. It is such an honor for me to moderate this debate tonight, the final debate. I want to welcome the first family and the first lady. We're so glad and thankful that you are feeling better. I want to welcome the Biden family, Dr. Jill Biden. Thank you all for being here tonight. We are so excited. We're looking forward to a really robust discussion. And the only thing I would reiterate are the CPD guidelines that when the candidates are talking, please hold any applause or any other reactions. Except of course, when they walk out, make sure you cheer and loud and applause so that everyone can hear you. Thank you for having me. This is really the honor of a lifetime. I am going to sit down and just get organized and get settled and the show will start very soon. Thank you for being here. (silence). Good evening from Belmont University in Nashville, Tennessee. I'm Kristen Welker of NBC News. And I welcome you to the final 2020 presidential debate between President Donald J. Trump and former vice president Joe Biden. Tonight's debate is sponsored by the Commission on Presidential Debates. It is conducted under health and safety protocols designed by the Commission's health security advisor. The audience here in the hall has promised to remain silent. No cheers, boos, or other interruptions, except right now, as we welcome to the stage, former vice president Joe Biden and President Donald J. Trump.

Donald Trump: (07:37) How are you doing? How are you?

Kristen Welker: (07:58) And I do want to say a very good evening to both of you. This debate will cover six major topics. At the beginning of each section, each candidate will have two minutes, uninterrupted, to answer my first question. The Debate Commission will then turn on their microphone only when it is their turn to answer. And the Commission will turn it off exactly when the two minutes have expired. After that, both microphones will remain on. But on behalf of the voters, I'm going to ask you to please speak one at a time.

Kristen Welker: (08:27) The goal is for you to hear each other and for the American people to hear every word of what you both have to say. And so with that, if you're ready, let's start. And we will begin with the fight against the coronavirus. President Trump, the first question is for you. The country is heading into a dangerous new phase. More than 40,000 Americans are in the hospital tonight with COVID, including record numbers here in

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Tennessee. And since the two of you last shared a stage, 16,000 Americans have died from COVID. So please be specific. How would you lead the country during this next stage of the coronavirus crisis? Two minutes, uninterrupted.

Kristen Welker: (09:03) ... during this next stage of the coronavirus crisis. Two minutes uninterrupted.

Donald Trump: (09:04) So as you know, 2.2 million people modeled out, were expected to die. We closed up the greatest economy in the world in order to fight this horrible disease that came from China. It's a worldwide pandemic. It's all over the world. You see the spikes in Europe and many other places right now. If you notice, the mortality rate is down 85%. The excess mortality rate is way down and much lower than almost any other country. And we're fighting it and we're fighting it hard. There is a spike. There was a spike in Florida and it's now gone.

Donald Trump: (09:41) There was a very big spike in Texas. It's now gone. There was a very big spike in Arizona. It's now gone. And there was some spikes and surges and other places, they will soon be gone. We have a vaccine that's coming. It's ready. It's going to be announced within weeks. And it's going to be delivered. We have Operation Warp Speed, which is the military is going to distribute the vaccine.

Donald Trump: (10:04) I can tell you from personal experience, I was in the hospital. I had it and I got better. And I will tell you that I had something that they gave me, a therapeutic, I guess they would call it. Some people could say it was a cure, but I was in for a short period of time. And I got better very fast or I wouldn't be here tonight. And now they say I'm immune. Whether it's four months or a lifetime, nobody's been able to say that, but I'm immune. More and more people are getting better. We have a problem that's a worldwide problem. This is a worldwide problem, but I've been congratulated by the heads of many countries on what we've been able to do. If you take a look at what we've done in terms of goggles and masks and gowns and everything else, and in particular ventilators we're now making ventilators all over the world, thousands and thousands a month distributing them all over the world. It will go away. And as I say, we're rounding the turn. We're rounding the corner. It's going away.

Kristen Welker: (11:06) Okay. Former Vice President Biden to you. How would you lead the country out of this crisis? You have two minutes uninterrupted.

Joe Biden: (11:13) 220,000 Americans dead. You hear nothing else I say tonight, hear this. Anyone who is responsible for not taking control. In fact, not saying I take no responsibility initially. Anyone is responsible for that many deaths should not remain as president of the United States of America. We're in a situation where there are a thousand deaths a day now. A thousand deaths a day. And there are over 70,000 new cases per day. Compared to what's going on in Europe as the New England Medical Journal said, they're starting from a very low rate. We're starting from a very high rate.

Joe Biden: (11:56) The expectation is we'll have another 200,000 Americans dead between now and the end of the year. If we just wore these masks, the president's own advisors have told him, we can save a 100,000 lives. And we're in a circumstance where the president thus far and still has no plan, no comprehensive plan.

Joe Biden: (12:19) What I would do is make sure we have everyone encouraged to wear a mask all the time. I would make sure we move into the direction of rapid testing, investing in rapid testing. I would make sure that we set up national standards as to how to open up schools and open up businesses so they can be safe and give them the wherewithal, the financial resources to be able to do that.

Joe Biden: (12:41) We're in a situation now where the New England Medical Journal, one of the serious, most serious journals in the whole world said for the first time ever that the way this president has responded to this crisis has been absolutely tragic. And so folks, I will take care of this. I will end this. I will make sure we have a plan.

Kristen Welker: (13:01) President Trump, I'd like to follow up with you and your comments. You talked about taking a therapeutic, I assume you're referencing Regeneron. You also said a vaccine will be coming within weeks. Is that a guarantee?

Donald Trump: (13:13) No, it's not a guarantee, but it will be by the end of the year. But I think it has a good chance. There are two companies, I think within a matter of weeks and it will be distributed very quickly.

Kristen Welker: (13:22) Can you tell us which companies?

Donald Trump: (13:23) Johnson & Johnson is doing very well. Moderna is doing very well. Pfizer is doing very well and we have numerous others. Then we also have others that we're working on very closely with other countries, in particular Europe.

Kristen Welker: (13:35) Let me follow up with you and because this is new information. You have set a vaccine is coming soon within weeks now. Your own officials say, "It could take well into 2021 at the earliest for enough Americans to get vaccinated." And even then they say, "The country will be wearing masks and distancing into 2022." Is your timeline realistic?

Donald Trump: (13:53) No, I think my timeline is going to be more accurate. I don't know that they're counting on the military the way I do, but we have our generals lined up, one in particular that's the head of logistics and this is a very easy distribution for him. He's ready to go. As soon as we have the vaccine and we expect to have a 100 million vials. As soon as we have the vaccine, he's ready to go.

Kristen Welker: (14:13) Vice President Biden, your reaction. And just 40% of Americans say they would definitely agree to take a coronavirus vaccine if it was approved by the

government. What steps would you take to give Americans confidence in a vaccine if it were approved?

Joe Biden: (14:26) Make sure it's totally transparent. Have the scientists of the world see it, know it, look at it, go through all the processes. And by the way, this is the same fellow who told you, "This is going to end by Easter" last time. This is the same fellow who told you that, "Don't worry, we're going to end this by the summer." We're about to go into a dark winter, a dark winter and he has no clear plan. And there's no prospect that there's going to be a vaccine available for the majority of the American people before the middle of next year.

Kristen Welker: (14:54) President Trump, your reaction. He says, you have no plan.

Donald Trump: (14:56) I don't think we're going to have a dark winter at all. We're opening up our country. We've learned and studied and understand the disease, which we didn't at the beginning. When I closed and banned China from coming in heavily infected and then ultimately Europe, but China was in January. Months later, he was saying I was xenophobic. I did it too soon. Now he's saying, "Oh, I should have moved quicker," but he didn't move quicker. He was months behind me, many months behind me.

Donald Trump: (15:24) And frankly, he ran the H1N1 swine flu and it was a total disaster. Far less lethal, but it was a total disaster. Had that had this kind of numbers, 700,000 people would be dead right now, but it was a far less lethal disease. Look, his own person who ran that for him, who, as you know, was his chief of staff said, "It was catastrophic. It was horrible. We didn't know what we were doing." Now he comes up and he tells us how to do this.

Donald Trump: (16:01) Also, everything that he said about the way every single move that he said we should make, that's what we've done. We've done all of it. But he was way behind us.

Kristen Welker: (16:10) Vice President Biden, your response.

Joe Biden: (16:12) My response is he is xenophobic, but not because he shutdown access from China. And he did it late after 40 countries had already done that. In addition to that, what he did, he made sure that we had 44 people that were in there in China trying to get the Wuhan to determine what exactly the source was. What did the president say in January? He said, "No." He said, "He's being transparent. The president of China is being transparent. We owe him a debt of gratitude. We have to thank him."

Joe Biden: (16:38) And then what happened was we started talking about using the Defense Act to make sure we go out and get whatever is needed out there to protect people. And again, I go back to this. He had nothing, he did virtually nothing. And then he gets out of the hospital and he talks about, "Oh, don't worry. It's all going to be over soon." Come on. There's not another serious scientist in the world who thinks it's going to be over soon.

Kristen Welker: (17:03) President Trump, your reaction?

Donald Trump: (17:04) I didn't say over soon. I say we're learning to live with it. We have no choice. We can't lock ourselves up in a basement like Joe does. He has the ability to lock himself up. I don't know. He's obviously made a lot of money someplace, but he has this thing about living in a basement. People can't do that. By the way I as the president couldn't do that. I'd love to put myself in the basement or in a beautiful room in the White House and go away for a year and a half until it disappears. I can't do that.

Donald Trump: (17:31) And Kirsten, every meeting I had, every meeting I had and I'd meet a lot of families, including gold star families and military families. Every meeting I had and I had to meet them, I had to. It would be horrible to have canceled everything. I said, "This is dangerous and you catch it." And I caught it. I learned a lot. I learned a lot. Great doctors, great hospitals. And now I recovered. 99.9 of young people recover. 99% of people recover. We have to recover-

Donald Trump: (18:03) 99% of people recover. We have to recover. We can't close up our nation. We have to open our school and we can't close up our nation, or you're not going to have a nation.

Kristen Welker: (18:11) And, of course, the CDC has said young people can get sick with COVID-19 and can pass it. Vice President Biden, I want to talk broadly about strategy though.

Joe Biden: (18:20) Can I respond to that?

Kristen Welker: (18:21) 30 seconds, please. Then I have a question.

Joe Biden: (18:23) Number one, he says that we're learning to live with it. People are learning to die with it. You folks home will have an empty chair at the kitchen table this morning. That man or wife going to bed tonight and reaching over to try to touch, there out of habit, where their wife or husband was, is gone. Learning to live with it. Come on. We're dying with it, because he's never said. See, you said, "It's dangerous." When's the last time? Is it really dangerous still? Are we dangerous. You tell the people it's dangerous now. What should they do about the danger? And you say, "I take no responsibility."

Kristen Welker: (18:56) Let me talk about your Tuesday-

Donald Trump: (18:58) Excuse me. I take full responsibility. It's not my fault that it came here. It's China's fault. And you know what? It's not Joe's fault that it came here either. It's China's fault. They kept it from going into the rest of China for the most part, but they didn't keep it from coming out to the world, including Europe and ourselves.

Kristen Welker: (19:16) Vice President Biden.

Joe Biden: (19:17) The fact is that when we knew it was coming, when it hit, what happened? What did the President say? He said, “Don’t worry. It’s going to go away. It’ll be gone by Easter. Don’t worry. Warm weather. Don’t worry. Maybe inject bleach.” He said he was kidding when he said that, but a lot of people thought it was serious. A whole range of things the President has said, even today, he thinks we are in control. We’re about to lose 200,000 more people.

Kristen Welker: (19:43) President Trump.

Donald Trump: (19:44) Look, perhaps just to finish this, I was kidding on that, but just to finish this, when I closed he said I shouldn’t have closed. And that went on for months. Nancy Pelosi said the same thing. She was dancing on the streets in Chinatown, in San Francisco. But when I closed, he said, “This is a terrible thing, you xenophobic.” I think he called me racist even, because I was closing it to China. Now he says I should have closed it earlier. Joe, it doesn’t.

Joe Biden: (20:13) I didn’t say either of those things.

Donald Trump: (20:14) You certainly did. You certainly did.

Joe Biden: (20:17) I talked about his xenophobia in a different context. It wasn’t about closing the border to Chinese coming to the United States.

Kristen Welker: (20:24) All right, I want to talk about both of your different strategies to handling this.

Donald Trump: (20:27) He thought I shouldn’t have closed the border, that’s obvious.

Kristen Welker: (20:31) Do you want to respond to that quickly, Vice President Biden?

Joe Biden: (20:33) No.

Kristen Welker: (20:33) Okay. Let’s talk about your different strategies toward dealing with this. Mr. Vice President you suggested you would support new shutdowns if scientists recommended it. What do you say to Americans who are fearful that the cost of shutdowns, the impact on the economy, the higher rates of hunger, depression, domestic, and substance abuse outweighs the risk of exposure to the virus?

Joe Biden: (20:54) What I would say is, I’m going to shut down the virus, not the country. It’s his ineptitude that caused the country to have to shut down in large part, why businesses have gone under, why schools are closed, why so many people have lost their living, and why they’re concerned. Those other concerns are real. That’s why he should have been, instead of in a sand trap at his golf course, he should have been negotiating with Nancy Pelosi and the rest of the Democrats and Republicans about what to do about the acts they were passing for billions of dollars to make sure people had the capacity.

Kristen Welker: (21:23) But you haven't ruled out more shut downs?

Joe Biden: (21:25) Oh, well, no. I'm not shutting down today, but there are ... Look, you need standards. The standard is, if you have a reproduction rate in a community that's above a certain level, everybody says, "Slow up. More social distancing. Do not open bars and do not open gymnasiums. Do not open until you get this under control, under more control." But when you do open, give the people the capacity to be able to open and have the capacity to do it safely. For example, schools. Schools, they need a lot of money to be open. They need to deal with ventilation systems. They need to deal with smaller classes, more teachers, more pods, and he's refused to support that money, or at least up to now.

Kristen Welker: (22:04) Let's talk about schools, President Trump-

Donald Trump: (22:06) I think we have to respond, if I might.

Kristen Welker: (22:07) Please. And then I have a follow-up.

Donald Trump: (22:09) Thank you, and I appreciate that. Look, all he does is talk about shut downs. But forget about him. His Democrat Governors, Cuomo in New York, you look at what's going on in California, you look at Pennsylvania, North Carolina, Democrats, Democrats all, they're shut down so tight and they're dying. They're dying. And he supports all these people. All he talks about is shut downs. No, we're not going to shut down. And we have to open our schools. And it's like, as an example, I have a young son, he also tested positive. By the time I spoke to the doctor the second time, he was fine. It just went away. Young people, I guess, it's their immune system.

Kristen Welker: (22:47) Let me follow up with you, President Trump. You've demanded schools open in person and insist they can do it safely. But just yesterday, Boston became the latest city to move its public school system entirely online after a coronavirus spike. What is your message to parents who worry that sending their children to school will endanger not only their kids but also their teachers and family?

Donald Trump: (23:05) I want to open the schools. The transmittal rate to the teachers is very small. But I want to open the schools. We have to open our country. We're not going to have a country. You can't do this. We can't keep this country closed. This is a massive country with a massive economy. People are losing their jobs. They're committing suicide. There's depression, alcohol, drugs at a level that nobody's ever seen before. There's abuse, tremendous abuse. We have to open our country. I've said it often, the cure cannot be worse than the problem itself, and that's what's happening. And he wants to close down. He'll close down the country if one person in our massive bureaucracy says we should close it down.

Kristen Welker: (23:50) Vice President Biden, your response.

Joe Biden: (23:51) Simply not true. We ought to be able to walk and chew gum at the same time. We ought to be able to safely open, but they need resources to open? You need to be able to, for example, if you're going to open a business, have social distancing within the business. You need to have, if you have a restaurant, you need to have plexiglass dividers so people cannot infect one another. You need to be in a position where you can take testing rapidly and know whether the person is in fact infected. You need to be able to trace. You need to be able to provide all the resources that are needed to do this. And that is not inconsistent with saying that we're going to make sure that we're going to open safely. And by the way, all you teachers out there, not that many of you are going to die, so don't worry about it. So don't worry about it. Come on.

Kristen Welker: (24:38) President Trump, let me follow up with you quickly.

Donald Trump: (24:40) By the way, I will say this, If you go and look at what's happened to New York, it's a ghost town. It's a ghost town. And when you talk about plexiglass, these are restaurants that had dying. These are businesses with no money. Putting up plexiglass is unbelievably expensive, and it's not the answer. I mean, you're going to sit there in a cubicle wrapped around with plastic. These are businesses that are dying, Joe. You can't do that to people. You just can't. Take a look at New York and what's happened to my wonderful city. For so many years, I loved it. It was vibrant. It's dying. Everyone's leaving New York.

Kristen Welker: (25:15) Vice President Biden.

Joe Biden: (25:15) Take a look at what New York has done in terms of turning the curve down, in terms of the number of people dying. And I don't look at this in terms of the way he does, blue states and red states. They're all the United States. And look at the states that are having such a spike in the coronavirus. They're the red states, they're the states in the Midwest, they're the states in the upper Midwest. That's where the spike is occurring significantly. But they're all Americans. They're all Americans. And what we have to do is say, wear these masks, number one. Make sure we get the help that the businesses need. That money's already been passed to do that. It's been out there since the beginning of the summer, and nothing's happened.

Donald Trump: (25:55) Kristen, New York has lost more than 40,000 people, 11,000 people in nursing homes.

Kristen Welker: (26:02) President Trump, what about-

Donald Trump: (26:02) When you say spike, take a look at what's happening in Pennsylvania where they've had it closed. Take a look at what's happening with your friend in Michigan, where her husband's the only one allowed to do anything. It's been like a prison. Now, it was just ruled unconstitutional. Take a look at North Carolina, they're having spikes and they've been closed, and they're getting killed financially. We

can't let that happen, Joe. You can't let that happen. We have to open up. And we understand the disease. We have to protect our seniors. We have to protect our elderly. We have to protect especially our seniors with heart problems and diabetes problems. And we will protect. We have the best testing in the world by far. That's why we have so many cases.

Kristen Welker: (26:44) Let me follow up with you before we move on to our next section. President Trump, this week, you called Dr. Anthony Fauci, the nation's best known infectious disease expert "a disaster." You described him and other medical experts as "idiots." If you're not listening to them, who are you listening to?

Donald Trump: (26:58) I'm listening to all of them, including Anthony. I get along very well with Anthony.

Donald Trump: (27:02) ... think to all of them, including Anthony. I get along very well with Anthony, but he did say, "Don't wear masks." He did say, as you know, "This is not going to be a problem." I think he's a Democrat, but that's okay. He said, "This is not going to be a problem. We are not going to have a problem at all." When Joe says that I said, Anthony Fauci said, and others, and many others. And I'm not knocking him, nobody knew. Look, nobody knew what this thing was. Nobody knew where it was coming from, what it was. We've learned a lot. But Anthony said "Don't wear masks," now he wants to wear masks. Anthony also said, if you look back, exact words, here's his exact words. "This is no problem. This is going to go away soon." So he's allowed to make mistakes. He happens to be a good person.

Kristen Welker: (27:44) Vice President Biden, your response quickly, and then we're going to move on to the next section.

Joe Biden: (27:48) My response is that think about what the President knew in January and didn't tell the American people. He was told this was a serious virus that spread in the air, and it was much worse, much worse, than the flu. He went on record and said to one of your colleagues, recorded, that in fact he knew how dangerous it was but he didn't want to tell us. He didn't want to tell us because he didn't want us to panic. He didn't want us... Americans don't panic. He panicked. But guess what, in the meantime, we find out in the New York Times the other day, that in fact his folks went to Wall Street and said, "This is a really dangerous thing." And a memo out of that meeting — not from his administration, but from some of the brokers — said, "Sell short, because we've got to get moving. It's a dangerous problem."

Donald Trump: (28:31) Well, this is what I-

Kristen Welker: (28:31) I'm going to give you 30 seconds to respond and then we're going to move on.

Donald Trump: (28:34) [crosstalk 00:28:34] I don't know. Somebody went through Wall Street. You're the one that takes all the money from Wall Street. I don't take it.

Joe Biden: (28:39) I haven't-

Donald Trump: (28:39) Joe, you have raised a lot of money, tremendous amounts of money. And every time you raise money deals are made, Joe. I could raise so much more money. As President, and as somebody that knows most of those people, I could call the heads of Wall Street, the heads of every company in America. I would blow away every record. But I don't want to do that because it puts me in a bad position. And then you bring up Wall Street? You shouldn't be bringing up Wall Street, because you're the one that takes the money from Wall Street, not me. I could blow away your records like you wouldn't believe. We don't need money. We have plenty of money. In fact, we beat Hillary Clinton with a tiny fraction of the money that she was able to [crosstalk 00:29:15]

Kristen Welker: (29:15) All right, gentlemen, we're going to move on.

Donald Trump: (29:16) Don't tell me about [crosstalk 00:29:17].

Joe Biden: (29:18) Average contribution, \$43.

Kristen Welker: (29:19) All right. We're going to move on to our next section, which is national security. And I do want to start with the security of our elections and some breaking news from overnight. Just last night, top intelligence officials confirmed again that both Russia and Iran are working to influence this election. Both countries have obtained US voter registration information, these officials say, and Iran sent intimidating messages to Florida voters. This question goes to you, Mr. Vice President. What would you do to put an end to this threat? You have two minutes, uninterrupted.

Joe Biden: (29:49) I made it clear and I asked everyone else to take the pledge. I made it clear that any country, no matter who it is, that interferes in American elections will pay a price. They will pay a price. And it's been overwhelmingly clear this election — I won't even get into the last one — this election, that Russia has been involved, China's been involved to some degree, and now we learn that Iran is involved. They will pay a price if I'm elected. They're interfering with American sovereignty. That's what's going on right now. They're interfering with American sovereignty.

Joe Biden: (30:23) And to the best of my knowledge, I don't think the President has said anything to Putin about it. I don't think he's talking to them a lot. I don't think he's said a word. I don't know why he hasn't said a word to Putin about it, and I don't know what he has recently said, if anything, to the Iranians. My guess is he'd probably be more outspoken with regard to the Iranians.

Joe Biden: (30:40) But the point is this, folks. We are in a situation where we have foreign countries trying to interfere in the outcome of our election. His own National Security

Advisor told him that what is happening with his buddy... Well, I shouldn't... Well, I will. His buddy Rudy Giuliani. He's being used as a Russian pawn. He's being fed information that is Russian that is not true. And then what happens? Nothing happens. And then you find out that everything that's going on here, about Russia is wanting to make sure that I do not get elected the next President of the United States, because they know I know them, and they know me.

Joe Biden: (31:20) I don't understand why this President is unwilling to take on Putin when he's actually paying bounties to kill American soldiers in Afghanistan, when he's engaged in activities that are trying to destabilize all of NATO. I don't know why he doesn't do it, but it's worth asking the question. Why isn't that being done? Any country that interferes with us will, in fact, pay a price, because they're affecting our sovereignty.

Kristen Welker: (31:45) President Trump, same question to you. [crosstalk 00:31:48] Let me ask the question. You're going to have two minutes to respond. For two elections in a row now, there has been substantial interference from foreign adversaries. What would you do in your next term to put an end to this? Two minutes, uninterrupted.

Donald Trump: (31:58) Well, let me respond to the first part, as Joe answered. Joe got \$3.5 million from Russia and it came through Putin, because he was very friendly with the former mayor of Moscow and it was the mayor of Moscow's wife. And you got \$3.5 million. Your family got \$3.5 million. And someday you're going to have to explain, why did you get three and a half? I never got any money from Russia. I don't get money from Russia.

Donald Trump: (32:22) Now, about your thing last night. I knew all about that. And through John — who is John Ratcliffe, who is fantastic, DNI — he said the one thing that's common to both of them.

Donald Trump: (00:00) They both want you to lose because there has been nobody tougher to Russia between the sanctions, nobody tougher than me on Russia, between the sanctions, between all of what I've done with NATO. I've got the NATO countries to put up an extra \$130 billion going to \$420 billion a year. That's to guard against Russia. I sold, while he was selling pillows and sheets, I sold tank busters to Ukraine. There has been nobody tougher on Russia than Donald Trump.

Donald Trump: (00:33)
And I'll tell you, they were so bad. They took over the submarine port, you remember that very well, during your term, during you and Barack Obama. They took over a big part of what should have been Ukraine. You handed it to them. But you were getting a lot of money from Russia. They were paying you a lot of money, and they probably still are. But now, with what came out today, it's even worse. All of the emails, the emails, the horrible emails of the kind of money that you were raking in, you and your family. And Joe, you were vice-president when some of this was happening, and it should have never happened.

And I think you owe an explanation to the American people. Why is it, somebody just had a news conference a little while ago who was essentially supposed to work with you and your family, but what he said was damning. And regardless of me, I think you have to clean it up and talk to the American people. Maybe you can do it right now.

Kristen Welker: (01:29) Vice-President Biden, you may respond-

Joe Biden: (01:31) [crosstalk 00:01:31].

Kristen Welker: (01:31) ... and then I do want to follow up on the election security.

Joe Biden: (01:33) I have not taken a penny from any foreign source ever in my life. We learned that this president paid 50 times the tax in China as a secret bank account with China, does business in China, and in fact, is talking about me taking money? I have not taken a single penny from any country, whatsoever, ever, number one.

Joe Biden: (01:57) Number two, this is a president... I have released all of my tax returns, 22 years, go look at them, 22 years of my tax return. You have not released a single solitary year of your tax return. What are you hiding? Why are you unwilling? The foreign countries are paying you a lot. Russia's paying you a lot. China's paying you a lot on your hotels and all your businesses all around the country, all around the world. And China's building a new road to a new golf course you have overseas. So, what's going on here? Release your tax return or stop talking about corruption.

Kristen Welker: (02:32) President Trump, your response.

Donald Trump: (02:33) First of all, I called my accountants, underwrote it, I'm going to release them as soon as we can. I want to do it. And it'll show how successful, how great this company is. But much more importantly than that, people were saying \$750. I asked them a week ago, I said, "What did I pay?" They said, "Sir, you prepaid tens of millions of dollars." I prepaid my tax, over the last number of years, tens of millions of dollars, I prepaid, because at some point, they think it's an estimate. They think I may have to pay tax. So I already prepaid it. Nobody told me that. Nobody told you that.

Kristen Welker: (03:11) Did your accountant tell you [crosstalk 00:03:11]?

Donald Trump: (03:11) Excuse me. And it wasn't written. Whenever they write this, they keep talking about \$750, which I think is a filing fee, but let me just tell you, I prepaid millions and millions of dollars in taxes, number one.

Donald Trump: (03:23) Number two, I don't make money from China. You do. I don't make money from Ukraine. You do. I don't make money from Russia. You made \$3.5 million, Joe, and your son gave you, they even have a statement that we have to give 10% to the big man. You're the big man, I think. I don't know, maybe you're not, but you're

the big man, I think. Your son said we have to give 10% to the big men. Joe, what's that all about? It's terrible.

Kristen Welker: (03:50) All right, gentlemen. I want to ask you both some questions about all of this, but...

Joe Biden: (03:52) I have to respond to that.

Kristen Welker: (03:53) I'm going to let you both respond very quickly. You just said you spoke to your accountant about potentially releasing your taxes, did he tell you when you can release them? Do you have a deadline for when you're going to release them to the American people?

Donald Trump: (04:02) As soon as the auditors finish. I get treated worse than the tea party got treated, because I have a lot of people in there-

Kristen Welker: (04:07) [crosstalk 00:04:06].

Donald Trump: (04:08) ... deep down in the IRS, they treat me horribly. We made a deal, it was all settled until I decide to run for president. I get treated very badly by the IRS, very unfairly, but we had a deal all done. As soon as we're completed with the deal, I want to release it, but I have paid millions and millions of dollars and it's worse than paying. I paid in advance. It's called prepaying your taxes. I paid [crosstalk 00:04:32].

Kristen Welker: (04:31) Okay. I want to ask you both about questions regarding your potential foreign entanglements and questions that have been raised to give you both a chance to talk about this more broadly. Respond very quickly, and then I'll get to my question.

Joe Biden: (04:43) Why did he... he's been saying this for four years, show us, just show us, stop playing around. You've been saying for four years you're going to release your taxes.

Donald Trump: (04:52) Everybody knows.

Joe Biden: (04:53) Nobody knows, Mr. President. What they do know is you're not paying your taxes, or you're paying taxes that are so low, when last time he said, what he paid, he said, I only pay that little because I'm smart. I know how to game the system. Come on. Come on, folks.

Donald Trump: (05:10) So...

Kristen Welker: (05:11) [crosstalk 00:05:11] President Trump, and then I want to get to two questions to both of you on this.

Joe Biden: (05:13) Sure.

Donald Trump: (05:14) I was put through a phony witch hunt for three years. It started before I even got elected. They spied on my campaign. No president should ever have to go through what I went through. Let me just say this, Mueller and 18 angry Democrats and FBI agents all over the place spent \$48 million. They went through everything I had, including my tax returns, and they found absolutely no collusion and nothing wrong. \$48 million. I guarantee you, if I spent \$1 million on you, Joe, I could find plenty wrong because the kind of things-

Kristen Welker: (05:52) All right.

Donald Trump: (05:52) ... that you've done and the kind of monies that your family has taken, I mean, your brother made money in Iraq-

Kristen Welker: (05:58) Let me...

Donald Trump: (05:58) ... millions of dollars. Your other brother made a fortune, and it's all through you, Joe. And they say you get some of it. And you do live very well, you have houses all over the place. You live very well.

Kristen Welker: (06:08) All right, gentlemen. Let me just ask some questions about all of this broadly. Vice-President Biden, there have been questions about the work your son has done in China and for a Ukrainian energy company when you were vice-president, in retrospect, was anything about those relationships inappropriate or unethical?

Joe Biden: (06:24) Nothing was unethical. Here's what the deal. With regard to Ukraine. We had this whole question about whether or not, because he was on the board, I later learned of Burisma, a company that somehow, I had done something wrong, yet every single solitary person, when he was going through his impeachment, testifying under oath, who work for him, said I did my job impeccably. I carried out U.S. policy, not one single solitary thing was out of line, not a single thing, number one.

Joe Biden: (06:57) Number two, the guy who got in trouble in Ukraine was this guy trying to bribe the Ukrainian government to say something negative about me, which they would not do and did not do because it never ever, ever happened. My son has not made money in terms of this thing about, what are you talking about, China. I have not had... the only guy who made money from China is this guy. He's the only one. Nobody else has made money from China.

Kristen Welker: (07:25) President Trump-

Donald Trump: (07:25) [crosstalk 00:07:25]...

Kristen Welker: (07:26) ... let me ask my question to you [crosstalk 00:07:28]...

Donald Trump: (07:28) But could I just one thing?

Kristen Welker: (07:29) Very quickly.

Donald Trump: (07:29) His son didn't have a job for a long time, was, sadly, no longer in the military service, I won't get into that, and he didn't have a job. As soon as he became vice-president, Burisma, not the best reputation in the world, I hear they paid him \$183,000 a month, listen to this, \$183,000, and they gave him a \$3 million upfront payment, and he had no energy experience. That's 100% dishonest.

Kristen Welker: (07:55) All right. I'm going to let the vice-president respond to that quickly, and then I need to get to a question to you. Very quickly, Mr. Vice-President.

Joe Biden: (08:01) No basis for that. Everybody investigated that. No one said anything he did was wrong in Ukraine.

Kristen Welker: (08:03) Okay. President Trump, this is for you. Since you took office, you've never divested from your business. You've personally promoted your properties abroad. A report this week, which was referenced, does indicate that your company has a bank account in China. So how can voters know that you don't have any foreign conflicts of interest?

Donald Trump: (08:19) I have many bank accounts and they're all listed and they're all over the place. I mean, I was a businessman doing business. The bank account you're referring to, which is, everybody knows about it, it's listed, the bank account was in 2013. That's what it was. It was opened. It was closed in 2015, I believe. And then I decided, because I was going to do... I was thinking about doing a deal in China, like millions of other people, I was thinking about it and I decided I'm not going to do it, didn't like it, I decided not to do it, had an account open and I closed it.

Kristen Welker: (08:54) Okay.

Donald Trump: (08:54) Excuse me. And then, unlike him where he's vice-president and he does business, I then decided to run for president after that. That was before. So I closed it before I even ran for president, let alone became president, big difference. He is the vice-president of the United States and his son, his brother, and his other brother are getting rich. They're like a vacuum cleaner. They're sucking up money [crosstalk 00:09:20].

Kristen Welker: (09:19) Okay. President Trump, thank you. We do need to move on.

Joe Biden: (09:21) Not true.

Kristen Welker: (09:22) I do want to ask you, Vice-President Biden, about China. Let's talk about China more broadly. There have, of course, President Trump has said that they

should pay for not being fully transparent in regards to the coronavirus. If you were president, would you make China pay? And please be specific, what would that look like?

Joe Biden: (09:41) What I'd make China do is play by the international rules, not like he has done. He has caused the deficit of the China to go up, not down, with China, up, not down. We are making sure that in order to do business in China, you have to give all your intellectual property. You have to have a partner in China. It's 51%, we would not do that at all, number one.

Joe Biden: (10:03) Number two, we're in a situation where China would have to play by the rules internationally as well. When I met with Xi and when I was still vice-president, he said we're setting up air identification zones in the South China Sea. You can't fly through them. I said we're going to fly through them. We just flew B-52, B-1 bombers through it. We're not going to pay attention. They have to play by the rules. And what's he do? He embraces guys like the thugs, like in North Korea and the Chinese president and Putin and others, and he pokes his finger [inaudible 00:10:36] all of our friends, all of our allies. We make up only... we're 25%, 25% of the world's economy. We need to be having the rest of our friends with us saying to China, "These are the rules. You play by them, or you're going to pay the price for not paying by them economically."

Joe Biden: (10:54) That's the way I will run it, and that's what we did and upholding steel tariffs and a range of other things when we were president and vice-president.

Kristen Welker: (11:01) All right. Let's talk about North Korea.

Donald Trump: (11:02) No, no, no.

Kristen Welker: (11:03) Let...

Donald Trump: (11:03) Excuse me. No, I have to...

Joe Biden: (11:03) ... and Vice President.

Kristen Welker: (11:03) All right, let's talk about North Korea-

Donald Trump: (11:03) Excuse me. No, I have to respond to that.

Kristen Welker: (11:05) Okay. Very quickly, and then we're going to move on to North Korea.

Donald Trump: (11:07) His son walked out with a billion and a half dollars from China to ...

Joe Biden: (11:08) Not true.

Donald Trump: (11:10) ... after spending 10 minutes in office and being in Air Force Two. Number one. Number two, there's a very strong email talking about your family wanting to make \$10 million a year for introductions.

Kristen Welker: (11:22) President Trump, on China policy-

Joe Biden: (11:24) That's not true.

Kristen Welker: (11:24) ... though, what specifically-

Donald Trump: (11:24) No, but wait a minute.

Kristen Welker: (11:25) What are you going to do, what specifically are you going to do to make China pay? You've said you're going to make them pay.

Donald Trump: (11:30) First of all, China is paying. They're paying billions and billions of dollars. I just gave \$28 billion.

Kristen Welker: (11:35) New sanctions?

Donald Trump: (11:36) I just gave \$28 billion to our farmers.

Joe Biden: (11:39) Tax payer's money.

Donald Trump: (11:41) It's what?

Joe Biden: (11:42) Taxpayer's money. Didn't come from China.

Donald Trump: (11:44) No, no. You know who the taxpayer is? It's called China.

Joe Biden: (11:46) Not true.

Donald Trump: (11:46) China pays 28 billion, and you know what they did to pay it, Joe? They devalued their currency and they also paid up, and you know got the money? Our farmers, our great farmers, because they were targeted. You never charged them anything. Also, I charged them 25% on dumped steel, because they were killing our steel industry. We were not going to have a steel industry.

Kristen Welker: (12:06) Okay.

Donald Trump: (12:06) And now we have a steel industry.

Kristen Welker: (12:07) Okay. Vice President Biden, your response, please.

Joe Biden: (12:09) My response is, look, there's a reason why he's bringing up all this malarkey. There's a reason for it. He doesn't want to talk about the substantive issues. It's

not about his family and my family. It's about your family, and your family's hurting badly. If you're a middle-class family, you're getting hurt badly right now. You're sitting at the kitchen table this morning deciding, "Well, we can't get new tires. They're bald, because we have to wait another month or so." Or, "Are we going to be able to pay the mortgage?" Or, "Who's going to tell her she can't go back to community college?" They're the decisions you're making, and the middle-class families like I grew up in Scranton and Claymont, they're in trouble. We should be talking about your families, but that's the last thing he wants to talk about.

Donald Trump: (12:53) That is a typical statement.

Joe Biden: (12:54) I want to talk about North Korea.

Donald Trump: (12:56) Excuse me. Just for one second, please.

Kristen Welker: (12:57) 10 seconds, Mr. President. 10 seconds.

Donald Trump: (12:59) That's a typical political statement. Let's get off this China thing, and then he looks, "The family around the table, everything." Just a typical politician when I see that. I'm not a typical politician.

Kristen Welker: (13:07) Let's talk about North Korea now.

Donald Trump: (13:08) That's why I got elected. Let's get off the subject of China. Let's talk about sitting around the table. Come on, Joe. You could do better.

Kristen Welker: (13:16) We're going to talk about North Korea now. President Trump, you've met with North Korean leader Kim Jong-un three times. You've talked about your beautiful letters with him. You've touted the fact that there hasn't been a war or a long range missile test, and yet North Korea recently rolled out its biggest ever intercontinental ballistic missile and continues to develop its nuclear arsenal. Do you see that as a betrayal of the relationship you forged.

Donald Trump: (13:38) No.

Kristen Welker: (13:38) Just 30 seconds here because we need to get onto the next topic.

Donald Trump: (13:40) So when I met with Barack Obama, we sat in the White House, right at the beginning, had a great conversation. Was supposed to be 15 minutes and it was well over an hour. He said, "The biggest problem we have is North Korea." He indicated we will be in a war with North Korea. Guess what? It would be a nuclear war. And he does have plenty of nuclear capability. In the meantime, I have a very good relationship with him. Different kind of a guy, but he probably thinks the same thing about me. We have a different kind of a relationship. We have a very good relationship and there's no war. And about two months ago, he broke into a certain area. They said, "Oh, there's going to be

trouble.” I said, “No, they’re not, because he’s not going to do that.” And I was right. Look, instead of being in a war where millions of people, Seoul is 25 miles away, millions and millions, 32 million people. Millions of people would be dead right now. We don’t have a war and I have a good relationship.

Kristen Welker: (14:31) President Trump, that’s 30 seconds. Vice President Biden to you. North Korea conducted four nuclear tests under the Obama administration. Why do you think you would be able to reign in this persistent threatening?

Joe Biden: (14:42) Because I’d make it clear, which we were making clear to China, they had to be part of the deal, because I made it clear as a spokesperson for the illustration when I went to China that I said, “Why are you moving your missile defense up so close? Why are you moving more forces here? Why are you continue to do military maneuvers with South Korea?” I said, “Because North Korea is a problem, and we’re going to continue to do it so we can control them. We’re going to make sure we can control them and make sure they can not hurt us. And so if you want to do something about it, step up and help. If not, it’s going to continue.” What has he done? He’s legitimized North Korea. He’s talked about his good buddy, who’s a thug, a thug. And he talks about how we’re better off. And they have much more capable missiles, able to reach us territory much more easily than they ever did before.

Kristen Welker: (15:31) Let me follow up with you, Vice President Biden. You’ve said you wouldn’t meet with Kim Jong-un without preconditions. Are there any conditions under which you would meet with him?

Joe Biden: (15:39) On the condition that he would agree that he would be drawing down his nuclear capacity. The Korean Peninsula should be a nuclear free zone.

Kristen Welker: (15:48) All right. Let’s move on to American families.

Donald Trump: (15:51) Kristen.

Kristen Welker: (15:51) Very quickly, 10 seconds, President Trump.

Donald Trump: (15:53) They tried to meet with him. He wouldn’t do it. He didn’t like Obama. He didn’t like him. He wouldn’t do it.

Kristen Welker: (15:59) Okay, I’ve got to give him a chance to respond to that before we move on.

Donald Trump: (16:01) I know for a fact. They tried. We wouldn’t do it. And that’s okay. You know what? North Korea, we’re not in a war. We have a good relationship. People don’t understand. Having a good relationship with leaders of other countries is a good thing.

Kristen Welker: (16:12) President Trump, we have to move on, because we have a lot of questions to get to. Your response.

Joe Biden: (16:15) We had a good relationship with Hitler before he, in fact, invaded Europe, the rest of Europe. Come on. The reason he would not meet with President Obama is because President Obama said, "We're going to talk about denuclearization. We're not going to legitimize you and we're going to continue to push stronger and stronger sanctions on you." That's why he wouldn't meet with us.

Kristen Welker: (16:36) All right, let's move on.

Donald Trump: (16:38) And it didn't happen.

Kristen Welker: (16:38) Let's move on and talk about American families.

Donald Trump: (16:38) Excuse me. He left me a mess. Kristen.

Kristen Welker: (16:40) President Trump. Okay

Donald Trump: (16:41) They left me a mess. North Korea was a mess, and in fact, if you remember the first two or three months. It was a very dangerous period in my first three months before we worked things out a little bit.

Kristen Welker: (16:54) Okay.

Donald Trump: (16:54) There was a very day. They left us a mess, and Obama would be, I think, the first to say it, was the single biggest problem he thought that our country [crosstalk 00:17:03].

Kristen Welker: (17:03) Okay, let's move on to American families and the economy. One of the issues that's most important to them is healthcare, as you both know. Today, there was a key vote on a new Supreme Court Justice, Amy Coney Barrett, and healthcare is at the center of her confirmation fight. Over 20 million Americans get their health insurance through the Affordable Care Act. It's headed to the Supreme Court and your administration, Mr. President, is advocating for the court to overturn it. If the Supreme Court does overturn that law, there's 20 million Americans could lose their health insurance almost overnight. So what would you do if those people have their health insurance taken away? You have two minutes uninterrupted.

Donald Trump: (17:40) First of all, I've already done something that nobody thought was possible. Through the legislature, I terminated the individual mandate. That is the worst part of Obamacare, as we call it. The individual mandate where you have to pay a fortune for the privilege of not having to pay for bad health insurance, I terminated. It's gone. Now, it's in court, because Obamacare is no good. But then I made a decision, run it as well as you can, to my people, great people, run it as well as you can. I could have gone

the other route and made everybody very unhappy. They ran it. Premiums are down. Everything's down. Here's the problem. No matter how well you run it, it's no good. What we'd like to do is terminate it. We have the individual mandate done. I don't know that it's going to work. If we don't win, we will have to run it and we'll have Obamacare, but it'll be better run. But it no longer is Obamacare, because without the individual mandate, it's much different.

Donald Trump: (18:36) Pre-existing conditions will always stay. What I would like to do is a much better healthcare, much better. We'll always protect people with pre-existing. So I'd like to terminate Obamacare, come up with a brand new, beautiful healthcare. The Democrats will do it, because there'll be tremendous pressure on them. And we might even have the House by that time. And I think we're going to win the House. You'll see, but I think we're going to win the House. But come up with a better healthcare, always protecting people with pre-existing conditions. And one thing very important, we have 180 million people out there that have great private healthcare. Far more than we're talking about with Obamacare. Joe Biden is going to terminate all of those policies. These are people that love their healthcare. People that have been successful, middle-income people, been successful. They have 180 million plans, 180 million people, families. Under what he wants to do, which will basically be socialized medicine, he won't even have a choice, they want to terminate 180 million plans. We have done an incredible job at healthcare, and we're going to do even better. Just you watch.

Kristen Welker: (19:43) Okay. Vice President Biden, yes, this is for you. Your healthcare plan calls for building on Obamacare. So my question is, what is your plan if the law is ruled unconstitutional by the Supreme Court? You have two minutes uninterrupted.

Joe Biden: (19:56) What I'm going to do is pass Obamacare with a public option, and become Bidencare. The public option is an option that says that if you in fact do not have the wherewithal, if you qualify for Medicaid and you do not have the wherewithal in your state to get Medicaid, you automatically are enrolled, providing competition for insurance companies. That's what's going to happen. Secondly, we're going to make sure we reduce the premiums and reduce drug prices by making sure that there's competition, that doesn't exist now, by allowing Medicare to negotiate drug prices with the insurance companies. Thirdly, the idea that I want to eliminate private insurance, the reason why I had such a fight with 20 candidates for the nomination was I support private insurance. That's why. Not one single person with private insurance would lose their insurance under my plan, nor did they under Obamacare. They did not lose their insurance unless they chose they wanted to go to something else.

Joe Biden: (20:59) Lastly, we're going to make sure we're in a situation that we actually protect pre-existing. There's no way he can protect pre-existing conditions. None, zero. You can't do it in the ether. He's been talking about this for a long time. He's never come up with a plan. I guess we're going to get the pre-existing condition plan the same time we got the infrastructure plan that we waited for since '17, '18, '19, and 20. I still have a

few more minutes. I know you're getting anxious. The fact is that he's already cost the American people, because of his terrible handling of the COVID virus and economic spillover. 10 million people have lost their private insurance, and he wants to take away 22 million more people who have it under Obamacare and over 110 million people with pre-existing conditions. And all the people from COVID are going to have pre-existing conditions, what are they going to do?

Kristen Welker: (21:51) I have a follow-up for you Vice President Biden. It relates to something that President Trump said. He's accusing you of wanting socialized medicine. What do you say to people who have concerns that your healthcare plan, which includes a government insurance option, takes-

Kristen Welker: (22:03) Concerns that your healthcare plan, which includes a government insurance option, takes the country one step closer to a healthcare system run entirely by the government. What's your response to that?

Joe Biden: (22:09) I say it's ridiculous. It's like saying that the fact that there's a public option that people can choose, that makes it a socialist plan. Look, the difference between the president and I... I think healthcare is not a privilege, it's a right. Everyone should have the right to have affordable healthcare, and I am very proud of my plan. It's gotten endorsed by all the major labor unions, as well as a whole range of other people who, in fact, are concerned in the medical field. This is something that's going to save people's lives. And this is going to give some people an opportunity to have healthcare for their children. How many of you at home are worried and rolling around in bed tonight, wondering what in God's name you're going to do if you get sick, because you've lost your health insurance and your company's gone under? We have to provide health insurance for people at an affordable rate, and that's what I do.

Kristen Welker: (23:00) President Trump-

Donald Trump: (23:00) Excuse me. He was there-

Kristen Welker: (23:01) ... your response.

Donald Trump: (23:02) ... for 47 years. He didn't do it. He was now there as vice president for eight years. And it's not like it was 25 years ago. It was three and three quarters... It was just a little while ago, right? Less than four years ago. He didn't do anything. He didn't do it. He wants socialized medicine. And it's not that he wants it. His vice president, she is more liberal than Bernie Sanders and wants it even more. Bernie Sanders wants it. The Democrats want it. You're going to have socialized medicine, just like you want it with fracking. "We're not going to have fracking. We're going to stop fracking. We're going to stop fracking." Then he goes to Pennsylvania after he gets a nomination, where he got very lucky to get it. And he goes to Pennsylvania, and he says, "Oh, we're going to

have fracking.” And you never ask that question. And by the way, so far, I respect very much the way you’re handling this, I have to say.

Joe Biden: (23:50) By the way-

Donald Trump: (23:50) But somebody should ask the question.

Joe Biden: (23:52) You can ask it.

Donald Trump: (23:52) He goes for a year, there will be no fracking.

Kristen Welker: (23:55) We do have a number-

Donald Trump: (23:56) There will be no petroleum-

Kristen Welker: (23:56) We have a number of topics we’re going to get to.

Donald Trump: (24:00) No, no. But that’s a big question.

Kristen Welker: (24:01) We’re going to get to a number of topics-

Donald Trump: (24:01) It’s the same thing with socialized medicine.

Joe Biden: (24:03) I have to respond to healthcare.

Kristen Welker: (24:04) Vice President, your response please.

Joe Biden: (24:04) My response is, people deserve to have affordable healthcare, period. Period, period, period. And the Biden care proposal will in fact provide for that affordable healthcare, lower premiums. What we’re going to do is going to cost some money. It’s going to cost over \$750 billion over 10 years to do it. And they’re going to have lower premiums. You can buy into the better plans, the cheaper plans, lower your premiums, deal with unexpected billing, and have your drug prices drop significantly. He keeps talking about it. He hasn’t done a thing for anybody on healthcare. Not a thing.

Donald Trump: (24:37) Kristen, when he says-

Kristen Welker: (24:38) Very quickly, then I want to talk about what’s happening on Capitol Hill.

Donald Trump: (24:39) When he says public option, he’s talking about socialized medicine and healthcare. When he talks about a public option, he’s talking about destroying your Medicare, totally destroying-

Joe Biden: (24:49) Wrong.

Donald Trump: (24:49) ... and destroying your Social Security. And this whole country will come down. Bernie Sanders tried it in his state.

Joe Biden: (24:56) Bernie.

Donald Trump: (24:56) He tried it in his state. His governor was a very liberal governor. They wanted to make it work.

Kristen Welker: (25:00) Okay. Let's hear-

Donald Trump: (25:01) It was impossible to work.

Kristen Welker: (25:02) Let's let Vice President Biden respond-

Donald Trump: (25:04) It doesn't work.

Joe Biden: (25:05) He's a very confused guy. He thinks he's running against somebody else. He's running against Joe Biden. I beat all those other people because I disagreed with them. Joe Biden, he's running against. And the idea that we're in a situation that is going to destroy Medicare... This is the guy that the actuary of Medicare said, "If in fact..." That's Social Security. "If in fact he continues his plan to withhold the tax on Social Security, Social Security will be bankrupt by 2023 with no way to make up for it." This is the guy who's tried to cut Medicare. The idea that Donald Trump is lecturing me on Social Security and Medicare? Come on.

Donald Trump: (25:48) He tried to get rid of-

Kristen Welker: (25:49) 10 seconds, Mr. President, and then I have to go to another question.

Donald Trump: (25:49) He tried to hurt Social Security years ago. Years ago. Go back and look at the records. He tried to hurt Social Security years ago. One thing. But this is the guy-

Kristen Welker: (25:57) All right. Let's move on. I'm going to move on.

Donald Trump: (25:59) ... that when they announced last week-

Kristen Welker: (26:00) Mr. President, I have to move on to the next question or else we're not going to have time to talk about it.

Donald Trump: (26:02) They say the stock market will boom if I'm elected. If he's elected, the stock market will crash.

Kristen Welker: (26:09) Okay. Let's move on to the next question.

Donald Trump: (26:09) The biggest analysts are saying that.

Joe Biden: (26:10) May I respond?

Kristen Welker: (26:10) Very quickly.

Joe Biden: (26:12) Look, the idea that the stock market is booming is his only measure of what's happening. Where I come from in Scranton and Claymont, the people don't live off of the stock market. Just in the last three years, during this crisis, the billionaires in this country made, according to Wall Street, 700 billion more dollars. 700 billion more dollars. Because that's his only measure. What happens to the ordinary people out there? What happens to them?

Kristen Welker: (26:41) Let's talk about what's happening on Capitol Hill.

Donald Trump: (26:44) 401(k)s. Kristen, 401(k)s are through the roof.

Kristen Welker: (26:45) We're going to move on.

Donald Trump: (26:46) People's stock are through the roof.

Kristen Welker: (26:47) All right.

Donald Trump: (26:48) And he doesn't come from Scranton. He lived there for a short period of time before he even knew it.

Kristen Welker: (26:54) Okay. We're going to move on to the next question.

Donald Trump: (26:55) And he left. And the people of Pennsylvania will show you that.

Kristen Welker: (26:57) Let me move on to my next question, gentlemen.

Donald Trump: (26:57) They understand.

Kristen Welker: (26:58) As of tonight, more than 12 million people are out of work. And as of tonight, 8 million more Americans have fallen into poverty, and more families are going hungry every day. Those hit hardest are women and people of color. They see Washington fighting over a relief bill. Mr. President, why haven't you been able to get them the help they need? 30 seconds here.

Donald Trump: (27:18) Because Nancy Pelosi doesn't want to approve it. I do.

Kristen Welker: (27:20) But you're the president.

Donald Trump: (27:22) I do. But I still have to get, unfortunately... That's one of the reasons I think we're going to take over the House, because of her. Nancy Pelosi doesn't

want to approve anything because she'd love to have some victories on a date called November 3rd. Nancy Pelosi does not want to approve it. We are ready, willing, and able to do something. Don't forget, we've already approved three plans. And it's gone through, including the Democrats, in all fairness. This one, she doesn't want. It's near the election. Because she thinks it helps her politically. I think it hurts her politically.

Kristen Welker: (27:50) All right, Mr. Vice President-

Joe Biden: (27:51) By the way, as you know, the Republican leader in the United States Senate said he can't pass it. He will be able to pass it. He does not have Republican votes. Why isn't he talking to his Republican friends?

Kristen Welker: (28:02) Let me follow up with you, Vice President Biden because-

Donald Trump: (28:04) If we made a deal, the Republicans will pass it.

Kristen Welker: (28:05) Let me ask Vice President Biden a question. You are the leader of the Democratic party. Why have you not pushed the Democrats to get a deal for the American people?

Joe Biden: (28:13) I have, and they have pushed it. Look, they passed this act all the way back in the beginning of the summer. It's not new. It's been out there. This HEROES Act has been sitting there. And look at what's happening. When I was in charge of the recovery act with \$800 billion, I was able to get \$145 billion to local communities that have to balance their budgets and states that have to balance their budgets. And then they have to fire firefighters, teachers, first responders, law enforcement officers, so they could keep their cities and counties running. He will not support that. They have not done a thing for them. And Mitch McConnell said, "Let them go bankrupt. Let them go bankrupt." Come on. What's the matter with these guys?

Donald Trump: (28:56) The bill that was passed in the House was a bailout of badly run, high crime, Democrat, all run by Democrat cities and states. It was a way of getting a lot of money, billions and billions of dollars, to these guys. It was also a way of getting a lot of money from our people's pockets to people that come into our country illegally. We were going to take care of everything for them. And I'd love to do that. I'd love to help them. But what that does, everybody all over the world will start pouring into our country. We can't do it. This was a way of taking care of them. This was a way of spending on things that had nothing to do with COVID, as per your question. But it was really a big bailout for badly run Democrat cities and states.

Kristen Welker: (29:39) All right. I want to-

Joe Biden: (29:40) By the way, if I get elected, I'm not going to... I'm running as a proud Democrat, but I'm going to be an American president. I don't see red states and blue states. What I see is American United States. And folks, every single state out there finds itself

in trouble. They're going to start laying off, whether they're red or blue, cops, firefighters, first responders, teachers, because they have to balance their budget. And the founders were smart. They allowed the federal government to deficit spend to compensate for the United States of America.

Kristen Welker: (30:10) I want to talk about the minimum wage, gentlemen. Mr. Vice President, we are talking a lot about struggling small businesses and business owners these days. Do you think this is the right time to ask them to raise the minimum wage? You of course support a \$15 federal minimum wage.

Joe Biden: (30:24) I do, because I think one of the things we're going to have to do is we're going to have to bail them out too. We should be bailing them out now, those small businesses. You got one in six of them going under. They're not going to be able to make it back. They passed a package that allows us to be able... They call it PPP. Money is supposed to go to help them do everything from organize how they can deal with their businesses being open safely, schools, how they can make classrooms smaller, how they can hire more teachers, how they can put ventilation systems in. They need the help. The businesses, as well as the schools, need the help. These guys will not help them. It's not giving them any of the money.

Kristen Welker: (31:05) We are going to move on to immigration, but I want to get-

Donald Trump: (31:06) Excuse me. One thing very quickly. He said we have to help our small businesses by raising the minimum wage. That's not helping. I think it should be a state option. Alabama is different than New York. New York is different from Vermont. Every state is different. It should be a state option.

Kristen Welker: (31:21) You said very recently-

Donald Trump: (31:22) It's very important. We have to help our small businesses.

Kristen Welker: (31:25) You said-

Donald Trump: (31:25) How are you helping your small businesses when you're forcing wages? What's going to happen, and what's been proven to happen, is when you do that, these small businesses fire many of their employees.

Kristen Welker: (31:35) You said very recently-

Joe Biden: (31:35) Not true, by the way.

Kristen Welker: (31:36) ... you would consider raising the federal minimum wage to \$15 an hour.

Donald Trump: (31:39) Say it. Say it.

Kristen Welker: (31:39) You said recently you would consider raising the federal minimum wage to \$15 an hour.

Donald Trump: (31:44) What I really like, and I would consider it to an extent-

Kristen Welker: (31:46) In a second administration?

Donald Trump: (31:47) But what I really like... In a second administration. But not to a level that's going to put all these businesses out of business. It should be a state option. Look, I've lived-

Joe Biden: (31:55) Every-

Donald Trump: (31:56) ... in different places. I know different places. They're all different. Some places, \$ 15 is not so bad. In other places, other states, \$15 would be ruinings.

Kristen Welker: (32:05) Okay, President Trump, thank you. Quick response Vice President Biden.

Joe Biden: (32:09) No one should work one job, be below poverty. People are making six, seven, eight bucks an hour. These first responders we all clap for as they come down the street because they've allowed us to make it. What's happening? They deserve a minimum wage of \$15. Anything below that puts you below the poverty level. And there is no evidence that when you raise the minimum wage, businesses go out of business. That is simply not true.

Kristen Welker: (32:34) We're going to talk about immigration.

Joe Biden: (32:35) It's an [crosstalk 00:32:35]-

Kristen Welker: (32:37) We're going to talk about immigration now, gentlemen. And we're going to talk about families within this context. Mr. President, your administration separated children from their parents at the border, at least 4,000 kids. You've since reversed your zero tolerance policy, but the United States can't locate the parents of more than 500 children. So how will these families ever be reunited?

Donald Trump: (32:57) Children are brought here by coyotes and lots of bad people, cartels...

Donald Trump: (33:02) [inaudible 00:33:00] and lots of bad people, cartels, and they're brought here and they used to use them to get into our country. We now have as strong a border as we've ever had. We're over 400 miles of brand new wall. You see the numbers. And we let people in, but they have to come in legally and they come in through [crosstalk 00:00:17]-

Kristen Welker: (33:17) But how will you reunite these kids with their families, Mr. President?

Donald Trump: (33:20) But let me just tell you. Let me just tell you. They built cages. They used to say I built the cages, and then they had a picture in a certain newspaper, and it was the picture of these horrible cages and they said, "Look at these cages. President Trump built them." And then it was determined they were built in 2014. That was him. They built cages.

Kristen Welker: (33:39) Do you have a plan to reunite the kids with their families?

Donald Trump: (33:39) Yes. We're working on it very... We're trying very hard. But a lot of these kids come out without the parents. They come over through cartels and through coyotes and through gangs.

Kristen Welker: (33:48) Vice President Biden, let me bring you into this conversation. Quick response, and then another question to you.

Joe Biden: (33:52) These 500-plus kids came with parents. They separated them at the border to make it a disincentive to come to begin with. "Be real tough. We're really strong." And guess what? They cannot... Coyotes didn't bring them over. Their parents were with them. They got separated from their parents. And it makes us a laughingstock and violates every notion of who we are as a nation.

Kristen Welker: (34:18) Let me ask you a followup question.

Donald Trump: (34:19) Kristen, they did it. We changed the policy. They did it. We changed.

Kristen Welker: (34:22) Your response to that?

Joe Biden: (34:22) We did not separate the [crosstalk 00:34:25]-

Donald Trump: (34:26) They built the cages. Who built the cages, Joe?

Joe Biden: (34:27) Let's talk about what we're talking about.

Donald Trump: (34:28) Who built the cages, Joe?

Joe Biden: (34:29) Let's talk about what we're talking about. What happened? Parents were ripped... Their kids were ripped from their arms and separated, and now they cannot find over 500 of the sets of those parents, and those kids are alone. Nowhere to go. Nowhere to go. It's criminal. It's criminal.

Kristen Welker: (34:49) Let me ask you about [crosstalk 00:34:50] in 10 seconds and then I need to ask [crosstalk 00:34:53].

Donald Trump: (34:50) Kristen, I will say this. They went down. We brought reporters, everything. They are so well taken care of. They're in facilities that were so clean.

Kristen Welker: (34:58) But some of them haven't been reunited with their families.

Donald Trump: (35:00) They have gotten such good... But just ask one question. Who built the cages? I'd love you to ask him that. Who built the cages, Joe?

Kristen Welker: (35:05) Let me ask about your immigration policy, Mr. Vice President. The Obama Administration did fail to deliver immigration reform, which had been a key promise during the administration. It also presided over record deportations, as well as, family detentions at the border before changing course. So why should voters trust you with an immigration overhaul now?

Joe Biden: (35:23) Because we made a mistake made. It took too long to get it right. Took too long to get it right. I'll be President of the United States, not Vice President of the United States. And the fact is I've made it very clear. Within a 100 days, I'm going to send to the United States Congress a pathway to citizenship for over 11 million undocumented people. And all of those so-called dreamers, those DACA kids, they're going to be immediately certified again to be able to stay in this country and put on a path to citizenship. The idea that they are being sent home by this guy and they want to do that is they've gone to they've never seen before. I can imagine. You're five years old. Your parents are taking across the Rio Grande River and it's illegal. And you say, "Oh, no, Mom. Leave me here. I'm not going to go with you." They been here. Many of them are model citizens. Over 20,000 of them are first responders out there taking care of people during this crisis. We owe them. We owe them.

Kristen Welker: (36:24) President Trump, your reaction.

Donald Trump: (36:24) Kristen, he had eight years to do what he said he was going to do. And I've changed. Without having a specific, we got rid of catch and release. We got rid of a lot of horrible things that they put in and that they lived with. But he had eight years he was Vice President. He did nothing except build cages to keep children in.

Kristen Welker: (36:47) Vice President Biden, your response.

Joe Biden: (36:48) The catch and release, you know what he's talking about there? If in fact you had a family came across and they were arrested, they in fact were given a date to show up for their hearing. They were released. And guess what? They showed up for a hearing. And this is the first President in the history of the United States of America that anybody seeking asylum has to do it in another country. That's never happened before in America. That's never happened before in America. You come to the United States and

you make your case that, “I seek asylum based on the following premise, why I deserve it under American law.” They’re sitting in squalor on the other side of the river.

Kristen Welker: (37:27) President Trump, your response. 30 seconds. And then we’ll move on.

Donald Trump: (37:29) So important. It just shows that he has no understanding of immigration, of the laws. Catch and release is a disaster. A murderer would come in. A rapist would come in. A very bad person would come in. We would take their name. We have to release them into our country. And then you say they come back. Less than 1% of the people come back. We have to send ICE out and Border Patrol out to find them. We would say, “Come back in two years, three years. We’re going to give you a court case. You did Perry Mason. We’re going to give you a court case.” When you say they come back, they don’t come back, Joe. They never come back. Only the really... I hate to say this, but those with the lowest IQ, they might come back, but there are very, very few.

Kristen Welker: (38:15) Okay, President Trump. Let’s give Vice President Biden a chance to respond, and then we’re going to move on to the next section.

Donald Trump: (38:20) You don’t know the law, Joe.

Kristen Welker: (38:21) Vice President Biden, your response.

Joe Biden: (38:22) Know the law, what he’s telling you is simply not true. Check it out.

Donald Trump: (38:25) Well, check it out. They don’t come back.

Joe Biden: (38:26) Check it out.

Kristen Welker: (38:27) All right. Let’s move on to the next section.

Donald Trump: (38:28) But we don’t have to worry about it, because they terminated it. So we don’t have to worry about it anymore, Joe.

Kristen Welker: (38:30) Let’s move on to the next section.

Joe Biden: (38:32) That’s right. And you 525 kids not knowing where in God’s name they’re going to be and lost their parents.

Donald Trump: (38:36) Go ahead.

Kristen Welker: (38:37) All right. Let’s talk about our next section, which is race in America. And I want to talk about the way Black and Brown Americans experience race in this country. Part of that experience is something called the talk. It happens regardless of class and income, parents who feel they have no choice, but to prepare their children

for the chance that they could be targeted, including by the police, for no reason other than the color of their skin. Mr. Vice President, in the next two minutes, I want you to speak directly to these families. Do you understand why these parents fear for their children?

Joe Biden: (39:14) I do. I do. My daughter is a social worker and she's written a lot about this. She has her graduate degree from the University of Pennsylvania in social work. And one of the reasons why I ended up working on the East Side of Wilmington, Delaware, which is 90% African-American, was to learn more about what was going on. I never had to tell my daughter if she's pulled over, make sure she puts... For a traffic stop. "Put both hands on top of the wheel and don't reach for the glove box because someone may shoot you." But a Black parent, no matter how wealthy or how poor they are, has to teach their child, "When you're walking down the street, don't have a hoodie on when you go across the street.

Joe Biden: (00:00) Making sure that you, in fact, if you get pulled over just, yes, sir, no, sir. Hands on top of the wheel. Because you are in fact, the victim, whether you're a person making 300,000 ... child of a \$300,000 a year person or someone who's on food stamps. The fact of the matter is, there is institutional racism in America. And we have always said, we've never lived up to it, that we hold these truths to be self-evident, all men and women are created equal. Well, guess what, we have never, ever lived up to it. But we've always constantly been moving the needle further and further to inclusion, not exclusion. This is the first president to come along and says, that's the end of that. We're not going to do that anymore. We have to provide for economic opportunity, better education, better healthcare, better access to schooling, better access to opportunity to borrow money to start businesses, all the things we can do. And I've laid out a clear plan as to how to do those things just to give people a shot. It's about accumulating the ability to have wealth as well as it is to be free from violence.

Kristen Welker: (01:06) President Trump, same question to you, and let me remind you of the question. I would like you to speak directly to these families, do you understand why these parents fear for their children?

Donald Trump: (01:15) Yes, I do. And again, he's been in government 47 years, he never did a thing, except in 1994, when he did such harm to the black community, and they were called ... and he called them superpredators. And he said that, he said it, superpredators. And they never lived that down. 1994, your crime bill, the superpredators. Nobody has done more for the black community than Donald Trump. And if you look, with the exception of Abraham Lincoln, possible exception, but the exception of Abraham Lincoln, nobody has done what I've done. Criminal justice reform, Obama and Joe didn't do it. I don't even think they tried because they had no chance at doing it. They might've wanted to do it. But if you had to see the arms I had to twist to get that done, it was not a pretty picture. And everybody knows it, including some very liberal people that cried in my office. They cried in the Oval Office.

Donald Trump: (02:15) Two weeks later, they're out saying, "Gee, we have to defeat him." Criminal justice reform, prison reform, Opportunity Zones with Tim Scott, a great Senator from South Carolina. He came in with this incredible idea for Opportunity Zones. It's one of the most successful programs. People don't talk about it. Tremendous investment is being made, biggest beneficiary, the black and Hispanic communities. And then Historically Black Colleges and Universities, after three years of coming to the office, I love some of those guys, they were great. They came into the office and I said, "What are you doing?" After three years, I said, "Why do you keep coming back?" Because we have no funding." I said, "You don't have to come back every year." "We have to come back."

Donald Trump: (02:57) Because President Obama would never give them long-term funding and I did. 10 year long-term funding and I gave them more money than they asked for because I said, "I think you need more." And I said, "The only bad part about this is I may never see you again." Because I got very friendly with them and they like me and I like them. But I saved Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

Kristen Welker: (03:19) Okay, and we're going to talk about both of your records, but your response to that Vice President.

Joe Biden: (03:23) My response to that is I never ever said what he accused me of saying. The fact of the matter is in 2000 though, after the crime bill had been in the law for awhile, this is a guy who said, "The problem with the crime bill, there's not enough people in jail. There's not enough people in jail." And go on my website, get the quote, the date when he said it, "not enough people." He talked about marauding gangs, young gangs, and the people who are going to maraud our cities. This is a guy who in the Central Park Five, five innocent black kids, he continued to push for making sure that they got the death penalty. None of them were guilty of the crimes they were suggested. Look and granted, he did in fact, let 20 people ... he commuted 20 people's sentences.

Joe Biden: (04:12) We commuted over 1,000 people's sentences, over 1,000. The very law he's talking about is a law that was, in fact, initiated by Barack Obama. And secondly, we're in a situation here where the federal prison system was reduced by 38,000 people under our administration. And one of those things we should be doing, there should be no, no minimum mandatories in the law. That's why I'm offering \$20 billion to states to change their state laws to eliminate minimum mandatories and set up drug courts. No one should be going to jail because they have a drug problem. They should be going to rehabilitation, not to jail. We should fundamentally change the system and that's what I'm going to do.

Donald Trump: (04:53) But why didn't he do it four years ago? Why didn't you do that four years ago? Even less than that. Why didn't you when you vice president? You keep talking about all these things you're going to do, and you're going to do this, but you were there just a short time ago and you guys did nothing.

Joe Biden: (05:09) We did-

Donald Trump: (05:09) You know Joe, I ran because of you. I ran because of Barack Obama, because you did a poor job. If I thought you did a good job, I would've never run. I would've never run. I ran because of you. I'm looking at you now, you're a politician, I ran because of you.

Kristen Welker: (05:24) All right, Vice President Biden, your response to that. And then I do have some questions for both of you.

Joe Biden: (05:28) Well, I'll tell you what I hope he does look at me because what's happening here is, you know who I am. You know who he is, you know his character, you know my character, you know our reputations for honor and telling the truth. I am anxious to have this race. I'm anxious to see this take place. I am ... The character of the country is on the ballot. Our character's on the ballot, look at us closely.

Kristen Welker: (05:52) Let me ask some follow up-

Donald Trump: (05:53) Excuse me-

Kristen Welker: (05:53) Please respond and then we're going to have follow up questions.

Donald Trump: (05:55) If this stuff is true about Russia, Ukraine, China, other countries, Iraq. If this is true, then he's a corrupt politician. So don't give me the stuff about how you're this innocent baby. Joe, that calling you a corrupt politician-

Joe Biden: (06:09) Nobody's calling me-

Donald Trump: (06:10) They're calling it the laptop from hell.

Kristen Welker: (06:10) President Trump, I want to stay on the issue of race. We're talking about the issue-

Donald Trump: (06:13) Excuse me, [crosstalk 00:06:13] the laptop from hell.

Joe Biden: (06:13) Nobody.

Kristen Welker: (06:14) President Trump, we're talking about race right now. And I do want to stay on the issue of race. President Trump you-

Joe Biden: (06:20) I have to respond to that. Because look-

Kristen Welker: (06:21) Please, very quickly.

Joe Biden: (06:22) There are 50 former national intelligence folks who said that what he's accusing me of is a Russian plant. They have said that this has all the ... five former heads of the CIA, both parties, say what he's saying is a bunch of garbage. Nobody believes it except him and his good friend, Rudy Giuliani.

Donald Trump: (06:44) You mean the laptop is now another Russia, Russia, Russia hoax? You got to be kidding me-

Joe Biden: (06:51) That's exactly what was told.

Donald Trump: (06:51) This is where he's going. The laptop is Russia, Russia, Russia?

Kristen Welker: (06:55) Gentlemen, I want to stay on the issue of race.

Donald Trump: (06:56) You have to be kidding, here we go again with the Russia. Boy, oh, boy.

Kristen Welker: (06:59) We're going to continue on the issue of race.

Donald Trump: (07:01) Can't believe that one.

Kristen Welker: (07:01) Mr. President you've described the Black Lives Matter movement as a symbol of hate. You've shared a video of a man chanting white power to millions of your supporters. You've said that black professional athletes exercising their First Amendment rights should be fired. What do you say to Americans who say that kind of language from a president is contributing to a climate of hate and racial strife?

Donald Trump: (07:24) Well, you have to understand the first time I ever heard of Black Lives Matter, they were chanting, "Pigs in a blanket," talking about police, pigs, pigs, talking about our police. "Pigs in a blanket, fry them like bacon." I said, "That's a horrible thing." And they were marching down the street. And that was my first glimpse of Black Lives Matter, I thought it was a terrible thing. As far as my relationships with all people, I think I have great relationships with all people. I am the least racist person in this room.

Kristen Welker: (07:55) What do you say to Americans who are concerned by that rhetoric [crosstalk 00:00:07:58]?

Donald Trump: (07:58) I don't know. I mean, I don't know what to say. I got criminal justice reform done and prison reform and Opportunity Zones-

Donald Trump: (08:03) ... got criminal justice reform done, and prison reform, and Opportunity Zones, I took care of Black colleges and universities, I don't know what to say, they can say anything, I mean, they can say anything. It's a very... Makes me sad,

because I am the least racist person, I can't even see the audience because it's so dark, but I don't care who's in the audience, I'm the least racist person in this room.

Kristen Welker: (08:26) Okay. Vice President Biden, let me ask you very quickly and then I have a follow-up question for you.

Joe Biden: (08:30) Abraham Lincoln here is one of the most racist presidents we've had in modern history, he pours fuel on every single racist fire, every single one. Started off his campaign coming down the escalator saying he's getting rid of those Mexican rapists, he's ban Muslims because they're Muslims, he has moved around and made everything worse across the board. He says to... About the Proud Boys, last time we were on stage here he said, "I tell them to stand down and stand ready." Come on, this guy has a dog whistle about as big as a foghorn.

Kristen Welker: (09:04) President Trump, I'm going to give you 10 seconds to respond and then I have a follow-up question.

Donald Trump: (09:07) No, he made a reference to Abraham Lincoln, where did that come in? I mean-

Joe Biden: (09:10) You said you're Abraham Lincoln.

Donald Trump: (09:12) ... where did that..... No.

Joe Biden: (09:13) You said-

Donald Trump: (09:14) I said, "Not since Abraham Lincoln has anybody done what I've done for the Black community."

Joe Biden: (09:19) And I'm saying-

Donald Trump: (09:20) I didn't say, "I'm Abraham Lincoln," I said, "Not since Abraham Lincoln has anybody done what I've done for the Black community." Now, you have done nothing other than the Crime Bill, which put-

Joe Biden: (09:32) Oh, God.

Donald Trump: (09:33) Tens of thousands of Black men, mostly, in jail.

Joe Biden: (09:39) Not true.

Kristen Welker: (09:39) All right, let me ask Vice President Biden a question.

Donald Trump: (09:41) And you know what? They remember it because if you look at what's happening with the voting right now, they remember that you treated them very, very badly, just take a look at what's happening out there.

Kristen Welker: (09:49) Let me ask Vice President Biden about... Vice President Biden, let me give you a chance to respond within this context, crime bills that you supported in the '80s and '90s contributed to the incarceration of tens of thousands of young Black men who had small amounts of drugs in their possession, they are sons, they are brothers, they are fathers, they are uncles, whose families are still to this day, some of them suffering the consequences. So, speak to those families, why should they vote for you?

Joe Biden: (10:11) One of the things is that in the '80s we passed 100 percent, all 100 senators voted for a bill on drugs and how to deal with drugs, it was a mistake. I've been trying to change since then particularly the portion on cocaine. That's why I've been arguing that in fact we should not send anyone to jail for a pure drug offense, they should be going into treatment across the board, that's what we should be spending money. And that's why I set up drug courts which were never funded by our Republican friends. They should not be going to jail for a drug or an alcohol problem, they should be going into treatment. That's what we've been trying to do, that's what I'm going to get done because I think the American people have now seen that in fact it was a mistake to pass those laws relating to drugs, but they were not in the Crime Bill.

Kristen Welker: (11:04) [crosstalk 00:11:04].

Donald Trump: (11:04) But, why didn't he get it done? See, it's all talk, no action with these politicians, why didn't he get it? "That's what I'm going to do when I become president." You were vice president along with Obama as your president, your leader, for eight years, why didn't you get it done? You had eight years to get it done, now you're saying you're going to get it done because you're all talking and no action, Joe.

Kristen Welker: (11:25) Your response.

Joe Biden: (11:25) We got a lot of it done. We released 38,000-

Donald Trump: (11:27) You didn't get anything done.

Joe Biden: (11:28) We got 38,000 prisoners [crosstalk 00:11:30]-

Donald Trump: (11:30) You got nothing done.

Joe Biden: (11:31) 38,000 prisoners were released from federal prison, we have... There were over a thousand people who were given clemency. [inaudible 00:03:38]. In fact, were the ones that put in the legislation saying we could look at pattern and practice of police departments and what they were doing, how they're conducting themselves. I could go on,

but we began the process, we lost an election, that's why I'm running to win back that election and change his terrible policy.

Donald Trump: (11:57) I just have-

Kristen Welker: (11:57) Your response and then we're going to move on to climate change.

Donald Trump: (11:58) ... one question, why didn't you do it in the eight years, a short time ago? Why didn't you do it? You just said, "I'm going to do that, I'm going to do this." You put tens of thousands of mostly Black young men in prison, now you're saying you're going to get... You're going to undo that, why didn't you get it done? You had eight years with Obama. You know why, Joe? Because you're all talk and no action.

Joe Biden: (12:22) [crosstalk 00:00:12:23].

Kristen Welker: (12:22) All right, Vice President Biden, and then we're going to move on to the next section.

Joe Biden: (12:25) We had a Republican Congress, that's the answer.

Kristen Welker: (12:31) Okay.

Donald Trump: (12:32) Well, you got to talk them into it, Joe, sometimes you got to talk them into it.

Kristen Welker: (12:35) We're going to move on to our next section which is climate change.

Donald Trump: (12:37) ... like I did with criminal justice reform, I had to talk Democrats into it.

Joe Biden: (12:41) You did what we already had done.

Kristen Welker: (12:41) Gentlemen, we're running out of time so we got to get onto climate change, please. You both have very different visions on climate change. President Trump, you say that environmental regulations have hurt jobs in the energy sector, Vice President Biden, you have said you see addressing climate change as an opportunity to create new jobs. For each of you, how would you both combat climate change and support job growth at the same time? Starting with you, President Trump, you have two minutes uninterrupted.

Donald Trump: (13:08) So, we have the trillion trees program, we have so many different programs, I do love the environment, but what I want is that cleanest crystal clear water, the cleanest air. We have the best lowest number in carbon emissions, which is a big standard that I noticed Obama goes with all the time, not Joe, I haven't heard Joe use the

term because I'm not sure he knows what it represents or means, but I have heard Obama use it. And we have the best carbon emission numbers that we've had in 35 years under this administration, we are working so well with industry, but here's what we can't do. Look at China, how filthy it is, look at Russia, look at India, it's filthy, the air is filthy. The [Paris Accord 00:00:13:55], I took us out because we were going to have to spend trillions of dollars and we were treated very unfairly.

Donald Trump: (14:03) When they put us in there, they did us a great disservice, they were going to take away our businesses. I will not sacrifice tens of millions of jobs, thousands and thousands of companies because of the Paris Accord, it was so unfair. China doesn't kick in until 2030, Russia goes back to a low standard, and we kicked in right away, it would have been... It would have destroyed our businesses. So, you ready? We have done an incredible job environmentally, we have the cleanest air, the cleanest water, and the best carbon emission standards that we've seen in many, many years.

Kristen Welker: (14:41) Vice President Biden-

Donald Trump: (14:41) And we haven't destroyed our industries.

Kristen Welker: (14:44) Vice President Biden, two minutes to you uninterrupted.

Joe Biden: (14:47) Climate change, global warming is an existential threat to humanity. We have a moral obligation to deal with it. And we're told by all the leading scientists in the world we don't have much time, we're going to pass the point of no return within the next 8 to 10 years. Four more years of this man eliminating all the regulations that were put in by us to clean up the climate, to clean up... To limit the emissions, will put us in a position where we're going to be in real trouble. Here's where we have a great opportunity. I was able to get both all the environmental organizations as well as the labor, the people worried about jobs, to support my climate plan.

Joe Biden: (15:32) Because what it does, it will create millions of new good paying jobs, we're going to invest in, for example, 500,000... Excuse me, 50,000 charging stations on our highways so that we can own the electric car market of the future. In the meantime, China is doing that. We're going to be in a position where we're going to see to it that we're going to take 4 million existing buildings and 2 million existing homes and retrofit them so they don't leak as much energy, saving hundreds of millions of barrels of...

Joe Biden: (16:03) So they don't leak as much energy saving hundreds of millions of barrels of oil in the process and creating significant number of jobs. By the way, the whole idea of what this is all going to do, it's going to create millions of jobs and it's going to clean the environment. Our health and our jobs are at stake. That's what's happening and what right now, by the way, Wall Street firms indicated that my plan, my plan will in fact, create 18.6 million jobs, 7 million more than his. This is from Wall Street and I'll create

\$1 trillion more in economic growth than his proposal does. Not on climate, just on economy.

Kristen Welker: (16:41) President Trump, your response.

Donald Trump: (16:42) They came out and said very strongly \$6,500 will be taken away from families under his plan, that his plan is an economic disaster. If you look at what he wants to do, if you look at his plan, his-

Joe Biden: (16:56) [crosstalk 00:16:56].

Donald Trump: (16:57) ... his environmental plan, do you know developed it? AOC plus three, they know nothing about the climate. I mean, she's got a good line of stuff, but she knows nothing about the climate and they're all hopping through hoops for AOC plus three. Look, their real plan cost a hundred trillion dollars. If we had the best year in the history of our country for a hundred years, we would not even come close to a number like that. When he says buildings, they want to take buildings down because they want to make bigger windows into smaller windows. As far as they're concerned, if you had no window, it would be a lovely thing.

Donald Trump: (17:32) This is the craziest plan that anybody has ever seen and this wasn't done by smart people. This wasn't done by anybody. Frankly, I don't even know how it can be good politically. They want to spend a hundred trillion dollars. That's their real number. He's trying to say it was six. It's a hundred trillion dollars. They want to knock down buildings and build new buildings with little, tiny, small windows and many other things-

Kristen Welker: (17:57) Okay.

Donald Trump: (17:57) And many other things. And many other things.

Kristen Welker: (17:58) Okay, let me have the vice-president respond.

Donald Trump: (17:58) It is crazy.

Kristen Welker: (17:59) We're running out of time and we have a lot more questions to get back to.

Donald Trump: (18:01) You'll destroy our country.

Kristen Welker: (18:02) So let's hear from the vice president. I have a number of more question..

Joe Biden: (18:07) I don't know where he comes from. I don't know where he comes up with these numbers.

Kristen Welker: (18:09) Queens.

Joe Biden: (18:09) A hundred trillion dollars, give me a break. This plan has been endorsed by every major, every major environmental group and every labor group, labor, because they know the future lies. The future lies in us being able to breathe and they know they're good jobs and getting us there.

Joe Biden: (18:29) By the way, the fastest growing industry in America is the electric, excuse me, solar energy and wind. He thinks wind causes cancer, windmills. It's the fastest growing jobs and they pay good prevailing wages, 45, 50 bucks an hour. We can grow and we can be cleaner if we go the route I'm proposing.

Kristen Welker: (18:54) President Trump-

Donald Trump: (18:55) Excuse me.

Kristen Welker: (18:55) Please respond and then I have his follow up.

Donald Trump: (18:56) We are energy independent for first time. We don't need all of these countries that we had to fight war over because we needed their energy. We are energy independent. I know more about wind than you do. It's extremely expensive. Kills all the birds. It's very intermittent. It's got a lot of problems and they happen to make the windmills in both Germany and China and the fumes coming up, if you're a believer in carbon emission, the fumes coming up to make these massive windmills is more than anything that we're talking about with natural gas, which is very clear.

Donald Trump: (19:29) One other thing, solar-

Joe Biden: (19:31) Find me a scientist who says that.

Donald Trump: (19:31) I love solar, but solar doesn't quite have it yet. It's not powerful yet to really run our big, beautiful factories that we need to compete with the world.

Joe Biden: (19:42) False.

Donald Trump: (19:42) It's all a pipe dream, but you know what we'll do? We're going to have the greatest economy in the world, but if you want to kill the economy, get rid of your oil industry you want. And what about fracking?

Kristen Welker: (19:54) Let me-

Donald Trump: (19:54) Now we have to ask him about fracking.

Kristen Welker: (19:56) Let me allow the Vice President Biden to respond.

Joe Biden: (19:57) I never said I oppose fracking.

Donald Trump: (20:00) You said it on tape.

Joe Biden: (20:02) Show the tape, put it on your website.

Donald Trump: (20:04) I'll put it on.

Joe Biden: (20:05) Put it on the website. The fact of the matter is he's flat lying.

Kristen Welker: (20:09) Would you rule out about banning fracking?

Joe Biden: (20:11) I do rule out banning fracking because the answer we need, we need other industries to transition, to get to ultimately a complete zero emissions by 2025. What I will do with fracking over time is make sure that we can capture the emissions from the fracking, capture the emissions from gas. We can do that and we can do that by investing money in doing it, but it's a transition to that.

Kristen Welker: (20:38) I have one more question in this pile then-

Donald Trump: (20:40) Excuse me. He was against fracking. He said it. I will show that to you tomorrow.

Joe Biden: (20:45) Good.

Donald Trump: (20:45) I am against fracking. Until he got the nomination, he went to Pennsylvania. Then he said, "But you know what Pennsylvania?" He'll be against it very soon because his party is totally against it.

Joe Biden: (20:54) Fracking on federal land. I said, no fracking and/or oil on federal land.

Kristen Welker: (20:59) Let me ask this final question in this section and then I want to move on to our final section. President Trump, people of color are much more likely to live near oil refineries and chemical plants. In Texas, there are families who worry the plants near them are making them sick. Your administration has rolled back regulations on these kinds of facilities. Why should these families give you another four years in office?

Donald Trump: (21:21) The families that we're talking about are employed heavily and they are making a lot of money, more money than they've ever made. If you look at the kind of numbers that we've produced for Hispanic, for Black, for Asian, it's nine times greater the percentage gain than it was under in three years than it was under eight years of the two of them to put it nicely, nine times more.

Donald Trump: (21:48) Now somebody lives, I have not heard the numbers or the statistics that you're saying, but they're making a tremendous amount of money. Economically, we saved it and I saved it again a number of months ago, when oil was crashing because of the pandemic. We saved it.

Donald Trump: (22:04) Say what you want to bet relationship. We got Saudi Arabia, Mexico and Russia to cut back, way back. We saved our oil industry and now it's very vibrant again and everybody has very inexpensive gasoline. Remember that.

Kristen Welker: (22:17) Vice President Biden, your response and then we're going to have a final question for both of you.

Joe Biden: (22:21) My response is that those people live on what they call fence lines. He doesn't understand this. They live near chemical plants that in fact, pollute, chemical plants and oil plants and refineries that pollute.

Joe Biden: (22:33) I used to live near that when I was growing up in Claymont, Delaware and there are more oil refineries in Marcus Hook and the Delaware River than there is any place, including in Houston at the time. When my mom get in the car and when there are first frost to drive me to school, turning the windshield wiper, there'd been oil slick in the window. That's why so many people in my state were dying and getting cancer. The fact is those frontline communities, it's not a matter of what you're paying them. It matters how you keep them safe. What do you do? You impose restrictions on the pollutions that if the pollutants coming out of those fence line communities.

Kristen Welker: (23:07) Okay. I have one final question called.

Donald Trump: (23:08) Would he close down the oil industry?

Kristen Welker: (23:10) It falls-

Donald Trump: (23:10) Would you close down the oil industry?

Joe Biden: (23:12) By the way, I have a transition from the old industry, yes.

Donald Trump: (23:15) Oh, that's a big statement.

Joe Biden: (23:15) I will transition. It is a big statement.

Donald Trump: (23:17) That's a big statement.

Joe Biden: (23:18) Because I would stop.

Kristen Welker: (23:19) Why would you do that?

Joe Biden: (23:21) Because the oil industry pollutes, significantly.

Donald Trump: (23:24) Oh, I see. Okay.

Joe Biden: (23:24) Here's the deal-

Donald Trump: (23:25) That's a big statement.

Joe Biden: (23:26) Well if you let me finish the statement, because it has to be replaced by renewable energy over time, over time, and I'd stopped giving to the oil industry, I'd stop giving them federal subsidies. You won't get federal subsidies to the gas, oh, excuse me to solar and wind.

Donald Trump: (23:45) Yeah.

Joe Biden: (23:46) Why are we giving it to oil industry?

Donald Trump: (23:47) We actually give it to solar and wind. That's maybe the biggest statement. In terms of business, that's the biggest statement.

Kristen Welker: (23:53) Okay

Donald Trump: (23:53) Because basically what he's saying is-

Kristen Welker: (23:55) We have one final question, Mr. President.

Donald Trump: (23:55) ... he is going to destroy the oil industry. Will you remember that Texas? Will you remember that Pennsylvania, Oklahoma?

Kristen Welker: (24:03) Okay, Vice President Biden, let me give you 10 seconds.

Kristen Welker: (24:03) Okay.

Donald Trump: (24:03) Remember that Pennsylvania, Oklahoma, is-

Kristen Welker: (24:03) Vice President Biden, let me give you 10 seconds to respond-

Donald Trump: (24:04) Ohio.

Kristen Welker: (24:05) ... and then I have to get to the final question. Vice President Biden.

Joe Biden: (24:07) He takes everything out of context, but the point is, look, we have to move toward net zero emissions. The first place to do that by the year 2035 is in energy production, by 2050 totally.

Kristen Welker: (24:21) All right. One final question to both of you-

Donald Trump: (24:22) Is he going to get China to do it?

Kristen Welker: (24:23) No, we're finished with this-

Donald Trump: (24:23) Is he going to get China to do it?

Kristen Welker: (24:24) We have to move onto our final question.

Joe Biden: (24:25) No, I'm going to rejoin Paris Accord and make China abide by what they agreed to.

Donald Trump: (24:30) [Crosstalk 00:24:31].

Kristen Welker: (24:30) All right. This is about leadership, gentlemen. And this first question does go to you, President Trump. Imagine this is your inauguration day. What will you say in your address, to Americans who did not vote for you? You'll each have one minute, starting with you, Mr. Trump.

Donald Trump: (24:47) We have to make our country totally successful, as it was prior to the plague coming in from China. Now we're rebuilding it and we're doing record numbers, 11.4 million jobs in a short period of time, et cetera. But, I will tell you, go back.

Donald Trump: (25:01) Before the plague came in, just before, I was getting calls from people that were not normally people that would call me. They wanted to get together. We had the best Black unemployment numbers in the history of our country. Hispanic, women, Asian, people with diplomas, with no diplomas, MIT graduates; number one in the class, everybody had the best numbers. And you know what? The other side wanted to get together. They wanted to unify.

Donald Trump: (25:28) Success is going to bring us together. We are on the road to success. But I'm cutting taxes, and he wants to raise everybody's taxes and he wants to put new regulations on everything. He will kill it. If he gets in, you will have a Depression, the likes of which you've never seen. Your 401(k)s will go to hell, and it'll be a very, very sad day for this country.

Kristen Welker: (25:49) All right. Vice President Biden, same question to you: what will you say during your inaugural address to Americans who did not vote for you?

Joe Biden: (25:57) I will say, I'm an American President. I represent all of you, whether you voted for me or against me, and I'm going to make sure that you're represented. I'm going to give you hope. We're going to move; we're going to choose science over fiction. We're going to choose hope over fear. We're going to choose to move forward because we have enormous opportunities, enormous opportunities to make things better.

Joe Biden: (26:19) We can grow this economy, we can deal with the systemic racism. At the same time, we can make sure that our economy is being run and moved and motivated by clean energy, creating millions of new jobs. That's the fact, that's what we're going to do. And I'm going to say, as I said at the beginning, what is on the ballot here is the character of this country. Decency, honor, respect. Treating people with dignity, making sure that everyone has an even chance. And I'm going to make sure you get that. You haven't been getting it the last four years.

Kristen Welker: (26:53) All right, I want to thank you both for a very robust hour and a half, a fantastic debate. Really appreciate it. President Trump, Former Vice President Joe Biden. Thank you to Belmont University for hosting us tonight, and most importantly, thank you to those watching tonight. Election day is November 3rd. Don't forget to vote. Thank you everyone and have a great night.

Joe Biden: (27:16) Thank you.

Nov 7th, Joe Biden and Kamala Harris Wilmington, Delaware

Joe Biden & Kamala Harris Election Acceptance & Victory Speech Transcripts November 7

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President-elect Joe Biden and Vice President-elect Kamala Harris addressed the nation in Wilmington, Delaware on November 7 after winning the 2020 presidential race. Joe Biden is set to become the 46th president of the United States. Read the transcript of their acceptance speeches here.

Kamala Harris Speech Transcript

Good evening. Good evening. Good evening. Thank you. Thank you. Good evening. Thank you. Good evening. So Congressman John Lewis, Congressman John Lewis, before his passing, wrote, “Democracy is not a state. It is an act.” What he meant was that America’s democracy is not guaranteed. It is only as strong as our willingness to fight for it, to guard it and never take it for granted.

Kamala Harris:

Protecting our democracy takes struggle, it takes sacrifice, but there is joy in it and there is progress, because we, the people, have the power to build a better future. When our very democracy was on the ballot in this election, with the very soul of America at stake, and the world watching, you ushered in a new day for America.

Kamala Harris:

To our campaign staff and volunteers, this extraordinary team, thank you for bringing more people than ever before into the democratic process and for making this victory possible. To the poll workers and election officials across our country, who have worked tirelessly to make sure every vote is counted, our nation owes you a debt of gratitude. You have protected the integrity of our democracy.

Kamala Harris:

And to the American people who make up our beautiful country, thank you for turning out in record numbers to make your voices heard.

Audience: Yes!

Kamala Harris: I know times have been challenging, especially the last several months, the grief, sorrow, and pain, the worries and the struggles, but we have also witnessed your courage, your resilience, and the generosity of your spirit. For four years, you marched and organized for equality and justice for our lives and for our planet.

Kamala Harris:

Then you voted and you delivered a clear message. You chose hope and unity, decency, science, and, yes, truth. You chose Joe Biden as the next president of the United States of America. Joe is a healer, a uniter, a tested and steady hand, a person whose own experience of loss gives him a sense of purpose that will help us as a nation reclaim our own sense of purpose, and a man with a big heart who loves with abandon.

Kamala Harris:

It's his love for Jill, who will be an incredible First Lady. It's his love for Hunter and Ashley and his grandchildren and the entire Biden family. While I first knew Joe as vice president, I really got to know him as the father who loved Beau, my dear friend who we remember here today.

Kamala Harris:

And to my husband Doug and our children Cole and Ella and my sister Maya and our whole family, I love you all more than I can ever express. We are so grateful to Joe and Jill for welcoming our family into theirs on this incredible journey. And to the woman most responsible for my presence here today, my mother, Shyamala Gopalan Harris, who is always in our hearts.

Kamala Harris: When she came here from India at the age of 19, she maybe didn't quite imagine this moment. But she believed so deeply, and in America, where a moment like this is possible. And so, I am thinking about her and about the generations of women, Black women, Asian, white, Latina, Native American women who, throughout our nation's history, have paved the way for this moment tonight, women who fought and sacrificed so much for equality and liberty and justice for all, including the Black women who are often too often overlooked, but so often prove they are the backbone of our democracy.

Kamala Harris:

All the women who have worked to secure and protect the right to vote for over a century, 100 years ago with the 19th Amendment, 55 years ago with the Voting Rights Act, and now in 2020 with a new generation of women in our country who cast their ballots and continue the fight for their fundamental right to vote and be heard.

Kamala Harris: Tonight I reflect on their struggle, their determination, and the strength of their vision to see what can be unburdened by what has been. I stand on their shoulders. What a testament it is to Joe's character, that he had the audacity to break one of the most substantial barriers that exist in our country and select a woman as his vice president.

Kamala Harris: But while I may be the first woman in this office, I will not be the last, because every little girl watching tonight sees that this is a country of possibilities. To the children of our country, regardless of your gender, our country has sent you a clear message: dream with ambition, lead with conviction, and see yourselves in a way that

others may not, simply because they've never seen it before. But know that we will applaud you every step of the way.

Kamala Harris: And to the American people, no matter who you voted for, I will strive to be a vice president like Joe was to President Obama, loyal, honest, and prepared, waking up every day thinking of you and your family, because now is when the real work begins, the hard work, the necessary work, the good work, the essential work to save lives and beat this epidemic, to rebuild our economy so it works for working people, to root out systemic racism in our justice system and society, to combat the climate crisis, to unite our country and heal the soul of our nation. The road ahead will not be easy, but America is ready, and so are Joe and I.

Kamala Harris: We have elected a president who represents the best in us, a leader the world will respect and our children will look up to, a commander-in-chief who will respect our troops and keep our country safe, and a president for all Americans.

Audience: Yes!

Kamala Harris:

And it is now my great honor to introduce the President-elect of the United States of America, Joe Biden.

Speaker 5: (singing)

Joe Biden Speech Transcript

Joe Biden:

Hello, my fellow Americans and the people who brought me to dance, Delawareans. I see my buddy Senator Tom Carper down there and I think Senator Coons is there and I think the governor's around. Is that Ruth Ann?

Audience: Yes, it is!

Joe Biden: And now former governor Ruth Ann Minner. Most importantly, my sisters-in-law and my sister Valerie. Anyway, folks, the people of this nation have spoken. They've delivered us a clear victory, a convincing victory, a victory for we the people. We've won with the most votes ever cast for a presidential ticket in the history of the nation, 74 million.

Joe Biden: Well, I must admit it surprised me. Tonight, we've seen all over this nation, all cities in all parts of the country, indeed across the world, an outpouring of joy, of hope, renewed faith, and tomorrow bring a better day. I'm humbled by the trust and confidence you've placed in me.

Joe Biden: I pledge to be a president who seeks not to divide but unify, who doesn't see red states and blue states, only sees the United States, and work with all my heart, with the confidence of the whole people, to win the confidence of all of you. For that is what America, I believe, is about. It's about people. And that's what our administration will be all about.

Joe Biden: I sought this office to restore the soul of America, to rebuild the backbone of this nation, the middle class, and to make America respected around the world again and to unite us here at home. It's the honor of my lifetime that so many millions of Americans have voted for that vision. Now the work of making that vision is real. It's a task, the task, of our time.

Joe Biden: Folks, as I said many times before, I'm Jill's husband, and I would not be here without her love and tireless support of Jill, and my son Hunter and Ashley, my daughter, and all our grandchildren and their spouses and all our family. They're in my heart.

Joe Biden: Jill's a mom, a military mom, an educator. She's dedicated her life to education. But teaching isn't just what she does. It's who she is. For American educators, this is a great day for you all. You're going to have one of your own in the White House. Jill's going to make a great First Lady. I'm so proud of her.

Joe Biden: I'll have the honor of serving with a fantastic vice president. You just heard from Kamala Harris, who makes history as the first woman, first Black woman, the first woman from South Asian descent, the first daughter of immigrants ever elected in this country.

Joe Biden: Don't tell me it's not possible in the United States. It's long overdue. We're reminded tonight of those who fought so hard for so many years to make this happen. But once again, America's bent the arc of the moral universe, more toward justice. Kamala, Doug, like it or not, you're family. You've become an honorary Biden. There's no way out.

Joe Biden: To all those of you who volunteered and worked the polls in the middle of this pandemic, local elected officials, you deserve a special thanks from the entire nation. To my campaign team and all the volunteers, and all who gave so much of themselves to make this moment possible, I owe you. I owe you. I owe you everything.

Joe Biden: All those who supported us, I'm proud of the campaign we built and ran. I'm proud of the coalition we put together, the broadest and most diverse coalition in history. Democrats, Republicans, independents, progressives, moderates, conservatives, young, old, urban, suburban, rural, gay, straight, transgender, white, Latino, Asian, Native American. I mean it, especially in those moments and especially for those moments when this campaign was at its lowest ebb, the African American community stood up again for me. You've always had my back, and I'll have yours.

Joe Biden: I said at the outset I wanted this campaign to represent and look like America. We've done that. Now that's what I want the administration to look like and act like.

Joe Biden: For all those of you who voted for President Trump, I understand the disappointment tonight. I've lost a couple of times myself. But now let's give each other a chance. It's time to put away the harsh rhetoric, lower the temperature, see each other again, listen to each other again. To make progress, we have to stop treating our opponents as our enemies. They are not our enemies. They're Americans. They're Americans.

Joe Biden: The Bible tells us to everything, there's a season, a time to build, a time to reap and a time to sow, and a time to heal. This is the time to heal in America.

Joe Biden: Now this campaign is over, what is the will of people? What is our mandate? I believe it's this: American have called upon us to marshal the forces of decency, the forces of fairness, to marshal the forces of science and the forces of hope in the great battles of our time, the battle to control the virus, the battle to build prosperity, the battle to secure your family's healthcare, the battle to achieve racial justice and root out systemic racism in this country.

Joe Biden: And the battle to save our planet by getting climate under control. The battle to restore decency, defend democracy, and give everybody in this country a fair shot. That's all they're asking for: a fair shot.

Joe Biden: Folks, our work begins with getting COVID under control. We cannot repair the economy, restore our vitality, or relish life's most precious moments, hugging our grandchildren, our children on our birthdays, weddings, graduations, all the moments that matter most to us until we get it under control.

Joe Biden: On Monday, I will name a group of leading scientists and experts as transition advisors, to help take the Biden-Harris COVID plan and convert it into an action blueprint that will start on January the 20th, 2021. That plan will be built on bedrock science. It will be constructed out of compassion, empathy, and concern. I will spare no effort, none, or any commitment to turn around this pandemic.

Joe Biden: Folks, I'm a proud Democrat, but I will govern as an American president. I'll work as hard for those who didn't vote for me as those who did. Let this grim era of demonization in America begin to end here and now.

Joe Biden: The refusal of Democrats and Republicans to cooperate with one another is not some mysterious force beyond our control, it's a decision, a choice we make. If we can decide not to cooperate, then we can decide to cooperate.

Joe Biden: I believe that this is part of the mandate given to us from the American people. They want us to cooperate in their interests, and that's the choice I'll make. I'll call on Congress, Democrats and Republicans alike, to make that choice with me.

Joe Biden: The American story is about slow yet steadily widening the opportunities in America. Make no mistake, too many dreams have been deferred for too long. We must make the promise of the country real for everybody, no matter their race, their ethnicity, their faith, their identity, or their disability.

Joe Biden: Folks, America has always been shaped by inflection points by moments in time where we've made hard decisions about who we are and what we want to be: Lincoln in 1860 coming to save the union, FDR in 1932 promising a beleaguered country a new deal, JFK in 1960 pledging a new frontier, and 12 years ago when Barack Obama made history and told us, yes, we can.

Joe Biden: Well, folks, we stand at an inflection point. We have an opportunity to defeat despair, to build a nation of prosperity and purpose. We can do it. I know we can.

Joe Biden: I've long talked about the battle for the soul of America. We must restore the soul of America. Our nation is shaped by the constant battle between our better angels and our darkest impulses, and what presidents say in this battle matters. It's time for our better angels to prevail.

Joe Biden: Tonight, the whole world is watching America, and I believe, at our best, America is a beacon for the globe. We will lead not only by the example of our power, but by the power of our example.

Joe Biden: I know I've always believed, and many of you heard me say it, I've always believed we can define America in one word: possibilities. That in America everyone should be given an opportunity to go as far as their dreams and God-given ability will take them.

Joe Biden: You see, I believe in the possibilities of this country. We're always looking ahead, ahead to an America that's freer and more just, ahead to an America that creates jobs with dignity and respect, ahead to an America that cures diseases like cancer and Alzheimer's, ahead to an America that never leaves anyone behind, ahead to an America that never gives up, never gives in.

Joe Biden: This is a great nation. It's always been a bad bet to bet against America. We're good people. This is the United States of America. There's never been anything, never been anything, we've been not able to do when we've done it together.

Joe Biden: Folks, in the last days of the campaign, I began thinking about a hymn that means a lot to me and my family, particularly my deceased son, Beau. It captures the faith

that sustains me and which I believe sustains America. I hope, and I hope, we can provide some comfort and solace to the 230,000 Americans who've lost a loved one due to this terrible virus this year. My heart goes out to each and every one of you. Hopefully this hymn gives you solace as well.

Joe Biden: It goes like this. "And he will raise you up on eagle's wings, bear you on the breath of dawn, and make you just shine like the sun, and hold you in the palm of His hand." Now together on eagle's wings, we embark on the work that God and history have called upon us to do.

Joe Biden: With full hearts and steady hands, with faith in America and in each other, with love of country, a thirst for justice, let us be the nation that we know we can be, a nation united, a nation strengthened, a nation healed, the United States of America.

Joe Biden: Ladies and gentlemen, there's never, never, been anything we've tried we've not been able to do. Remember, as my grandpappy said when I walked out of his home, when I was a kid up in Scranton, he said, "Joey, keep the faith." And our grandmother, when she was alive, she yelled, "No, Joey. Spread it."

Joe Biden: Spread the faith. God love you all. May God bless America and may God protect our troops. Thank you, thank you, thank you.

PARTIE DEUX : COMMUNICATION DE JOE BIDEN COMME 46EME PRESIDENT DES ÉTATS-UNIS

Inauguration speech- Jan 20, 2021

Joe Biden First Speech as President: Inauguration

[Rev](#) › [Blog](#) › [Transcripts](#) › [2020 Election Transcripts](#) › Joe Biden First Speech as President: Full Transcript at Inauguration

On January 20, Inauguration Day, Joe Biden delivered his first speech as president during his inauguration. Read the full transcript here.

Joe Biden: Chief Justice Roberts, Vice president Harris, Speaker Pelosi, Leader Schumer, Leader McConnell, Vice President Pence, and my distinguished guests, my fellow Americans. This is America's day. This is democracy's day. A day of history and hope of renewal and resolve through a crucible for the ages. America has been tested anew and America has risen to the challenge. Today we celebrate the triumph, not of a candidate, but of a cause, the cause of democracy. The people, the will of the people, has been heard and the will of the people has been heeded. We've learned again that democracy is precious. Democracy is fragile. And at this hour, my friends, democracy has prevailed.

Joe Biden: So now on this hallowed ground where just a few days ago violence sought to shake the capital's very foundation. We come together as one nation, under God, indivisible, to carry out the peaceful transfer of power as we have for more than two centuries. As we look ahead in our uniquely American way, restless, bold, optimistic, and set our sights on the nation we know we can be, and we must be. I thank my predecessors of both parties for their presence here today. I thank them from the bottom of my heart, and I know the resilience of our constitution and the strength, the strength of our nation, as does president Carter who I spoke with last night, who cannot be with us today, but whom we salute for his lifetime and service.

Joe Biden: I've just taken a sacred oath each of those patriots have taken. The oath first sworn by George Washington. But the American story depends not in any one of us, not on some of us, but on all of us. On we the people who seek a more perfect union. This is a great nation. We are good people. And over the centuries through storm and strife, in peace and in war, we've come so far, but we still have far to go. We'll press forward with speed and urgency for we have much to do in this winter of peril and significant possibilities. Much to repair, much to restore, much to heal, much to build and much to gain.

Joe Biden: Few people in our nation's history have been more challenged or found a time more challenging or difficult than the time we're in now. Once in a century virus that silently stalks the country, has taken as many lives in one year as America lost in all of World War II. Millions of jobs have been lost. Hundreds of thousands of businesses closed. A cry for racial justice, some 400 years in the making, moves us. The dream of justice for all will be deferred no longer. A cry for survival comes from planet itself. A cry that can't be any more desperate or any more

clear, and now arise a political extremism, white supremacy, domestic terrorism that we must confront and we will defeat.

Joe Biden: To overcome these challenges, to restore the soul and secure the future of America, requires so much more than words. It requires the most elusive of all things in a democracy; unity, unity. And another January on New Year's Day in 1863, Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation. When he put pen to paper, the president said and I quote, "If my name ever goes down into history, it will be for this act, and my whole soul is in it." My whole soul was in it today on this January day, my whole soul is in this. Bringing America together, uniting our people, uniting our nation, and I ask every American to join me in this cause.

Joe Biden: Uniting to fight the foes we face: anger, resentment and hatred, extremism, lawlessness, violence, disease, joblessness, and hopelessness. With unity we can do great things, important things. We can right wrongs. We can put people to work in good jobs. We can teach our children in safe schools. We can overcome the deadly virus. We can reward work and rebuild the middle class and make healthcare secure for all. We can deliver racial justice and we can make America once again, the leading force for good in the world. I know speaking of unity can sound to some like a foolish fantasy these days. I know the forces that divide us are deep and they are real. But I also know they are not new. Our history has been a constant struggle between the American ideal, that we all are created equal, and the harsh ugly reality that racism, nativism, fear, demonization have long torn us apart.

Joe Biden: The battle is perennial and victory is never assured. Through Civil War, the Great Depression, World War, 9/11, through struggle, sacrifice and setbacks our better angels have always prevailed. In each of these moments, enough of us, enough of us have come together to carry all of us forward, and we can do that now. History, faith, and reason show the way, the way of unity. We can see each other, not as adversaries, but as neighbors. We can treat each other with dignity and respect. We can join forces, stop the shouting and lower the temperature, for without unity there is no peace, only bitterness and fury. No progress, only exhausting outrage. No nation, only a state of chaos.

Joe Biden: This is our historic moment of crisis and challenge, and unity is the path forward. And we must meet this moment as the United States of America. If we do that, I guarantee you, we will not fail. We have never, ever, ever, ever failed in America when we've acted together. And so today, at this time in this place, let's start afresh all of us. Let's begin to listen to one another again, hear one another, see one another, show respect to one another. Politics doesn't have to be a raging fire, destroying everything in its path. Every disagreement doesn't have to be a cause for total war. And we must reject the culture in which facts themselves are manipulated and even manufactured.

Joe Biden: My fellow Americans, we have to be different than this. America has to be better than this, and I believe America is so much better than this. Just look around. Here we stand in the shadow of the Capitol Dome as it was mentioned earlier, completed amid the Civil War when the Union itself was literally hanging in the balance. Yet we endured, we prevailed. Here we stand looking out on the great mall where Dr. King spoke of his dream. Here we stand where 108 years ago at another inaugural thousands of protesters tried to block brave women marching for the right to vote. And today we mark the swearing in of the first woman in

American history, elected to national office, Vice President Kamala Harris. Don't tell me things can't change.

Joe Biden: Here we stand across the Potomac from Arlington Cemetery, where heroes who gave the last full measure of devotion rest in eternal peace. And here we stand just days after a riotous mob thought they could use violence to silence the will of the people, to stop the work of our democracy, to drive us from this sacred ground. It did not happen. It will never happen. Not today, not tomorrow, not ever, not ever.

Joe Biden: For all of those who supported our campaign, I'm humbled by the faith you've placed in us. To all those who did not support us, let me say this. Hear me out as we move forward. Take a measure of me and my heart. If you still disagree, so be it. That's democracy. That's America, the right to dissent peaceably within the guard rails of our Republic is perhaps this nation's greatest strength. Yet hear me clearly, disagreement must not lead to disunion. And I pledge this to you, I will be a president for all Americans, all Americans. And I promise you, I will fight as hard for those who did not support me, as for those who did.

Joe Biden: Many centuries ago, Saint Augustine, a Saint in my church wrote that a people was a multitude defined by the common objects of their love, defined by the common objects of their love. What are the common objects we as Americans love that define us as Americans? I think we know: opportunity security, liberty, dignity, respect, honor and yes, the truth. Recent weeks and months, I've taught us a painful lesson. There is truth, and there are lies. Lies toll for power and for profit, and each of us has a duty and a responsibility as citizens, as Americans, and especially as leaders, leaders who have pledged to honor our Constitution and protect our nation to defend the truth and defeat the lies.

Joe Biden: Look, I understand that many of my fellow Americans view the future with fear and trepidation. I understand they worry about their jobs. I understand like my dad, they lay in bed at night, staring at the ceiling wondering, "Can I keep my healthcare? Can I pay my mortgage?" Thinking about their families, about what comes next. I promise you I get it. But the answer is not to turn inward, to retreat into competing factions, distrusting those who don't look like you or worship the way you do, or don't get their news from the same sources you do. We must end this uncivil war that pits red against blue, rural versus urban, conservative versus liberal. We can do this, if we open our souls, instead of hardening our hearts. If we show a little tolerance and humility, and if we're willing to stand in the other person's shoes, as my mom would say, just for a moment, stand in their shoes.

Joe Biden: Because here's the thing about life. There's no accounting for what fate will deal you. Some days when you need a hand, there are other days when we're called to lend a hand. That's how it has to be, it's what we do for one another. And if we are this way, our country will be stronger, more prosperous, more ready for the future, and we can still disagree. My fellow Americans in the work ahead of us we're going to need each other. We need all our strength to persevere through this dark winter. We're entering what may be the toughest and deadliest period of the virus. We must set aside politics and finally face this pandemic as one nation, one nation. And I promise you this, as the Bible says, "Weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning." We will get through this together, together.

Joe Biden: Look, folks, all my colleagues I serve with in the House and the Senate up here, we all understand the world is watching, watching all of us today. So here's my message to those beyond our borders, America has been tested and we've come out stronger for it. We will repair our alliances and engage with the rural once again, not to meet yesterday's challenges, but today's and tomorrow's challenges. And we'll lead not merely by the example of our power, but by the power of our example.

Joe Biden: It will be a strong and trusted partner for peace, progress, and security. Look, you all know we've been through so much in this nation. And my first act as president, I'd like to ask you to join me in a moment of silent prayer to remember all those who we lost this past year to the pandemic, those 400,000 fellow Americans: moms, dads, husbands, wives, sons, daughters, friends, neighbors, and coworkers. We'll honor them by becoming the people and the nation we know we can and should be. So I ask you, let's say a silent prayer for those who've lost their lives and those left behind and for our country.

Joe Biden: (silence)

Joe Biden: Amen. Folks, this is a time of testing. We face an attack on our democracy and untruth. A raging virus, growing inequity, the sting of systemic racism, a climate in crisis, America's role in the world. Any one of these would be enough to challenge us in profound ways. But the fact is we face them all at once, presenting this nation with one of the gravest responsibilities we've had. Now, we're going to be tested. Are we going to step up, all of us? It's time for boldness, for there's so much to do. And this is certain, I promise you, we will be judged you and I, by how we resolve these cascading crises of our era. We will rise to the occasion is the question. Will we master this rare and difficult hour? When we meet our obligations and pass along a new and better world to our children, I believe we must. I'm sure you do as well. I believe we will.

Joe Biden: And when we do, we'll write the next great chapter in the history of the United States of America, the American story. A story that might sound something like a song that means a lot to me. It's called American Anthem. There's one verse that stands out, at least for me. And it goes like this, "The work and prayers of century have brought us to this day. What shall be our legacy? What will our children say? Let me know in my heart, when my days are through America, America, I gave my best to you." Let's add, let's us add our own work and prayers to the unfolding story of our great nation. If we do this, then when our days are through, our children and our children's children will say of us, "They gave their best. They did their duty. They healed a broken land."

Joe Biden: My fellow Americans, I close today where I began, with the sacred oath. Before God and all of you, I give you my word. I will always level with you. I will defend the Constitution. I'll defend our democracy. I'll defend America and will give all, all of you keep everything I do in your service. Thinking not of power, but of possibilities. Not of personal interest, but the public good and together we shall write an American story of hope, not fear, of unity not division, of light not darkness. A story of decency and dignity, love and healing, greatness and goodness. May this be the story that guides us, the story that inspires us and the story that tells ages yet to come, that we answer the call of history. We met the moment. Democracy and hope, truth and justice did not die on our watch, but thrived. That America

secured liberty at home and stood once again as a beacon to the world. That is what we owe our forebearers, one another and generation to follow.

Joe Biden: So with purpose and resolve, we turn to those task of our time, sustained by faith, driven by conviction, devoted to one another and the country we love with all our hearts. May God bless America and may God protect our troops. Thank you, America.

Joe Biden Speech on Foreign Policy Transcript: “America is Back”

[Rev](#) › [Blog](#) › [Transcripts](#) › [Political Transcripts](#) › Joe Biden Speech on Foreign Policy Transcript February 4: “America is Back”

President Joe Biden gave a speech on key foreign policy issues at the State Department on February 4, 2021. He said: “America is back. Diplomacy is back at the center of our foreign policy.” Read the full transcript of his remarks here.

Joe Biden: Mr. Secretary, it’s great to be here with you. And been looking forward a long time to be able to call you Mr. Secretary. Good afternoon, everyone. It’s an honor to be back in the State Department under the eyes of the first American chief diplomat, Benjamin Franklin. And by the way, I want you all to know that the press was Benjamin Franklin professor of presidential politics at Penn and I thought they did that because I was as old as he was but I guess not. Anyway, all kidding aside, it’s great to be here and stand alongside our most recent senior diplomat, secretary Tony Blinken. Mr. Secretary thank you for welcoming us today. We’ve worked together for over 20 years, your diplomatic skills are respected equally by your friends and our competitors around the world. And they know when you speak, you speak for me. And so, is the message I want the world to hear today.

Joe Biden: America is back. America is back. Diplomacy is back at the center of our foreign policy. As I said, in my inaugural address, we will repair our alliances, engage with the world once again, not to meet yesterday’s challenges, but today’s, and tomorrow’s. American leadership must meet this new moment of advancing authoritarianism, including the growing ambitions of China to rival the United States and the determination of Russia to damage and disrupt our democracy. We must meet the new moment, accelerating global challenges. From the pandemic to the climate crisis, to nuclear proliferation, challenging the will only to be solved by nations working together and in common, we can’t do it alone. We must start with diplomacy, rooted in America’s most cherished democratic values.

Joe Biden: Defending freedom, championing opportunity, upholding universal rights, respecting the rule of law and treating every person with dignity. That’s the grounding wire of our global policy, our global power. That’s our inexhaustible source of strength. That’s America’s abiding advantage. Though many of these values have come under intense pressure in recent years, even pushed to the brink in the last few weeks, the American people are going to emerge from this moment stronger, more determined and better equipped to unite the world in fighting to defend democracy because we have fought for it ourselves. Over the past few days, we’ve been in close cooperation with our allies and partners to bring together the international community to address the military coup in Burma. I’ve also been in touch with leader McConnell to discuss our shared concerns about the situation in Burma And we are United in our resolve.

Joe Biden: There can be no doubt, in a democracy, force should never seek to overrule the will of the people or attempt to erase the outcome of a credible election. The Burmese military should relinquish power they have seized, release the advocates and activist and officials they had detained, lift the restrictions on telecommunications and refrain from violence. As I said earlier this week, we will work with our partners to support restoration of democracy and the rule of law and impose consequences on those responsible. Over the past two weeks, I have spoken with the leaders of many of our closest friends, Canada, Mexico, the UK, Germany, France, NATO, Japan, South Korea, Australia, to be reforming the habits of cooperation and rebuilding the muscle of democratic alliance that have atrophied over the past few years of neglect and I would argue abuse.

Joe Biden: American alliances are our greatest asset. And leading with diplomacy means standing shoulder to shoulder with our allies and key partners once again. By leading with diplomacy, we must also mean engaging our adversaries and our competitors diplomatically, where it's in our interest and advance the security of the American people. That's why yesterday the United States and Russia agreed to extend the new START treaty for five years to preserve the only remaining treaty between our countries, safeguarding nuclear stability. At the same time, I made it clear to President Putin in a manner very different from my predecessor, that the days of the United States rolling over in the face of Russia's' aggressive actions, interfering with our elections, cyber-attacks, poisoning its citizens are over.

Joe Biden: We will not hesitate to raise the cost on Russia and defend our vital interest in our people. And we will be more effective in dealing with Russia when we work in coalition and coordination with other like-minded partners. The politically motivated jailing Alexei Navalny and the Russian efforts to suppress freedom of expression and peaceful assembly are a matter of deep concern to us and the international community. Mr. Navalny like all Russian citizens is entitled to his rights under the Russian constitution. He's been targeted, targeted for exposing corruption. He should be released immediately and without condition and we'll also take on directly the challenges posed by our prosperity, security and democratic values by our most serious competitor, China. We'll confront China's economic abuses, counter its aggressive course of action to push back on China's attack on human rights, intellectual property and global governance.

Joe Biden: But we are ready to work with Beijing when it's in America's interest to do so. We will compete from a position of strength by building back better at home, working with our allies and partners, renewing our role in international institutions and reclaiming our credibility and moral authority, much of which has been lost. That's why we moved quickly to begin restoring American engagement internationally and earn back our leadership position to catalyze global action on shared challenges. On day one, I signed the paperwork to rejoin the Paris climate agreement. We're taking steps led by an example of integrating climate objectives across all of our diplomacy and raising the ambition of our climate targets. That way we can challenge other nations, other major emitters to up the ante on their own commitments.

Joe Biden: I'll be hosting a climate leaders summit to address the climate crisis on Earth Day of this year. America must lead in the face of this existential threat, and just as with the pandemic, it requires global cooperation. We've also re-engaged with the World Health

Organization, that way we can build better global preparedness to counter COVID-19 as well as detect and prevent future pandemics, because there will be more. We've elevated the status of cyber issues within our government, including appointing a first deputy national security advisor for cyber and emerging technology. We're launching an urgent initiative to improve our capability, readiness and resilience in cyberspace. Today, I'm announcing additional steps to course correct our foreign policy and better unite our democratic values with our diplomatic leadership. To begin, defense secretary Austin will be leading a global posture review of our forces so that our military footprint is appropriately aligned with our foreign policy and national security priorities.

Joe Biden: It will be coordinated across all elements of our national security. With secretary Austin and Secretary Blinken working in close cooperation. And while this review is taking place, we'll be stopping any plan, troop withdraw from Germany. We're also stepping up our diplomacy to end the war in Yemen, a war which has created humanitarian and strategic catastrophe. I've asked my Middle East team to ensure our support for the United nations led initiative to impose a cease fire, open humanitarian challenges and restore long dormant peace talks. This morning, secretary Blinken appointed Tim Lenderking, a career foreign policy officer as our special envoy to the Yemen conflict and I appreciate him doing this. Tim has lifelong experience in the region and had worked with the UN envoy and all parties of the conflict to push for a diplomatic resolution.

Joe Biden: And Tim's diplomacy will be bolstered by USAID working to ensure that humanitarian aid is reaching the Yemeni people who are suffering unendurable devastation. This war has to end and to underscore our commitment, we're ending all American support for offensive operations in the war in Yemen, including relevant arm sales. At the same time, Saudi Arabia faces missile attacks, UAV strikes, and other threats from Iranian supplied forces in multiple countries. We're going to continue to support and help Saudi Arabia defend its sovereignty, and it's territorial integrity and its people. We also face a crisis of more than 80 million displaced people suffering all around the world. The United States' moral leadership on refugee issues was a point of bipartisan consensus for so many decades when I first got here.

Joe Biden: We shine the light of Liberty on oppressed people. We offered safe havens for those fleeing violence or persecution, and our example pushed other nations to open wide their doors as well. So today, I'm approving an executive order to begin the hard work of restoring our refugee admissions program to help meet the unprecedented global need. It's going to take time to rebuild what has been so badly damaged, but that's precisely what we're going to do. This executive order will position us to be able to raise the refugee admissions back up to 125,000 persons for the first full fiscal year of the Biden Harris administration and I'm directing the state department to consult with Congress about making a down payment on that commitment as soon as possible.

Joe Biden: And to further impair our moral leadership, I'm also issuing a Presidential memo to agencies to reinvigorate our leadership on the LGBTQI issues and do it internationally. We'll ensure diplomacy and foreign assistance are working to promote the rights of those individuals included by combating criminalization and protecting the LGBTQ refugees and asylum seekers. Finally, to successfully reassert our diplomacy and keep Americans safe, prosperous,

and free, we must restore the health morale of our foreign policy institutions. I want the people who work in this building and our embassies and councils around the world to know I value your expertise and I respect you and I will have your back. This administration is going to empower you to do your jobs, not target or politicize you.

Joe Biden: We want a rigorous debate that brings all perspectives and makes room for dissent. That's how we'll get the best possible policy outcomes. So with your help, the United States will again, lead, not just by the example of our power, but the power of our example. That's why my administration has already taken the important step to live our democratic values at home. Within hours of taking office, I signed the executive order, overturning the hateful discriminatory Muslim ban. Reversed the ban on transgender individuals serving in our military. And as part of our commitment to truth, transparency and accountability, we stated on day one, we started on day one with daily briefings of the press from the White House. We've re-instituted regular briefings here at State and at the Pentagon.

Joe Biden: We believe free press isn't an adversary, rather it's essential, free press is essential to the health of a democracy. We've restored our commitment to science and to create policies grounded in facts and evidence. I suspect Ben Franklin would approve. We've taken steps to acknowledge and address systemic racism and the scourge of white supremacy in our own country. Racial equity will not just be an issue for one department in our administration, it has to be the business of the whole of government and all our federal policies and institutions. All this matters to foreign policy because when we host the summit of democracies early in my administration to rally the nations of the world to defend democracy globally, to push back the authoritarianism's advance will be a much more credible partner because of these efforts to shore up our own foundations.

Joe Biden: There's no longer a bright line between foreign and domestic policy. Every action we take and our conduct abroad you must take with American working families in mind. Advancing a foreign policy for the middle class demands urgent focus on our domestic economic renewal. And that's why I immediately put forth the American rescue plan to pull us out of this economic crisis. That's why I signed an executive order strengthening our by American policies last week. That's also why I'll work with Congress to make far reaching investments in research and development of transformative technologies. These investments are going to create jobs, maintain America's competitive edge globally and ensure all Americans share in the dividends. If we invest in ourselves and our people, if we fight to ensure that American businesses are positioned to compete and win on the global stage, if the rules of international trade aren't stacked against us.

Joe Biden: If our workers and intellectual property are protected, then there's no country on earth, not China, any other country on earth that can match us. Investing in our diplomacy isn't something we do just because it's the right thing to do for the world. We do it in order to live in peace, security, and prosperity. We do it because it's in our own naked self interest. When we strengthen our alliances we amplify our power, as well as our ability to disrupt threats before they can reach our shores. When we invest in economic development of countries, we create new markets for our products and reduce the likelihood of instability, violence and mass

migrations. When we strengthen health systems in far regions of the world, we reduce the risk of future pandemics that could threaten our people and our economy.

Joe Biden: When we defend equal rights of people the world over of women and girls, LGBTQ individuals, indigenous communities, and people with disabilities, the people of every ethnic background and religion, we also ensure that those rights are protected for our own children here in America. America cannot afford to be absent any longer on the world stage. I come today to the state department, an agency as old and as [inaudible 00:18:05] as the nation itself because diplomacy has always been essential. Now, America writes his own destiny for the diplomacy of Ben Franklin help to share the success of our revolution, the vision of the Marshall plan help prevent the world from foundering on the wreckage of the war.

Joe Biden: And the passions of Eleanor Roosevelt that declared the audacious idea of universal rights that belong to all. The leadership of the diplomats of every stripe doing the daily work of engagement created the very idea of a free and interconnected world. We are a country that does big things. American diplomacy makes it happen. And our administration is ready to take up the mantle and lead once again. Thank you all and may God bless you and protect our troops and our diplomats and our development experts and all Americans serving in harm's way. Going this way. Thank you all.

Joe Biden Speech at 2021 Munich Security Conference Transcript

[Rev](#) › [Blog](#) › [Transcripts](#) › [Political Transcripts](#) › Joe Biden Speech at 2021 Munich Security Conference Transcript. It was not his first time at the security council.

President Joe Biden gave a speech on U.S. foreign policy priorities at the 2021 Munich Security Conference on February 19. Read the transcript of his remarks [here](#).

Joe Biden: It's great to be with Angela and Emanuel. We just spent a part of, from Washington perspective, a morning together. But I want to say hello to everyone, and thanks to you at the Munich Conference for hosting this special session.

Joe Biden: For decades, as you pointed out, I participated in the Munich Security Conference as a U.S. senator joining my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to affirm the importance of the Transatlantic Partnership. Three times as vice-president of the United States, including delivering the first international foreign policy address of the Obama-Biden administration in the first months we were in office. And two years ago, as you pointed out, when I last spoke in Munich, I was a private citizen. I was a professor, not an elected official. But I said at that time, "We will be back." And I'm a man of my word. America is back.

Joe Biden: I speak to you today as president of the United States, at the very start of my administration; and I'm sending a clear message to the world, America is back. The Transatlantic Alliance is back. And we are not looking backward, we are looking forward together. It comes down to this, the Transatlantic Alliance is a strong foundation, the strong foundation in which our collective security and our shared prosperity are built.

Joe Biden: The partnership between Europe and the United States in my view is, and must remain the cornerstone of all that we hope to accomplish in the 21st century, just as we did in the 20th century.

Joe Biden: The challenges we face today are different. We're at an inflection point. When I spoke to you as a senator and as even as vice-president, the global dynamics have shifted, new crises demand our attention, and we can not focus only on the competition among countries that threaten to divide the world, or only on global challenges that threaten to sink us all together if we fail to cooperate.

Joe Biden: We must do both, working in lock step with our allies and partners. So let me erase any lingering doubt. The United States will work closely with our European Union partners in the capitals across the continent, from Rome, to Riga, to meet the range of shared challenges we face.

Joe Biden: We continue to support the goal of a Europe whole, and free, and at peace. The United States is fully committed to our NATO Alliance; and I welcome Europe's growing investment in the military capabilities that enable our shared defense.

Joe Biden: To me, and to the United States, and us, we'll keep faith with Article 5; it's a guarantee. An attack on one is an attack on all, that is our unshakeable vow. And the only time Article 5 has been invoked was after the United States was attacked on 9/11. You, our allies joined us to fight Al-Qaida, and the United States committed to consulting closely with our NATO allies and partners on the way forward in Afghanistan.

Joe Biden: My administration strongly supports the diplomatic process that's underway, and to bring an end to this war that is closing out 20 years. We remain committed to ensuring that Afghanistan never again provides a base for terrorist attacks against the United States and our partners and our interests.

Joe Biden: Our European partners have also stood with us to counter ISIS. Just this wee NATO defense ministers endorsed significant expanded training and advisory mission in Iraq, which will be vital to the ongoing fight against ISIS. We cannot allow ISIS to reopen and regroup and threaten people in the Middle East, and Europe, and the United States and elsewhere.

Joe Biden: And while the United States is undergoing a thorough review of our own force posture around the world, I've ordered the halting and withdrawal of American troops from Germany. I'm also lifting the cap imposed by the previous administration on the number of us forces able to be based in Germany.

Joe Biden: I know the past few years have strained and tested our transatlantic relationship, but the United States is determined, determined to re-engage with Europe, to consult with you, to earn back our position of trusted leadership.

Joe Biden: Earlier today, as was referenced, I participated in the first meeting of the G7 leaders, where I spoke about the dire need to coordinate multilateral action to address COVID-19, the global economic crisis, and the accelerating climate crisis, and so much else.

Joe Biden: Achieving these goals is going to depend on a core strategic proposition. And that is the United States must renew America's enduring advantages so that we can meet today's challenges from a position of strength. That means building back better our economic foundations, reclaiming our place in international institutions, lifting up our values at home, and speaking out to defend them around the world, modernizing our military capabilities while leading with diplomacy, revitalizing America's network of alliances and partnerships that have made the world safer for all people.

Joe Biden: I hope our fellow democracies are going to join us in this vital work. Our partnerships have endured and grown through the years because they are rooted in the richness of our shared democratic values. They're not transactional, they're not extractive. They're built on a vision of a future where every voice matters, where the rights of all are protected, and the rule of law is upheld.

Joe Biden: None of us has fully succeeded in this division. We continue to work toward it. And in so many places, including in Europe and the United States, democratic progress is under assault. I've known many of you for a long, long time, and you know that I speak my mind. So let me be very straightforward with you all. We are in the midst of a fundamental debate about the future and direction of our world. We're at an inflection point between those who argue that given all the challenges we face from the fourth industrial revolution, to the global

pandemic, that autocracy is the best way forward they argue. And those who understand that democracy is essential, essential to meeting these challenges. Historians are going to examine and write about this moment as an inflection point, as I said. And I believe in every ounce of my being that democracy will and must prevail.

Joe Biden: We must demonstrate that democracy can still deliver for our people in this changed world. That in my view, is our galvanizing mission. Democracy doesn't happen by accident. We have to defend it, fight for it, strengthen it, renew it. We have to prove that our model isn't a relic of history; it's the single best way to revitalize the promise of our future.

Joe Biden: And if we work together with our democratic partners, with strength and confidence, I know we'll meet every challenge and outpace every challenger. We must prepare together for long-term strategic competition with China. How the United States, Europe and Asia work together to secure the peace, and defend our shared values, and advance our prosperity across the Pacific will be among the most consequential efforts we undertake.

Joe Biden: Competition with China is going to be stiff; that's what I expect, and that's what I welcome. Because I believe in the global system, Europe and the United States together, with our allies in the Indo-Pacific worked so hard to build over the last 70 years. We can own the race for the future, but to do so we have to be clear-eyed about the historic investments and partnerships that this will require. We have to protect for space for innovation, for intellectual property, and the creative genius that thrives with the free exchange of ideas in open democratic societies.

Joe Biden: We have to ensure that the benefits of growth are shared broadly and equitably, not just by a few. We have to push back against the Chinese government's economic abuses and coercion that undercut the foundations of the international economic system.

Joe Biden: Everyone must play by the same rules. U.S. and European companies are required to publicly disclose to corporate governance structures, and abide by rules to deter corruption of monopolistic practices. Chinese companies should be held to the same standard. We must shape the rules that will govern the advance of technology and the norms of behavior in cyberspace, artificial intelligence, biotechnology, so that they are used to lift people up, not used to pin them down.

Joe Biden: We must stand up for the democratic values that make it possible for us to accomplish any of this, pushing back against those who would monopolize and normalize repression. Now this is also how we're going to be able to meet the threat from Russia.

Joe Biden: The criminal attacks our democracies and weaponizes corruption to try to undermine our system of governance. Russian leaders want people to think that our system is more corrupt, or as corrupt as theirs; but the world knows that isn't true, including Russia's own citizens. Putin seeks to weaken the European project, and our NATO Alliance. He wants to undermine the transatlantic unity and our resolve, because it's so much easier for the Kremlin to bully and threaten individual states than it is to negotiate with a strong and closely-united transatlantic community.

Joe Biden: That's why standing up for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine remains a vital concern for Europe and the United States. That's why addressing Russian

recklessness, and hacking into computer networks in the United States and across Europe and the world has become critical to protecting our collective security.

Joe Biden: The challenges with Russia may be different than the ones with China, but they're just as real. It is not about pitting East against West. It's not about, we want a conflict. We want a future where all nations are able to freely determine their own path without a threat of violence or coercion.

Joe Biden: We cannot and must not return to the reflective opposition and rigid blocks of the cold war. Competition must not lock out cooperation on issues that affect us all. For example, we must cooperate if we're going to defeat COVID-19 everywhere. My first presidential national security memorandum focused on surging health and humanitarian responses to defeat COVID-19, and to better prevent and prepare for the next pandemic.

Joe Biden: Today, I'm announcing that the United States is making a \$2 billion pledge to COVAX with a promise of an additional \$2 billion to urge others to step up as well.

Joe Biden: And even as we fight to get out of the teeth of this pandemic, the resurgence of Ebola in Africa is a stark reminder that we must simultaneously work to finally finance health security, strengthen global health systems, and create early warning systems to prevent, detect, and respond to future biological threats because they will keep coming. We have to work together to strengthen and reform the World Health Organization. We need a UN system focused on biological threats that can move quickly to trigger action.

Joe Biden: Similarly, we can no longer delay or do the bare minimum to address climate change. This is a global existential crisis, and we'll all suffer, we'll all suffer the consequences if we fail. We have to rapidly accelerate our commitments to aggressively curb our emissions and to hold one another accountable for meeting our goals, and increasing our ambitions.

Joe Biden: That's why as president, I immediately rejoined the Paris Agreement. And as of today, the United States is officially, once again, a party to the Paris Agreement, which we helped put together. On earth day I will host the leaders' summit to help drive more ambitious actions among the top emitters, including domestic climate action here in the United States.

Joe Biden: I'm grateful for Europe's continued leadership on climate issues over the last four years. Together, we need to invest in the technological innovations that are going to power our clean energy futures, and enable us to build a clean energy solution to global markets.

Joe Biden: The threat of nuclear proliferation also continues to require careful diplomacy and cooperation among us. We need transparency and communication to minimize the risk of strategic misunderstanding or mistakes. That's why the United States and Russia, notwithstanding other competition, extended the New START treaty for an additional four years once I was sworn in.

Joe Biden: That's why we said we're prepared to reengage in negotiations with the P5+1 on Iran's nuclear program. We must also address Iran's destabilizing activities across the Middle East, and we're going to work in close cooperation with our European and other partners as we proceed.

Joe Biden: We'll also work together to lock down fissile and radiologic material, to prevent terrorist groups from acquiring and using it.

Joe Biden: The range of challenges Europe in the United States must take on together is broad and complex. I'm eager to hear next from my good friends and outstanding leaders, Chancellor Merkel about her thoughts on the way forward together.

Joe Biden: So let me conclude with this. We cannot allow self-doubt to hinder our ability to engage each other, or the larger world. The last four years have been hard, but Europe and United States have to lead with confidence once more, with faith in our capacities, a commitment to our own renewal, with trust in one another, and the ability Europe in the United States to meet any challenge to secure our futures together.

Joe Biden: I know we can do this. We've done it before. Just yesterday, after a seven month, 300 million mile journey, NASA successfully landed the Perseverance Rover on Mars. It's on a mission of exploration, with elements contributed by our European partners, to seek evidence of the possibility of life beyond our planet, and the mysteries of the universe.

Joe Biden: Over the next few years, Percy, as it's being called, but Perseverance will range and collect samples from the red planet, and pile them up so another mission and rover, envisioned as a joint effort between NASA and the European Space Agency, will retrieve this trove of scientific wonders and bring it home to all of us.

Joe Biden: That's what we can do together. If our unbound capacities to carry us to Mars and back don't tell us anything else, they tell us we can meet any challenge we can face on earth. We have everything we need. And I want you to know the United States will do our part. We'll stand with you. We'll fight for our shared values. We'll meet the challenges of this new moment in history, America's back. So let's get together and demonstrate to our great, great grandchildren when they read about us, that democracy, democracy, democracy functions and works, and together there's nothing we can't do. So let's get working. Thank you all very much.

Joe Biden Speech on Executive Orders for Racial Equity

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President Joe Biden spoke about his agenda to tackle racial inequity in America on January 26, 2021. He also signed a series of executive orders. Read the transcript of his briefing remarks on racial equity here.

President Biden: Good afternoon folks. I thank the vice-president for being with me today as well. In my campaign for president, I made it very clear, that the moment it arrived as a nation, where we faced deep racial inequities in America and systemic racism that has plagued our nation for far, far too long. I said that over the course of the past year that the blinders have been taken off the nation, the American people. What many Americans didn't see or had simply refused to see couldn't be ignored any longer. Those eight minutes and 46 seconds that took George Floyd's life opened the eyes of millions of Americans and millions of people around all over the world. It was the knee on the neck of justice, and it wouldn't be forgotten. It stirred the conscious and tens of millions of Americans. And in my view, it marked a turning point in this country's attitude toward racial justice.

President Biden: When the six year old daughter, Giana, who I met with when I met with the family, I leaned down to say hi to her. And she looked at me. She said, "Daddy changed the world." That's what Giana said, his daughter, "Daddy changed the world." And I believe she was right, not because this kind of injustice stopped. It clearly hasn't. But because the ground has shifted, because it changed minds and mindsets. Because it laid the groundwork for progress. COVID-19 has further ripped a path of destruction through every community in America, but no one has been spared. But the devastation in communities of color has been nothing short of stunning. Just look at the numbers.

President Biden: 40% of frontline workers, nurses, first responders, grocery store workers are Americans of color and many are still living on the edge. One in 10 black Americans is out of work today. One in 11 Latino Americans is out of work today. One in seven households in America, about one in four black and one in five Latino households in America, report that they don't have enough food to eat in the United States of America. Black and Latino Americans are dying of COVID-19 at rates nearly three times that of white Americans. And it's not White American's fault, but just a fact. And the Americans now know it, especially younger Americans.

President Biden: One of the reasons I'm so optimistic about this nation is that today's generation of young Americans is the most progressive, thoughtful, inclusive generation that America has ever seen. And they are pulling us toward justice in so many ways, forcing us to confront the huge gap in economic inequity, between those at the top and everyone else, forcing us to confront the existential crisis of climate. And yes, forcing us to confront systemic racism and white supremacy.

President Biden: It's just been weeks since all America witnessed a group of thugs, insurrectionists, political extremist and white supremacists violently attack the capital of our democracy. And so now, now's the time to act. It's time because that's what the faith and morality calls us to do. Across nearly every faith, the same principles hold. We're all God's children. We should treat each other as we would like to be treated ourselves. And this is time to act and this is time to act because it's what the core values of this nation calls to do. And I believe the vast majority of Americans, Democrats, Republicans, and independents share these values and want us to act as well. We've never fully lived up to the founding principles of this nation, to state the obvious, that all people are created equal and have a right to be treated equally throughout their lives. And it's time to act now, not only because it's the right thing to do, but because if we do, we'll all be better off for it for it.

President Biden: For too long, we've allowed a narrow cramped view of the promise of this nation to fester. We've bought the view that America is a zero sum game, in many cases. If you succeed, I fail. If you get ahead, I fall behind. If you get the job, I lose mine. Maybe worst of all, if I hold you down, I lift myself up. We've lost sight of what President Kennedy told us when he said, "A rising tide lifts all boats." And when you lift each other up, we're all lifted up. And the corollary is true as well. When any one of us is held down, we're all held back.

President Biden: More and more economic studies in recent years have proven this, but I don't think you need economic studies to see the truth. Just imagine if instead of consigning millions of American children to under-resourced schools, we gave each and every three, four year old child a chance to learn, to go to school. Not daycare, school, and grow and thrive in school. And when they've done that, the places that have been done, it shows they have an exponentially greater chance of going all the way through 12 years of school and doing it well.

President Biden: But you know, does anyone in this whole nation think we're not all better off if that were to happen? Just imagine if instead of denying millions of Americans the ability to own a home and build generational wealth, we made it possible for them to buy a home, their first home, and began to build equity, to provide for their families and send their children off to school. Does anyone doubt that the whole nation would be better off? Just imagine, instead of denying millions of young entrepreneurs the ability to access capital, we made it possible to take their dream to market, create jobs, reinvest in their own communities. Does anyone doubt this whole nation wouldn't be better off? Just imagine, if more incredibly creative and innovative... how much more creative and innovative we'd be if this nation held the historic black colleges and universities to the same opportunities and minority serving institutions that had the same funding and resources of public universities to compete for jobs and industries of the future.

President Biden: Just ask the first HBCU graduate elected as vice president if that's not true. But to do this, I believe this nation and this government need to change their whole approach to the issue of racial equity. Yes, we need criminal justice reform, but that isn't nearly enough. We need to open the promise of America to every American. And that means we need to make the issue of racial equity not just an issue for any one department of government. It has to be the business of a whole of government. That's why I issued in one of the first days, my whole government executive order that will, for the first time advance, equity for all throughout our

federal policies and institutions. It focuses on the full range of communities who have been long underserved and overlooked, people of color, Americans with disabilities, LGBTQ Americans, religious minorities, rural urban, suburban communities facing persistent poverty.

President Biden: I've asked Ambassador Susan Rice to lead the administrations charge through the White House and Domestic Policy Council, because I know she'll see it through. Every White House component and every agency will be involved in this work because advancing equity has to be everyone's job. Today, I'll be shortly signing an additional package of executive actions to continue this vital work. Housing, for example. Housing is a right in American and home ownership is an essential tool to wealth creation and to be passed down to generations. Today, I'm directly in the Department of Housing and Urban Affairs and Urban Development to redress historical racism and federal housing policies. Today, I'm directing the federal agency to reinvigorate the consultation process with Indian tribes. Respect for tribal sovereignty would be a cornerstone around engaging with Native American communities.

President Biden: This builds on the work we did last week to expand tribes access to the strategic national stockpile for the first time, to ensure they receive help from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, FEMA, to fight this pandemic. Today, I'm directing federal agencies to combat the surges of xenophobia, particularly against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, that we've seen skyrocket during this pandemic. This is unacceptable. And it's un-American. I've asked the Department of Justice to strengthen his partnership with the Asian American and Pacific Islander community to prevent those hate crimes. I've also asked the Department of Health and Human Services to put out best practices for combating xenophobia in our national response to COVID.

President Biden: Look, in the weeks ahead, I'll be reaffirming the federal government's commitment to diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility, building on the work we started in the Obama Biden administration. That's why I'm rescinding the previous administration's harmful ban on diversity and sensitivity training and abolished the offensive counterfactual 1776 commission.

President Biden: Unity and healing must begin with understanding the truth, not ignorance and lies. Today, I'm also issuing an executive order that will ultimately end the Justice department's use of private prisons, an industry that houses pretrial detainees and federal prisoners. The executive order directs the attorney general to decline to renew contracts with privately operated criminal facilities, a step we started to take at the end of the Obama administration and was reversed under the previous administration. This is the first step to stop corporations from profiting off incarceration that is less humane and less safe as the studies show. And it is just the beginning of my administration's plan to address systemic problems in our criminal justice system.

President Biden: Here's another thing we need to do. We need to restore and expand the Voting Rights Act, named after our dear friend, John Lewis, and continue to fight back against laws that many states are engaged in to suppress the right to vote, while expanding access to the ballot box for all eligible voters. Because here's the deal. And I'll close with this. I ran for president because I believe we're in a battle for the soul of this nation. And the simple truth is our soul will be troubled as long as systemic racism is allowed to persist. We can't eliminate...

It's not going to be overnight. We can't eliminate everything, but it's corrosive. It's destructive. And it's costly.

President Biden: It cost every American, not just who felt the sting of racial injustice. We are not just a nation of morally deprived because of systemic racism. We're also less prosperous. We're less successful, less secure. We must change. And I know it's going to take time, but I know we can do it. And I firmly believe the nation is ready to change, but government has to change as well. We need to make equity and justice part of what we do every day, today, tomorrow, and every day, I'm going to sign these executive actions to continue the work, to make real the promise of America for every American. Again, I'm not promising we can end it tomorrow, but I promise you, we're going to continue to make progress to eliminate systemic racism in every branch of the White House and the federal government is going to be part of that effort. Thank you.

President Biden: This first executive order is a memorandum for the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to readdress our nations and the federal government's history of discriminatory housing practices and policies.

President Biden: Next executive order is reforming the incarceration system by eliminating the use of privately operated criminal detention facilities.

President Biden: The third executive order is a memorandum for the heads of executive departments and agencies, tribal consultation to serve [inaudible 00:16:23] nation relationships.

President Biden: The last executive order is condemning and combating racism, xenophobia, and intolerance against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in the United States.

President Biden: I think the country's ready. And I know this administration is. Thank you.

Joe Biden Remarks on Executive Actions on Immigration Transcript

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President Joe Biden signed three executive orders to “strengthen the immigration system” on February 2, 2021. Read the transcript of his remarks on the executive actions here.

Joe Biden: Well, let me begin by saying that all three of us, the Vice President, the new Secretary of Homeland Security, that our hearts go out to the families of the FBI special agents, two of whom were killed and three of whom were injured today in Florida. I was briefed on this tragedy earlier today, and I know the FBI has gathered information about how this happened, what happened, but I can only imagine how these families are feeling today. One of the things when you are in a combat zone in the military or you’re an FBI agent or a police officer, every family just when they put that shield on and go out in the morning dreads the possibility of a call, receiving that phone call. My heart aches for the families. I’ve not had an opportunity, nor will I try today to contact them, but they put their lives on the line, and it’s a hell of a price to pay. Every single day, every time these folks get up, by and large, the vast, vast majority of these men and women are decent, honorable people who put themselves on the line. We owe them.

Joe Biden: But the purpose of my asking you here today is I want to congratulate the new secretary. Secretary Mayorkas is going to take on an easy job. Nothing to it, Homeland Security, and going to deal. Looking forward to his leadership and working with Congress on a lot of issues, including an immigration bill that has, I think, great support in both chambers. Today, I’m going to sign a few executive orders to strengthen the immigration system, building on the executive actions I took on day one to protect Dreamers and the Muslim ban and to better manage our borders, and that’s what these three different executive orders are about.

Joe Biden: I want to make it clear. There’s a lot of talk with good reason about the number of executive orders that I have signed. I’m not making new law, I’m eliminating bad policy. What I’m doing is taking on the issues, 99% of them, that the last president of United States issued executive orders I thought were very counterproductive to our security, counterproductive to who we are as a country, particularly in the area of immigration. This is about how America’s safer, stronger, more prosperous when we have a fair, orderly and humane legal immigration system. And with the first action today, we’re going to work to undo the moral and national shame of the previous administration that literally, not figuratively, ripped children from the arms of their families, their mothers and fathers at the border, and with no plan, none whatsoever, to reunify the children who were still in custody and their parents.

Joe Biden: The second action addresses the root causes of our migration to our southern border, and the third action. The third order I’m going to be signing orders a full review of the previous administration’s harmful and counterproductive immigration policies basically across the

board. And so with that, I'm going to sign the first order, which is a re-establishment of the NRACC task force and our reunification of families. It removes the stain on our reputation for what those separations caused. That is the first order.

Joe Biden: The second order I'm signing is creating a comprehensive regional framework to address the causes of migration and to manage migration throughout the North and Central America, and to provide a safe and orderly processing of asylum seekers at the United States border. And the third order I'm signing is restoring the faith in our legal immigration system and strengthening immigration and inclusion efforts for new Americans. As my grandfather would say, the grace of God and the goodwill of neighbors will reunite these children and re-establish our reputation as being a haven for people in need. Thank you very, very much.

Joe Biden & Kamala Harris Speech on Violence Against AAPI Community at Emory Transcript

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President Joe Biden and VP Kamala Harris gave remarks at Emory University on rising hate and violence against the AAPI community and Asian Americans on March 19. Read the transcript of their speeches here.

Kamala Harris: Good afternoon. Over the past week, the President and I have traveled across the country to mark the passage of the American Rescue Plan, to tell the American people about how 100 million checks are on their way, about how 100 million vaccines have been administered. Big news, good news. And we plan to come down here to Georgia, to the place that made it possible, to share that information. And then Tuesday night we learned that eight of our neighbors were killed in a heinous act of violence. Violence that has no place in the state of Georgia or in the United States of America. And we were reminded yet again, that the crises we face are many. That the foes face are many. As the President and I discussed with our AAPI community in a meeting earlier today, whatever the killer's motive, these facts are clear. Six out of the eight people killed on Tuesday night were of Asian descent. Seven were women.

Kamala Harris: The shootings took place in businesses owned by Asian Americans. The shootings took place as violent hate crimes and discrimination against Asian Americans has risen dramatically over the last year and more. In fact, over the past year, 3,800 such incidents have been reported, two of three by women. Everything from physical assaults to verbal accusations, and it's all harmful. And sadly it's not new. Racism is real in America and it has always been. Xenophobia is real in America and always has been. Sexism too. In the 1860s, as Chinese workers built the Transcontinental Railroad, there were laws on the books in America forbidding them from owning property. In the 1940s, as Japanese American soldiers defended our nation, more than 120,000 Japanese Americans were forced to live in internment camps, an obvious and absolute abuse of their civil and human rights. Asian Americans have been attacked and scapegoated. People who are perceived as Muslim know what it was like to live in our country after 9/11. For the last year, we've had people in positions of incredible power scapegoating Asian-Americans. People with the biggest pulpits spreading this kind of hate.

Kamala Harris: Ultimately, this is about who we are as a nation. This is about how we treat people with dignity and respect. Everyone has the right to go to work, to go to school, to walk down the street and be safe, and also the right to be recognized as an American. Not as the other, not as them, but as us. A harm against any one of us is a harm against all

of us. The President and I will not be silent. We will not stand by. We will always speak out against violence, hate crimes and discrimination, wherever and whenever it occurs. And it is now my great honor to introduce the President of the United States, Joe Biden.

Joe Biden: Thank you and good afternoon. Sorry a little late, but we had an opportunity to meet with leaders of the AAPI community downstairs and it was heart wrenching to listen to. As many of you know, we originally planned to hold a car rally to thank our supporters, but given the recent days, events of the recent days, we didn't feel it was appropriate so we canceled that rally. But we want our supporters to know we'll come back and hold that rally another trip. But today we want to speak about something else. I said from the beginning of my campaign for president, that we needed to come together, that we needed to unite as one people, one nation, one America. I said in my kickoff speech in Philadelphia, I said that very same thing when I spoke at Gettysburg, I said that in my inaugural address. And I believe with every fiber on my being, there are simply some core values and beliefs that should bring us together as Americans. One of them is standing together against hate, against racism, the ugly poison that has long haunted and plagued our nation.

Joe Biden: The Vice President and I, as I said, met a little bit earlier just before this with leaders from the Asian-American community here in Georgia. We talked about Tuesday's mass shooting, about another example of public health crisis of gun violence in this country. Eight people killed. Seven women. Six were of Asian descent. All fellow Americans, each one of them we mourn. Their families are left with broken hearts and unanswered questions. And the investigation is ongoing, and the Vice President and I are being regularly updated by the attorney general and the director of the FBI working closely with Governor Kemp and Mayor Bottoms and local officials. But whatever the motivation, we know this, too many Asian Americans have been walking up and down the streets and worrying, waking up each morning the past year feeling their safety and the safety of their loved ones are at stake.

Joe Biden: They've been attacked, blamed, scapegoated and harassed. They've been verbally assaulted, physically assaulted, killed. Documented incidents of hate against Asian-Americans have seen a skyrocketing spike over the last year, let alone the ones that happened and never get reported. It's been a year of living in fear for their lives just to walk down the street. Grandparents afraid to leave their homes. Small business owners targeted and gunned down. Attacks on some of the most vulnerable people in our nation, the elderly, low wage workers and women. In fact, Asian American women suffered twice as many incidents of harassment and violence as Asian American men. We're learning again what we've always known, words have consequences.

Joe Biden: It's the coronavirus full stop. The conversation we had today with the AAPI leaders and that we're hearing all across the countries that hate and violence often hide in plain sight, and so often met with silence. That's been through throughout our history. But that has to change, because our silence is complicity. We cannot be complicit. We have to

speak out. We have to act. My first week in office, I signed an executive order directing federal agencies to combat this resurgence of xenophobia. The Department of Justice is strengthening its partnership with the AAPI community to prevent these crimes, in addition to its other work to take on violent extremists and domestic terrorism. I'm calling on Congress to pass and get to my desk the COVID-19 Hate Crimes Act. And the House just passed through authorization for the Violence Against Women Act, a law I authored more than 25 years ago. It was one of my proudest legislative achievements.

Joe Biden: I call on the Senate to swiftly pass it and get it to my desk. But for all the good that laws can do, we have to change our hearts. Hate can have no safe harbor in America. It must stop. And it's on all of us, all of us together to make it stop. Something else should bring us together, and that is a belief in science. Science isn't something that should divide us. There's nothing political about it. There's nothing partisan about it. One of the America's best examples of commitment to science is headquartered right here in Atlanta, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention. The CDC represents the best of this nation. Brilliant minds, deep faith in science, and a strong commitment to public service. We came here to thank them for all the work they do, and especially the work they've done over the course of this pandemic.

Joe Biden: We owe them and their families our gratitude. We wanted to convey to them the absolute commitment to give them everything they need to do their work and get it done, free of politics and guided by science. And because of them, we're making real progress. We just met my goal of administering 100 million shots before my first 100 days in office. We did it in about 60 days. We're not stopping now. The American Rescue Funds, more vaccines, more vaccination centers, and more increase in testing. It's going to help us accelerate our nationwide effort to reopen schools safely. Last week, I directed all states, tribes and territories to make all adults eligible to be vaccinated no later than May one. But while this is a time of optimism, it's not a time for relaxation. I need all Americans to keep doing your part. Wash your hands, stay socially distanced, keep masking up as recommended by the CDC, and get vaccinated when it's your turn.

Joe Biden: None of this is political. It's all science-based. But now is not the time to let our guard down. That's science-based as well. In the last week, we've seen increases in number of cases in several states. Things may get worse as new variants of the virus spread. That's why we need to vaccinate as many people as quickly as we possibly can, because it's the best thing we can do to fight back against these variants. We have to beat this virus. We have to, and we will. But we'll do it by setting aside politics and embracing science. Another subject, the right to vote, that should bring us together as well. But it now divides us. This is a democracy. The right to vote is fundamental. The fact that there was a record turnout in America in the last election in the midst of a pandemic should be something we celebrate, not attack.

Joe Biden: The fact that you held a free and fair election in Georgia, that stood up to recount after recount, court case after court case is something you should be proud of. The

fact that your poll workers, your election workers, your volunteers, your local officials, your state officials, your courts stood up to the immense pressure with character, and honesty, and integrity helped save our democracy. This country will long be grateful for it. But as this state, home to Martin Luther King and John Lewis, knows better than most, the battle for the right to vote is never ever over. And it's not over here in this state of Georgia. So we're in a fight again. It's a fight we need to win, because if anyone ever doubted that voting matters, Georgia just proved it did. If anyone ever wondered if one vote can make a difference, Georgia just proved it 11,779 times.

Joe Biden: And if anyone ever wondered if voting can change a country, Georgia just proved it can. Because when you elected two new United States senators, you made it possible to pass the American Rescue Plan. Landmark legislation will not only meet the emergency rent, but transform this nation, starting with this, for those folks who either already have or will soon have \$1,400 in their pockets, you can thank Senators Warnock and Osoff. But for their votes, it would not have happened. What does that mean? It means 85% of the households in America will get that money. Here in Georgia, it means 88% of all adults and 88% of the children in this state will get that \$1,400 as well. Just add it up. A typical family, two parents, two kids earning \$100,000 a year, each will get \$1,400. That's \$5,600 for that family that's in distress, trying to figure out how to pay their mortgage, pay their rent, keep food on the table.

Joe Biden: And that's not all. There's something called a Child Tax Credit. What that basically means is you get a tax credit for every child you have. The American Rescue Plan expands that credit. It means that families of over 2 million children in Georgia will be eligible for an increase in that Child Tax Credit of \$1,600 per year per child. And it's going to be delivered on a regular basis. So starting this summer, families of the young kids will get \$300 a month per child. This is going to lift 177,000 children in Georgia out of poverty. The American Rescue Plan expands coverage and reduces costs under the Affordable Care Act. So for a family of four earning \$90,000 per year, with insurance under the Affordable Care Act, they'll see about \$200 a month off their monthly premiums. And for Georgia schools, the American Rescue Plan provides around \$4 billion for Georgia's school children, grades K through 12 to help them reopen safely.

Joe Biden: And here is one of the biggest things for Georgia, because of the American Rescue Plan, Georgia is now eligible for about \$2 billion to expand Medicaid. What does that mean? Means another 500,000 Georgians will be covered all across this state with Medicaid that don't have it now. For your state and local governments, this is what it does. State government will get around \$5 billion to make up for lost revenue. Local governments will get around 3.5 billion. That's going to make it possible to keep a lot of police officers, firefighters, teachers, and other first responders on the job. And here's one final thing the American Rescue Plan does, for the first time in a long time, it puts working families, the middle-class, people who built this country, first, not last. 66% of the tax breaks in this plan go to folks making \$90,000 or less a year.

Joe Biden: And how much for the top 1%, where 83% of all the tax cut that was the last president's tax cut? Zero. Top 1% get zero. But the American Rescue Plan isn't only about putting money in the pockets, people's pockets. It also will create and spur economic growth in America. That's why major economists, left, right and center support this plan. Even wall Street agrees. According to Moody's, this law will help America create 7 million new jobs by the end of the year. And we'll do it by rebuilding the backbone of this nation, the working people, the middle class, the people who built this country. It's about giving those people a fair shot for a change. It's about providing and proving to the American people that their government works and can deliver for them, which brings me to my last point. The American Rescue Plan is a plan that brings America together and benefits all Americans.

Joe Biden: That's why so many polls show that over 70% of the country support it, including Democrats, Republicans, and Independents. Maybe Republicans in Washington didn't vote for it. But the American Rescue Plan sure has brought the country together. And for me, that measure of unity, that's what matters. Let me end with this. There's so much we can do if we do it together. If we remember who we are, we stand together against hate. Once again, believe and invest in science. We stand up for the right of all Americans to vote and have access to voting. If remember, we're here to help all the people in this country, not just those few at the top. If we remember to do justice, love mercy, to walk humbly as fellow human beings and as fellow Americans. If we remember we're the United States of America, and that together, there's nothing, not a single thing we cannot do if we do it together.

Joe Biden: My heart goes out to all, all the family members who lost someone in those horrific shootings on Tuesday. I know they feel that like there's a black hole in their chest they're being sucked into and things will never get better. But our prayers are with you. And I assure you, the one you lost will always be with you. Always be with you. The day will come when their memory brings a smile to your lips before it brings a tear to your eye, as unbelievable as that is now. It will take a while, but I promise you it will come. And when it does, that's the day you know you're going to make it. May God bless all those families. May God protect our troops. Thank you very much.

Joe Biden Announcement on PPP for Small Businesses Transcript

[Rev](#) › [Blog](#) › [Transcripts](#) › [Political Transcripts](#) › Joe Biden Announcement on PPP for Small Businesses Transcript February 22

President Joe Biden made an announcement about the Paycheck Protection Program for small businesses on February 22, 2021. Read the transcript of his remarks providing PPP loan updates [here](#).

Joe Biden: Good afternoon. I just had an opportunity to catch up with two small business owners who I met on the road, in the last couple weeks. And the first was a very entrepreneurial woman named [Pilar Guzman Zavala 00:00:23], and she's from Florida, Miami, and [Tim Eichinger 00:00:30], who is in Wisconsin. They have different businesses and live in different places, but both shared the same message with me when I spoke to them on the road. And that was American small businesses are hurting and hurting badly, and they need help now. And it's in all of our interest to make sure they get the help now.

Joe Biden: Small businesses are the engines of our economic progress. They're the glue and the heart and soul of our communities, but they're getting crushed. Since the beginning of this pandemic, 400,000 small businesses have closed, 400,000, and millions more are hanging by a thread. It's hurting Black, Latino, and Asian American communities the hardest. Walk down any main street, and you see it, empty storefronts, goodbye signs hanging in the windows.

Joe Biden: Maybe it's the pizza place you used to take your family to dinner or the hardware store that always had the tool you needed. It's the mom and pop shop that is supported by the community, and then in turn, they support the community. They sponsor Little League teams. The barbershop with the first dollar bill that he or she earned still taped to the wall, along with a picture of their kids who are now in college, these small businesses, not the ones with 500 employees, but these small businesses that, with a handful of folks, they are 90% of the businesses in America.

Joe Biden: But when the Paycheck Protection Program was passed, a lot of these mom and pop businesses got muscled out of the way by bigger companies who jumped in front of the line. And I want to be clear. The Paycheck Protection Program is a bipartisan effort. Democrats and Republicans helped pass it. But Democrats and Republicans have also voiced concerns about improving it. With their input, that's what we're doing in our administration, improving it.

Joe Biden: In the last month, we've increased the share of funding for small businesses with fewer than 10 employees by nearly 60%. For businesses in rural communities, the share of funding is up nearly 30%, since we came to office. And the share of funding distributed through banks that traditionally help minority-owned businesses is up more than 40%. And today, I'm announcing additional changes to the PPP program that will make sure we look out for the mom and pop business, even more than we already have.

Joe Biden: As I explained to Pilar and Tim, the two small business people I spoke to, on Wednesday, the Small Business Administration is going to establish a 14-day, exclusive PPP loan application period for businesses and nonprofits with fewer than 20 employees. People can go out and find out how to get ahold of these loans. People can find out more at the [sba.gov](https://www.sba.gov).

Joe Biden: Small Business Administration will also remove barriers that have stopped many businesses from being able to apply for these loans. For example, we're making it so that a student loan default or a non-fraud-related criminal record does not prohibit someone from applying for the program. We're also making it easy for those one-person businesses, like the home repair contractors, beauticians, small, independent retailers to secure forgivable PPP loans.

Joe Biden: At the same time, we're increasing access by increasing oversight. I invite any inspector general in this program, with jurisdiction over this program, to closely look at these loans and publicly report on any issues they uncover inconsistent with what I'm saying today. We will ensure every dollar is spent well. These changes will bring much needed, long overdue to help to small businesses who really need help staying open, maintaining jobs, and making ends meet.

Joe Biden: And this is a starting point, not the ending point. We need Congress to pass my American Rescue Plan. It deals with the immediate crisis facing our small businesses. Now, critics say the plan is too big. Well, let me ask them a rhetorical question. What would you have me cut? What would you leave out? The American Rescue Plan targets \$50 billion to support the hardest hit small businesses, after this program expires at the end of March. Would you not help invest in them? Would you let them continue to go under? Would you leave them out again, like the previous administration did?

Joe Biden: One of the things I've heard, again and again, from small business owners like Pilar and Tim is that knowing about support is one thing. Gaining access to getting it is another. That's why we proposed \$175 million to bring community organizations in to serve as navigators who will help them through this process of application. We would also establish a hotline, with help available in multiple languages, so folks can pick up a phone and get the help they need to stay open and serve their community.

Joe Biden: Again, the critics, it's too big. Should we stop spending money on them? Do we not want a return on the investment that we make in these businesses, to be able to stay open and thrive and pay back? Why would we not want to make sure small business who lack teams of lawyers, bankers, and accountants have an advocate, someone they can rely on to direct them to help that will be there for them? The American Rescue Plan is a rescue plan for America's small businesses and America's mainstream businesses, and we need Congress to pass it right away.

Joe Biden: I'm grateful to the Senate, and the House for moving so quickly. And I want to make it clear. I'm prepared to hear ideas about how to make the American Rescue Plan better and cheaper, but we have to make clear who we're helping and who it would hurt. I always try to help people like Tim and Pilar and all the country's small businesses and families, the workers, the communities that depend on them to survive, recover, and grow. And it's my hope

that as Democrats and Republicans who have backed the PPP program, that Democrats and Republicans will back the American Rescue Plan.

Joe Biden: The vast majority of the American people, more than 70% of the American people, including a majority of Republicans, want us to act based on all the polling data, act big and act quickly. Major economists, left, right, and center, here and abroad, say we should focus on smart investments that can make jobs available and focus on the jobs and in the people, prevent loss to prevent longterm economic damage to our nation and to strengthen the economic competitiveness going forward.

Joe Biden: In fact, an analysis by Wall Street's firm Moody's estimates that if we pass my American Rescue Plan, the economy will create 7 million jobs this year. This year. We're also been in constant contact with the mayors and governors, county officials, members of Congress of both parties, in every state. That includes a letter, I might add, from more than 400 mayors from big and small cities, Democrat and Republican. They agree we have to act and act now. They understand we're not going to get our economy back in shape and the millions of people back to work until we beat this virus.

Joe Biden: Getting our economy back means bringing our small businesses back, and that's what we're going to do. That's what I'm doing today. We're going to focus. The program ends at the end of March, but for the next two weeks, the only folks who can apply for that PPP money are businesses with fewer than 20 employees. Thank you very much.

Joe Biden Speech on American Rescue Plan, COVID Relief Transcript

[Rev](#) › [Blog](#) › [Transcripts](#) › [Political Transcripts](#) › Joe Biden Speech on American Rescue Plan, COVID Relief Transcript March 15

President Joe Biden gave a speech on the American Rescue Plan and the COVID-19 relief stimulus checks on March 15, 2021. Read the transcript of his briefing speech here.

President Joe Biden: (Over the next 10 days, we'll reach two goals, two giant goals. The first is 100 million shots in people's arms will have been completed within the next 10 days and 100 million checks in people's pockets in the next hundred days. Shots in arms and money in pockets. That's important. The American Rescue Plan is already doing what it was designed to do: make a difference in people's everyday lives. We're just getting started. By the time all the money is distributed, 85% of American households will have gotten their \$1,400 rescue checks.

President Joe Biden: To give one more example, for the average family of two parents and two children making a combined income of \$110,000 a year, that's going to add \$5,600 for them. \$5,600 they'll get. The plan does a lot more. It extends unemployment insurance for the 11 million Americans unemployed and any who will be unemployed in the near term. It'll help hundreds of thousands of small businesses keep their doors open, which makes a gigantic difference in neighborhoods and communities. If you have a drug store, if you have a beauty shop, a hardware store, it's the center of small communities. It gets our schools the resources they need to open safely. It provides the biggest investment in childcare since World War II. It provides food and nutrition help for the millions of families, keep them from going hungry, keeping a roof over their heads. It expands healthcare coverage and lowers healthcare costs for so many people. It will cut child poverty in half in this country. That's the estimate. Child poverty will be cut in half as a consequence of what's in this Recovery Act.

President Joe Biden: It will generate economic growth for the entire nation. That's why major economists, left, right, and center, support this plan. Even Wall Street has agreed. According to Moody's, by the end of this year, this law will spur our economy to create 7 million new jobs, and does one more thing. It focuses on rebuilding the backbone of this country: working families, the middle-class, the people who built this country. But as I said last week, it's one thing to pass a historic piece of legislation like the American Rescue Plan, and it's quite another to implement it. The devil is in the details. It requires fastidious oversight to make sure the relief arrives quickly, equitably, and efficiently with no waste or fraud, in your bank account, in your mailbox, to the local business in your community, and to your child's school.

President Joe Biden: Look, I've been here before. When President Obama and I came to office in 2009, he put me in charge of implementing the Recovery Act, which help us recover and rebuild during the Great Recession. I was authorized to put together a team, including accountability board with inspectors general from different agencies that were effected by the act to make sure we got the roughly \$800 billion out, out into the countryside, by the book.

And quickly over 18 months. I talked to literally almost over 150 mayors, all governors except one, constantly going over the granular detail of the implementation of that legislation. The effort put us on a path from crisis, to recovery, to resurgence.

President Joe Biden: Accordingly, to the oversight board of inspectors general, they said we got it done with less than two-tenths of 1% waste or fraud. That's not what the previous administration did though. When the Congress I shared passed the CARES Act, the Congress created a committee of inspectors general to make sure every penny of that money was spent as it was directed. But one of the first things the previous administration did was fire the head of the Inspector General's Committee. When Congress passed what was intended to be small business relief program, it instead became a free for all for well-connected companies. Mainstream businesses from hardware stores to beauty salons that needed the help most were left behind. 400,000 are now gone. We will not let that happen this time.

President Joe Biden: I learned from my experience implementing the Recovery Act just how important it is to have someone who can manage all the moving parts with efficiency, speed, and integrity, and accountability. That's the sort of management we've seen in our fight against the virus with Jeff Zients, our COVID response coordinator. Today, I'm pleased to announce and introduce another gifted manager to coordinate our implementation of the American Rescue Plan, Gene Sperling. Gene will be on the phone with mayors and governors, red states, blue states, the source of constant communication, a source of guidance and support, and, above all, a source of accountability for all of us to get the job done. Gene's been here before. The only person in history to serve as director of the National Economic Council, twice. He led successful efforts to deliver relief to small businesses and unemployed Americans in the Obama-Biden administration and in the Clinton administration. I spoke with Gene earlier today, alongside my economic team. He's ready to get to work. In fact, he's already hit the ground running. Together, we're going to make sure that the benefits of the American Rescue Plan go out quickly and directly to the American people where they belong.

President Joe Biden: Let me close with this. Help is here, and hope is here, in real and tangible ways. We're just days away from a hundred million shots in the arms of millions of Americans. That's the way. That's the way on the way to get every single American access to the vaccine. 100 million checks and/or direct deposits going into the pockets of Americans on the way to millions of more Americans. That's real progress.

President Joe Biden: We've a lot more to do. We have to prove to the American people that their government can deliver for them and do it without waste or fraud, that we can vaccinate the nation, that we can get our kids safely back in school, that we can get our economy back on track by helping hundreds of thousands of small businesses open and stay open, and that we can give people of this nation a fighting chance again, with relief checks, lower childcare costs, lower healthcare costs, and so much more. That's our job. That's our responsibility. In the process, we'll be growing the economy as well. We're going to have to stay on top of every dollar spent through the American Rescue Plan. That's what we're going to do. We can do this. We will do this. God bless you all. Help is on the way. May God protect our troops. Thank you very, very much.

Speaker 2: Mr. President, [inaudible 00:07:51] promote the vaccine among skeptics, sir. Especially to the Republicans who say [inaudible 00:07:56].

President Joe Biden: I'm hearing a lot of reports from serious reporters like you saying that. I discussed it with my team and they say the thing that has more impact than anything Trump would say to the MAGA folks is what the local doctor, what the local preachers, what the local people in the community say. I urge, I urge all local docs, and ministers, and priests to talk about why, why it's important to get that vaccine, and even after that, until everyone is in fact vaccinated, to wear this mask.

Audience: [crosstalk 00:08:39].

Speaker 4: Thank you, guys. Thank you. Thank you, guys. Let's go.

Joe Biden Speech on Supply Chain Executive Order

Transcript February 24

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President Joe Biden signed an executive order to protect American supply chains on February 24, 2021. Read the transcript of his speech remarks here.

President Joe Biden: Good afternoon. The Vice-President and I had a very productive meeting with a bipartisan group of Senators and House members to address an issue of both concern to our economic security as well as our national security, the resilience and reliability of our critical supply chains. This is a critical area where Republicans and Democrats agreed it was one of the best meetings I think we've had so far, even though we've only been here about five weeks. It was like the old days, people actually were on the same page. There were good bipartisan work has already been done. The leaders of this operation, the House and Senate already have done great work. And I want to thank them for their leadership.

President Joe Biden: We're here to build on that, and the bottom line is simple. The American people should never fail face shortages in the goods and services they rely on, whether that's their car or their prescription medicines or the food at the local grocery store. And remember, the shortages in PPE during the pandemic, that meant we didn't have masks, we didn't have gowns or gloves to protect our frontline healthcare workers. We heard horror stories of doctors and nurses wearing trash bags over their dress in order so they wouldn't be in trouble because they had no gowns. And they were rewashing and reusing their mask over and over again in the OR. That should have never happened. And this will never happen again in the United States, period.

President Joe Biden: We shouldn't have to rely on a foreign country, especially one that doesn't share our interests or our values, in order to protect and provide our people during a national emergency. That's why one of the first executive orders I signed, as some may remember, was to ensure that we're manufacturing more protective equipment for healthcare workers here at home. And today I'm shortly going to be signing another executive order that will help address the vulnerabilities in our supply chains across additional critical sectors of our economy. So the American people are prepared to withstand any crisis and rely on ourselves.

President Joe Biden: This is about making sure the United States can meet every challenge we face in this new era, pandemics, but also in defense, cyber security, climate change, and so much more. And the best way to do that is by protecting and sharpening America's competitive edge by investing here at home. As I've said from the beginning, while I was running, we're going to invest in America, going to invest in American workers. And then we can maybe be in a much better position to even compete beyond what we're doing now.

President Joe Biden: Resilient, diverse, and secure supply chains are going to help revitalize our domestic manufacturing capacity and create good paying jobs, not \$15 an hour, which we

need to do someday, and soon as of better in my view, but jobs that are at the prevailing wage. We're going to spur new opportunities for small businesses, communities of color and economically distressed areas. And I will drive new investment and research and innovation and our workforce, investing in training, university partnerships that are going to lead to new technologies and new solutions. All of this won't just strengthen our domestic capacity, will help unleash new markets around the world and grow opportunities for American businesses to export their goods that we're going to be making.

President Joe Biden: These are the kinds of common sense solutions that all Americans can get behind, workers and corporate leaders, Republicans and Democrats. It's about resilience, identify possible points of vulnerabilities in our supply chains and making sure we have the backup alternatives or workarounds in place. Remember that old proverb, for want of a nail, the shoe was lost. For want of a shoe, the horse was lost. And it goes on and on until the kingdom was lost. All for the want of a horseshoe nail. Even small failures at one point in the supply chain can cause outside impacts further up the chain.

President Joe Biden: Recently, we've seen how a shortage of computer chips ... Computer chips like the one I have here. You can hardly see it I imagine. It's called a semiconductor ... has caused delays in production of automobiles that has resulted in reduced hours for American workers. A 21st century horseshoe nail. This semiconductor is smaller than a postage stamp, but it has more than 8 billion transistors, 8 billion transistors, 10,000 times thinner than a single human hair in this one chip. These chips are a wonder of innovation and design and power so much of our country, enable so much of our modern lives [inaudible 00:05:00]. Not just our cars, but our smartphones, televisions radios, medical diagnostic equipment, and so much more. We need to make sure these supply chains are secure and reliable.

President Joe Biden: I'm directing senior officials in my administration to work with industrial leaders to identify solutions to this semiconductor shortfall and work very hard with the House and Senate. They've authorized the bill, but they need [inaudible 00:05:26] \$37 billion short-term to make sure we have this capacity. We'll push for that as well. We all recognize that the particular problem won't be solved immediately. In the meantime, we are reaching out to our allies, semiconductor companies and others in the supply chain, to ramp up production to help us resolve the bottlenecks we face now.

President Joe Biden: We need to stop playing catch up after the supply chain crisis hit. We need to prevent the supply same crisis from hitting in the first place. And in some cases, building resilience will mean increasing our production of certain types of elements here at home. In others, it mean working more closely with our trusted friends and partners, nations that share our values so that our supply chains can't be used against us as leverage. It will mean identifying and building surge capacity that can quickly be turned into and ramp up production in times of emergency. And it will mean investing in research and development, like we did in the 60s, to ensure longterm competitiveness in our manufacturing base in the decades ahead.

President Joe Biden: The order I'm about to sign does two things. First, the order is a 100 day review of four vital products, semiconductors, one, key minerals and materials like rare earth that are used to make everything from harder steel to airplanes, three, pharmaceuticals and their ingredients, four, advanced batteries like the ones using electric vehicles. There's strong

bipartisan support after fast reviews of these four areas, because they're essential to protecting and strengthening American competitiveness.

President Joe Biden: Second, this order initiates a longterm review of the industry basis of six sectors of our overall economy over the next year. These reviews will identify policy recommendations to fortify our supply chains at every step, and critically to start implementing those recommendations right away. We're not going to wait for you to be completed before you start closing the existing gaps. And as we implement this work, my administration will draw on a full range of American talent, including labor and industry leaders, policy experts, scientists, farmers, engineers, to get their input.

President Joe Biden: I'm grateful for the members of Congress who came to see me, Republican leaders as well as Democrats. They're leading the way. We're going to stay in close contact with members of both sides of the aisle and keep advancing our shared goals. Everyone has a role to play to strengthen our supply chains and our country. This is the United States of America. We are better prepared to meet the challenges of the 21st century than any country in the world. There's nothing, nothing, nothing we will fail to achieve if we work together, and that's what we decided to do today. And that's what we're going to do, work together.

President Joe Biden: So I thank you all. I'm very optimistic about the meeting we had today with our congressional colleagues. And now I'm going to walk over and sign that executive order.

President Joe Biden: Thank you all very much.

Speaker 2: Mr. President, are you disappointed that more of your cabinet nominees have not yet been confirmed by the Senate?

President Joe Biden: I am, but I don't so much blame it on the Senate. I blame it on the failure to have a transition that was rational. As you know, previous administrations had a significant number of their cabinet confirmed before they were sworn in. That's the tradition. But we're doing fine. I think we're going to be in good shape. [crosstalk 00:09:54] Thank you. [crosstalk 00:09:56].

President Joe Biden: [inaudible 00:09:59] Am I going take what? Sorry?

Speaker 3: Have you read the Jamal Khashoggi report yet from the [inaudible 00:10:10]?

President Joe Biden: Yes, I have. Thank you. Thank you.

Joe Biden Wisconsin CNN Town Hall Transcript

February 16

[Rev](#) › [Blog](#) › [Transcripts](#) › [Political Transcripts](#) › Joe Biden Wisconsin CNN Town Hall Transcript February 16

President Joe Biden participated in a CNN town hall with Anderson Cooper in Milwaukee, Wisconsin on February 16, 2021. He talked about stimulus packages, COVID-19 vaccines & timelines, school reopening, student debt, and more. Read the full transcript [here](#).

Anderson Cooper: Welcome. We are live in the Pabst Theater in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. This is a CNN Presidential Town Hall, the first with President Joe Biden. I'm Anderson Cooper. President Biden is just four weeks into his presidency and facing multiple crises. Nearly 500,000 of our fellow citizens, Americans have died from COVID-19. Millions out of work right now and a nation dangerously divided. Tonight we're going to be answering questions from the American people. The president will be answering questions from the American people on his first official trip since taking office. Some of the questioners here voted for him, some did not. The president and I will not be wearing masks on this stage. He of course has been vaccinated. Over the past several weeks I have repeatedly tested negative for coronavirus as recently as yesterday and this morning as well. We will however be keeping our distance from one another and the audience is very limited, socially distanced and all wearing masks when they're seated. With that, I want to welcome the 46th President of the United States, President Joe Biden.

Joe Biden: Hi Anderson.

Anderson Cooper: How are you sir?

Joe Biden: Good to see you man. Hi folks, how are you? Good to be back, man.

Anderson Cooper: It's nice to see you, sir.

Joe Biden: You know you enjoy being home with the baby more. [inaudible 00:01:16]

Anderson Cooper: I do, yes. He's nine and a half months, so I'm very happy.

Joe Biden: I get it. No, no. Everybody knows I like kids better than people.

Anderson Cooper: I saw a picture of you with your grandson recently.

Joe Biden: That's right.

Anderson Cooper: Yeah. So we got a lot of questions in the audience. We have about 50 or so people here. They are all socially distanced. We have some folks who voted for you, some folks who did not, and we're going to get as many questions in as possible.

Anderson Cooper: Before we get to that, I just want to start with a couple of just big picture questions about the pandemic and where we are right now.

Joe Biden: Sure.

Anderson Cooper: New cases of COVID-19, hospitalizations have fallen by half in the last month, so have new cases. That's the good news. There's this potential threat, potential surge from the variants coming down the pike potentially. When is every American who wants it going to be able to get a vaccine?

Joe Biden: By the end of July this year. We have ... We came into office, there was only 50 million doses that were available. We have now ... By the end of July, we'll have over 600 million doses, enough to vaccinate every single American.

Anderson Cooper: When you say by the end of July, do you mean that they will be available or that people will have been able to actually get them? Because Dr. Fauci –

Joe Biden: They'll be available.

Anderson Cooper: They'll be available.

Joe Biden: They'll be available.

Anderson Cooper: Okay.

Joe Biden: Here look. What we did, we got into office and found out the supply, there was no backlog. There was nothing in the refrigerator figuratively and literally speaking and there were 10 million doses a day that were available. We've upped that, in the first weeks that we were in office to significantly more than that. We've moved out, went to the Pfizer and Moderna, and said, "Can you produce more vaccine and more rapidly?" They not only agreed to go from 200 to 400, then they have agreed to go to 600 million doses. We got them to move up the time because we used the National Defense Act to be able to help the manufacturing piece of it to get more equipment and so on.

Anderson Cooper: So if the end of April ... Excuse me, end of July, they're available to actually get them in the arms of people who want them. That will take, what? A couple more months?

Joe Biden: Well no, a lot will be being vaccinated in the meantime.

Anderson Cooper: Okay.

Joe Biden: In other words it's not all of a sudden 600 million doses are going to appear, and what's going to happen is it's going to continue to increase as we move along and we'll have reached 400 million by the end of May and 600 million by the end of July and the biggest thing though as you remember when you and I ... I shouldn't say it that way, as you remember, but when you and I talked last, we talked about ... It's one thing to have the vaccine which we didn't have when we came into office, but a vaccinator ... How do you get the vaccine into someone's arm? So you need the paraphernalia, you need the needle, you need the mechanisms to be able to get it in, you have to have people who can inject it in people's arms.

Anderson Cooper: That's been one of the problems is just getting enough people.

Joe Biden: Yes. Now we have made significant strides increasing the number of vaccinators. I issued an executive order allowing former retired docs and nurses to do it. We have over 1,000 military personnel. The CDC is ... I mean excuse me, the ... We have gotten the National

Guard engaged. So we have significant number of vaccinators, people who would actually be there, plus we have opened up a considerable number of locations where you can get the vaccination.

Anderson Cooper: I want to introduce you to Kevin Michel. He's an independent from Wauwatosa. He's a mechanical engineer for a vehicle company. Kevin, welcome. What's your question?

Joe Biden: Hi. Welcome to Milwaukee.

Kevin Michel: Good. My questions is regarding education.

Joe Biden: Yes.

Kevin Michel: Considering that hybrid and virtual school instruction have been in place for nearly a year now, what is the plan and recommendation to get students back into the brick and mortar buildings? As a parent of four children, I find it imperative that they get back to school as safely as possible.

Joe Biden: My mother would say, "God bless you son. No purgatory for you." Four kids home, I really mean it. By the way, the loss of being able to be in school is having significant impact on the children and parents as well. What we found out is there are certain things that make it rational and easy to go back to the brick and mortar building. One, first of all, making sure everybody is wearing protective gear. It's available to students as well as to teachers, the janitors, the people who work in the cafeteria, the bus drivers. Secondly, organizing in smaller pods, which means that's why we need more teachers. Instead of a classroom of 30 kids in it, you have three classes and that same of 10 kids each in those. I'm making the number up, less ... It doesn't have to be literally 10.

Joe Biden: In addition to that, we also have indicated that it is much better, it's much easier to send kids K-8 back because they are less likely to communicate the disease to somebody else, but because kids in ... Sophomores, juniors and seniors in high school, they socialize a lot more and they're older and they transmit more than young kids do, it's harder to get those schools open without having everything from the ventilation systems and having ...

Joe Biden: For example, school bus drivers. We got to make sure that you don't have 60 kids or however many, it would depend on the size of the school bus, sitting two abreast in every single seat, and so there's a lot of things we can do short of ... I think that we should be vaccinating teachers. We should move them up in the hierarchy as well.

Anderson Cooper: Let me ask you, your administration had set a goal to open the majority of schools in your first 100 days. You're now saying that means those schools may only be open for at least one day a week.

Joe Biden: No, that's not true. That's what was reported, that's not true. That was a mistake in the communication, but what I'm talking about is I said opening the majority of schools in K through eighth grade because they're the easiest to open, the most needed to be opened in terms of the impact on children and families having to stay home.

Anderson Cooper: So when do you think that would be K-8, at least five days a week if possible?

Joe Biden: I think we'll be close to that at the end of the first 100 days. We've had a significant percentage of them being able to be opened. My guess is they're going to probably be pushing to open all for ... All summer, to continue like it's a different semester –

Anderson Cooper: Do you think that would be five days a week or just a couple?

Joe Biden: I think many of them five days a week. The goal will be five days a week. Now it's going to be harder to open up the high schools for the reasons I said. Just like, if you notice, the contagion factor in colleges is much higher than it is in high schools or grade schools.

Anderson Cooper: I want you to meet ... This is Justin Belot, he's a high school teacher from Milwaukee who is a Democrat. Justin, thanks for being with us. What's your question?

Joe Biden: What do you teach?

Justin Belot: I teach English. High school English.

Joe Biden: My wife teaches. God love you.

Justin Belot: Wonderful. Thank you Mr. President. So along the same lines of schools, so this great debate on when to transition to in-person learning. While there are numerous warnings not to be in large groups or to have dinner parties or small parties, why is it okay to put students and teachers in close proximity to each other for an entire day, day after day? With large class sizes and outdated ventilation systems, how and when do you propose this to occur? Finally, do you believe all staff should be vaccinated before doing so?

Joe Biden: Number one, nobody is suggesting, including the CDC in this recent report that you have large classes, congested classes. It's smaller classes, more ventilation, making sure that everybody has masks and is socially distanced, meaning you have less ... Fewer students in one room. Making sure that everyone from the sanitation workers who work in the lavatories, in the bathrooms and do all the maintenance, that they are in fact able to be protected as well. Making sure you're in a situation where you don't have the congregation of a lot of people, and as I said, including the school bus, including getting on a school bus. So it's about needing to be able to socially distance, smaller classes, more protection, and I think that teachers and the folks who work in the school, the cafeteria workers and others, should be on the list of preferred to get a vaccination.

Anderson Cooper: I want to introduce you to Kerri Engebrecht, an independent from Oak Creek. Kerri, welcome. Go ahead.

Kerri Engebrecht: Thank you.

Joe Biden: Kerri, how are you?

Kerri Engebrecht: Very good, thank you. Our 19-year-old son was diagnosed with pediatric COPD at the age of 14. We're told he has the lungs of a 60 year old. He does all he can to protect himself. Last month he even removed himself from the campus of UW-Madison as he feels it's safer and he has less exposure here at home. We've tried all we can to get him a

vaccine. I hear of others who are less vulnerable getting it based on far less. Do you have a plan to vaccinate those who are most vulnerable sooner to give them a priority?

Joe Biden: Well the answer is yes there are but here's how it works. The states make the decisions on who is ... In what order. I can make recommendations, and for federal programs, I can do that as President of the United States, but I can't tell the state you must move such and such a group of people up, but here's what I'd like to do. If you're willing, I'll stay around after this is over, and maybe we can talk a few minutes and see if I can get you some help.

Anderson Cooper: Let me just ask you though, Johnson & Johnson could be authorized, a new vaccine from them could be authorized in a couple weeks. That would be a big deal.

Joe Biden: Yes it would.

Anderson Cooper: Bringing a lot more vaccines on, millions of more doses to the supply. Once that happens, given the urgency of these variants and the potential threat from them, should states stop giving priority to certain groups and just open vaccine access for everyone?

Joe Biden: Well it depends on how much they have available. I think there still should be priority groups in case there are not enough for everyone, available to everybody. And look, we don't know for certain. Let me tell you what my national COVID team has said, that the variants ... By variants you mean the Brazilian strain, the South African strain –

Anderson Cooper: London. Yeah.

Joe Biden: The British strain and London and et cetera. There's thus far, thus far, there is no evidence that the existing vaccinations available from Moderna and Pfizer do not either make sure that they apply ... They work as well against the strain in the United States, and there is no evidence that they're not helpful. So if you can get a vaccination, get it whenever you can get it, regardless of the other strains that are out there. There are studies going on to determine it is not only more communicable but are there vaccine ... Do the vaccines not provide helpful protection by getting the vaccine? There are some speculation, I got to be very careful here because millions of people are watching this. It may be that a certain vaccination for a certain strain may reduce from 95% to a lower percentage of certainty that it will keep you from getting –

Anderson Cooper: It may not be as effective as –

Joe Biden: It may not be as effective.

Anderson Cooper: Against a variant, but it still would be effective.

Joe Biden: Still be effective. So the clear notion is, if you're eligible, if it's available, get the vaccine. Get the vaccine.

Anderson Cooper: I want you to meet, this is Dessie Levy, a Democrat from Milwaukee. She's a registered nurse, former academic dean. She's also currently director of a faith-based nonprofit. Dessie, welcome.

Joe Biden: By the way, you've heard me say this before Becky. If there's any angels in heaven, they're all nurses, male and female. Doctors let you live, nurses make you want to live. I can

tell you as a consumer of healthcare and my family. You're wonderful. Thank you for what you do.

Dessie Levy: God bless you. Mr. President, hello. My name is Dr. Dessie Levy and my question to you is considering COVID-19 and its significant impact on black Americans, especially here in Milwaukee, and thus the exacerbation of our racial disparities in healthcare, we have seen less than three percent of blacks and less than five percent of Hispanics given the total number of vaccines that have been administered to this point. Is this a priority for the Biden administration and how will the disparities be addressed and that's both locally and nationally.

Joe Biden: Well first of all it is a priority, number one. Number two, there's two reasons for it being the way it is. Number one, there is some history of blacks being used as guinea pigs in other experiments, I need not tell you, doctor, over the last 50 to 75 to 100 years in America so there is a concern about getting the vaccine, whether it's available or not, but the biggest part of it is access, physical access. That's why last week I opened up ... I met with the Black Caucus in the United States Congress and agreed that I would ... All of the community health centers now which take care of the toughest of the toughest neighborhoods in terms of illness, they are going to get a million doses a week and how we're going to move forward, because they're in the neighborhood. Secondly, we have opened up and I'm making sure that there's doses of vaccine for over 6,700 pharmacies because almost everyone lives within not always walking distance but within the distance of being able to go to the pharmacy like when you got your flu shot. That is also now being opened.

Joe Biden: Thirdly, I also am providing for mobile vans, mobile units to go into neighborhoods that are hard to get to because people are on ... For example, even though everyone is within basically five miles of a Walgreens let's say, the fact is if you're 70 years old, you don't have a vehicle and you live in a tough neighborhood meaning it's a high concentration of COVID, you're not likely to be able to walk five miles to go get a vaccine. The other thing we found is, and I'm sorry to go on, but this is really important to me. The other portion is a lot of people don't know how to register. Not everybody in the community, in the Hispanic and the African-American community, particularly in rural areas that are distant and/or inner city districts, know how to use ... Know how to get online to determine how to get in line for that COVID vaccination at the Walgreens or at the particular store. So we're also ... I've committed to spend a billion dollars on public education to help people figure out how they can get in there. That's why we're also trying to set up mass vaccination centers like places in stadiums and the like.

Anderson Cooper: Are you concerned about the rollout of this online? Because it has been incredibly confusing for a lot of people, not just –

Joe Biden: Sure.

Anderson Cooper: Older people, it's young people just trying to find a place to get a vaccine.

Joe Biden: Yes, and I have because look what we inherited. We inherited a circumstance here where ... And now for the first ... We did a lot in the first two weeks, a circumstances where number one, there weren't many vaccinators. You didn't know where you could go get a vaccine administered to you because there was no one to put it in your arm, number one.

Number two, there was very little federal guidance as to say what to look for, how to find out where in fact you could go. You can go online and every single state now has a –

Joe Biden: ... And go online, and every single state now has a slightly different mechanism by which they say who's qualified, where you can get the vaccines and so on. So it's all about trying to more rationalize in detail so ordinary people like me can understand, I mean that sincerely. I mean, my grandchildren can use that online make me look like I'm in the seventh century. But all kidding aside, it is a process and it's going to take time. Think of what we didn't do, and you and I talked about this during the campaign, we didn't do from the time it hit the United States. You're going to inject someone and your arm is going to go away, you'll all be down by Easter. We wasted so much time, so much time.

Anderson Cooper: Another question about vaccines. This is Jessica Salas, she's an independent from Milwaukee, a graphic designer. Jessica, welcome.

Jessica Salas: Thank you. As we've been talking about the coronavirus is very real and very scary, and it's especially scary for children who may or may not understand. My children, Layla, eight here and my son Mateo seven at home often ask if they will catch COVID and if they do will they die? They are watching as others get the vaccine and they would like to know when will kids be able to get the vaccine?

Joe Biden: Well, first of all honey, what was your first name?

Layla: Layla.

Joe Biden: Layla, a beautiful name. First of all, kids don't get COVID very often, it's unusual for that to happen. The evidence so far is children aren't the people most likely to get COVID, number one. Number two, we haven't even done tests yet on children as to whether or not the certain vaccines would work or not work or what is needed. So you're the safest group of people in the whole world, number one.

Joe Biden: Number two, you're not likely to be able to be exposed to something and spread it to mommy or daddy and it's not likely mommy and daddy are able to spread it to you either. So, I wouldn't worry about a baby, I promise you, but I know it's worrisome. Are you in first grade? Second grade?

Layla: Second.

Joe Biden: Oh, you're getting old. Second grade. Well, have you been in school, honey?

Layla: No.

Joe Biden: No.

Jessica Salas: No.

Joe Biden: See that's a scary thing too. You don't get to go to school, you don't get to see your friends, and so what a lot of kids and, I mean, and big people too, older people, their whole lives have sort of changed like when it used to be. It used to be this go outside and play with your friends and get in the school bus and go to school and everything was normal, and now when things change people get really worried and scared. But don't be scared, honey, don't be scared, you're going to be fine and we're going to make sure mommy is fine too.

Anderson Cooper: Let me ask you just for folks who are watching out there, there are a lot of people who are scared, there's a lot of people-

Joe Biden: Sure.

Anderson Cooper: ... Who are hurting. When do you think this pandemic is... I mean, when is it going to be done? When are we going to get back to normal?

Joe Biden: Well, all the experts, all the committee that I put together with the leading researchers in the world and the United States are on this committee of mine, are headed of by Dr. Fauci and others. They tell me, "Be careful not to predict things that you don't know for certain what's going to happen because then you'll be held accountable." I get that. But let me tell you what I think based on all that I've learned and all that I've studied and all that I think that I know, it's a high probability that the vaccinations that are available today and the new one, Johnson & Johnson God willing will prove to be useful, that with those vaccinations the ability to continue to spread the disease is going to diminish considerably because of what they call herd immunity. And now they're saying somewhere around 70% of the people have to constitute, some people said 50, see. But a significant number have to be in a position where they have been vaccinated and/or they've been through it and-

Anderson Cooper: Have antibodies.

Joe Biden: And have antibodies and have antibodies. And so if that works that way, as my mother would say with the grace of God and the goodwill of the neighbors, that by next Christmas I think we'll be in a very different circumstance, God willing, than we are today. I think a year from now when it's 22 below zero here, no, a year from now I think that there'd be significantly fewer people having to be socially distanced, have to wear a mask, they said, but we don't know. So I don't want to over promise anything here.

Joe Biden: I told you when I ran and when I got elected, I will always level with you. I use Franklin Roosevelt's example, I'll shoot and give you straight from the shoulder, straight from the shoulder what I know and what I don't know. We don't know for certain but it is highly unlikely that by the beginning of next year's traditional school year in September we are not significantly better off than we are today. But it matters, it matters whether you continue to wear that mask, it matters whether you continue to socially distance, it matters whether you wash your hands with hot water, those things matter, they matter and that can save a lot of lives while we're getting to this point, we get to herd immunity.

Anderson Cooper: You've made passing the COVID relief bill the focus of your first 100 days. Those in the right say the proposal is too big, some of the left say it's not big enough. Are you committed to passing \$ 1.9 trillion bill or is that final number still left for negotiation?

Joe Biden: I'm committed to pass. Look, some of you are probably economists there, college professors or teachers in school. This is the first time in my career, and as you can tell I'm over 30. The first time in my career that there is a consensus among economists left, right, and center and including the IMF and in Europe that the overwhelming consensus is, in order to grow the economy a year, two, three, and four down the line, we can't spend too much. Now is the time we should be spending, now is the time to go big.

Joe Biden: You may recall I managed the last experiment we had with the stimulus and it was 800, no, I don't mean it that way, but it was \$800 billion. We thought we needed more than that and we think we did. It ended up working but it slowed things up by about... And it depended on who you talk to, between six months and a year and a half. We can come back, we can come roaring back. It's estimated by most economists including Wall Street firms as well as think tanks, political think tanks left right and center, it is estimated that if we pass this bill alone will create seven million jobs this year, seven million jobs this year.

Joe Biden: And so the thing we haven't talked about I'm not going to go on because I want to hear your question, I apologize, we haven't talked about... I remember you and I talking during the campaign and you had the former guy saying that, well, we just can open things up and that's all we need to do. And we said, "No, you got to deal with the disease before you deal with getting the economy going." Well, the fact is that the economy now has to be dealt with and what is it? Look at all the people, you have over 10 million people unemployed. We need unemployment insurance, we need to make sure that you have for 40% of the children in America... I talk about food shortage, 60% of it.

Joe Biden: Did you ever think you'd see a day in Milwaukee, you'd see in the last six months people lining up in their automobiles for an hour for as far as you could see to get a bag of food? I mean, this is the United States of America for God's sake. We can't deal with that? We promised to look at all the people who were on the verge of being kicked out of their apartments because they can not afford their rent. What happens when that happens? Everything. Look at all the mom and pop, the landlords that are in real trouble if we don't subsidize this in the meantime.

Joe Biden: Look at all the people who are on the verge of missing and how many people have missed their last two mortgage payments and are able to be foreclosed. And that's why I took executive action to say they can not be foreclosed down in the meantime, because look at what the impact on the economy would be. You think it's bad now, let all that happen. Look at all the people who have lost their insurance, how many... I'm not asking for show of hands, how many of you had jobs with corporations or companies that provided healthcare? The COBRA healthcare? Well, guess what? The company goes under and guess what? You lose your health insurance. Well, we should be making sure you're able to pay for that so that we keep people moving. So I think bigger and the vast majority of the serious people say bigger is better now not spending less.

Anderson Cooper: This is Randy Lange, an independent who supported Donald Trump in 2020. Randy is the co-owner of a woodworking company here in Milwaukee. Randy, welcome.

Randy Lange: You're proposing a \$15 minimum wage. Given the lower cost of living in specifically in the Midwest many business owners are concerned that this will put them out of business, forcing them to downsize or cut benefits. How can you instill confidence in small businesses that this will benefit the Midwest business growth?

Joe Biden: Well, first of all, the South is not much different than the Midwest in that regard as well. But here's the thing, if you look back over the last 40 years as minimum wages increased the end result of net employment hasn't changed. The vast majority of the economists, and

there's studies that show that by increasing the minimum wage to \$15 an hour it could have an impact on a number of businesses but it would be de minimis, et cetera.

Joe Biden: Here's the deal, it's about doing it gradually where it's \$7.25 an hour. No one should work 40 hours a week and live in poverty, no one should work 40 hours and live in poverty. But it's totally legitimate for small business owners to be concerned about how that changes. For example, if we gradually increased it, when we indexed it at seven 20, if we kept it indexed by 20 to inflation people would be making 20 bucks an hour right now, that's what it would be.

Anderson Cooper: The congressional budget office says that a \$15 minimum wage would lift 900,000 people out of poverty but would also cause 1.4 million people, their jobs is that right?

Joe Biden: Yes, but there's also if you read that whole thing about Pinocchio's and all the rest, there are also equal numbers studies saying that wouldn't have that effect, and particularly as you do it in terms of how gradually you do it. So let's say, you said you're going to increase the minimum wage from \$7.25 an hour between now and the year 2025 to two \$12 an hour, to \$13 an hour. You double someone's pay and the impact on business would be absolute diminish and/or grow the GDP and it will grow and would generate economic growth.

Joe Biden: But it's not a legitimate as a small business person to worry about whether or not increasing it at one felled swoop would have that impact. I do support a \$15 minimum wage, I think there is equally as much if not more evidence to dictate that it would grow the economy and long run and medium run benefited small businesses as well as large businesses and it would not have such a dilatory effect, but that's a debatable issue.

Anderson Cooper: I want you to meet another small business owner. This is Tim Eichinger, a Democrat from Milwaukee, Co-owner of Black Husky Brewing. Tim, welcome.

Tim Eichinger: Thank you. My partner and I own a small brewery in the River West neighborhood of Milwaukee and we have nine amazing employees. We rely primarily on selling our beer out of our tap room, and with the pandemic our business has gone down about 50%. Now, we've relied primarily on loans, grants, as well as our own reserves to survive. However, the new assistance has been too slow and recently it's gotten more restrictive on how we can apply it. What will you do so that small mom and pop businesses like ours will survive over large corporate entities?

Joe Biden: Change it drastically, first of all by making sure we have inspectors general. You may remember when the first bill passed, you may remember there was a guy running saying, "What's going to happen is the banks aren't going to lend you the money. They're going to ask you a question, 'Do you have your credit with us? How many loans do you have with us? What credit cards you have with us?'" Because even though they were being underwritten and we build their rear ends out last time out it was too much trouble to lend to you.

Joe Biden: What did the president do? And I don't want to pick on the fashion, I'm tired of talking about Donald Trump, I don't want to talk about him anymore. But the last administration spent time, a lot of time talking about how there was no need for inspector generals. We found out that 40% of the money, the PPP loans to go to small businesses went

to corporations that were multimillion dollar corporations. You're going to see an investigation showing that a lot of this was fraudulent where it went.

Joe Biden: So what I'm doing is I provide \$60 billion for you to be able to make capital investments in order to be able to open safely and make sure you're in a position that you can do the things that are recommended. You've noticed there's been very little federal directions for you all as to how to safely open your businesses. Yet you know if you're able to test your employees, if you're able to be in a situation, if you serve people, you have plexiglass dividers, the whole range. If you're able to have everybody with a mask and the like, you can do so much to save but you don't get that direction.

Joe Biden: So the money I guarantee you is going to go to small businesses with people and I'm shooting, and by the way the original definition of the small business is 500 or fewer employees. Well, that's not what I mean by small businesses. What we meant by small businesses, the mom and pop business is the whole communities together and keep people together, and particularly in neighborhoods where if you don't have a beauty shop, a barber shop, a hardware store, a grocery store, et cetera, the center of the community begins to disintegrate some. What I like to do is if you are willing to give me an address, to lay out for you precisely without taking more time, I'm going to get into trouble I'm supposed to only talk two minutes in an answer, is to let you know exactly how that \$60 billion in part of the recovery package will go to small businesses.

Anderson Cooper: All right. We're going to take a quick break. When we get back we'll have more questions for the president of the United States, Joe Biden. We'll be right back. And welcome back. We're live at a CNN Town Hall event at the Pabst Theater in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, with President Joe Biden. We are back, thanks so much for being here. Before we get back into the audience I wanted to ask just a question about what we just witnessed. Before the Senate voted to acquit the former president in the impeachment trial you said you were anxious to see if Republican senators would stand up, only seven did. House Speaker, Nancy Pelosi called the rest cowards. Do you agree with her?

Joe Biden: I'm not going to call names out. Look, for four years all that's been in the news is Trump. In the next four years I want to make sure all the news is the American people, I'm tired for an option. It's time.

Anderson Cooper: Senator Minority Leader, Mitch McConnell, said that the former president is "Still liable for everything he did while he was in office." If your Department of Justice wanted to investigate him, would you allow them to proceed?

Joe Biden: I made it clear, one of the most serious pieces of damage done by the last administration was the politicizing of the Justice Department. And if you who are lawyers know, whether you're a Democrat, Republican, conservative, or liberal, it has been more politicized than any Justice Department in American history. I made a commitment, I will not ever tell my Justice Department, and it's not my...

Joe Biden: ... Ever tell my justice department, and it's not mine, it's the people's justice department, who they should and should not prosecute. Their prosecutorial decision to be left to the justice department. Not me.

Anderson Cooper: I'd want you to meet Joel Berkowitz from Shorewood. He's a Democrat, a professor of foreign languages and literature at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. Joel, thanks for being here.

Joel Berkowitz: Thank you, Anderson. Good evening, Mr. President.

Joe Biden: I'm not bad at the literature part, but after five years of French, I still can't speak a word, so I apologize.

Joel Berkowitz: I'll teach you some Yiddish sometime, how's that?

Joe Biden: Hey, by the way, I understand a little bit of Yiddish.

Joel Berkowitz: I'm sure you do.

Anderson Cooper: It would be a shonda if he didn't, but.

Joel Berkowitz: More seriously, Mr. President, like millions of my fellow citizens, I was shaken by the attack on the Capitol on January 6th, and on our democracy more broadly, by your predecessor and his followers. While I appreciate efforts being made to bring them to justice, I worry about ongoing threats to our country from Americans who embrace white supremacy and conspiracies that align with it. What can your administration do to address this complex and wide-ranging problem?

Joe Biden: It's complex, it's wide-ranging and it's real. I got involved in politics to begin with because of civil rights and opposition to white supremacist, the Klu Klux Klan, and the most dangerous people in America continue to exist. That is the greatest threat to terror in America, domestic terror. And so I would make sure that my justice department and the civil rights division is focused heavily on those very folks. And I would make sure that we, in fact, focus on how to deal with the rise of white supremacy.

Joe Biden: And you see what's happening in the studies that are beginning to be done, maybe at your university as well, about the impact of former military, former police officers on the growth of white supremacy in some of these groups. You may remember in one of my debates with the former president, I asked him to condemn the Proud Boys. He wouldn't do it. He said, "Stand by, stand ready." Or whatever the phrase exactly was. It is a bane on our existence. It has always been. As Lincoln said, "We have to appeal to our better angels." And these guys are not, and women, are in fact demented. They are dangerous people.

Anderson Cooper: I want you to meet James Lewis, an Independent from Milwaukee. He's a labor attorney. James, welcome.

Joe Biden: James, if I say anything you don't like, let me know right away, will you?

James Lewis: All right. You're all right.

Joe Biden: You're as big as a mountain.

James Lewis: Good evening, President Biden. I was a public defender in Kenosha County when the police shot Jacob Blake. I witnessed the city I worked in burned and devastated. And recently, District Attorney Michael Graveley denied to prosecute the police officers responsible. So my question to you is, what will your administration do to correct these wrongs

that we witnessed, not just in Kenosha, but across this country? And what will we do to bridge the gap between communities and their police?

Joe Biden: Three things. First of all, I was a public defender as well. And I think it's high time that we had public defenders being paid the same as prosecutors. My son, by the way, was a great prosecutor. He was the Attorney General of the State of Delaware, and he was a federal prosecutor before that. And so I'm not condemning all prosecutors, but I am saying that it matters that you have adequate defense and you are able to attract people who, in fact, can live on being able to be that public defender. Number one.

Joe Biden: Number two, we are pushing very hard, and I think we'll get it done, is the legislation relating to what is appropriate police behavior, and studying police behavior, and coming down with recommendations that are consistent with the legislation that was put in place as a consequence of all the world seeing one man shoved up against the curb and murdered after eight minutes and 46 seconds. And so there's a number of things relating to everything from no-knock warrants and a whole range of things you know. There's legislation that's being introduced, separately. I hope it will pass.

Joe Biden: But thirdly, I think we have to deal with systemic racism that exists throughout society. And one of the things I'm going to recommend there, is that we look at an entire panoply of things that affect whether or not people of color, primarily, are treated differently. And that goes for everything from prosecutorial discretion. You know as a public defender, and well, by that I mean, what happens is ... It will take too long to go through the whole explanation, but let me try to do it quickly.

Joe Biden: What happens now is, if you in fact are and going to ... you arrest someone because they had ... and you want to charge them. You can charge them with robbery or armed robbery. You charge them with armed robbery, you get a lot more time than if you don't charge with robbery. But if you want to make sure that someone who doesn't know much about their representation is able to ... you engage in prosecutorial misconduct by offering them to plead to essentially ... It's not the same. Burglary, which gets them two years and probation. And so you don't even get a trial. You plead because you don't have [inaudible 00:41:42] representation. You feel like everything's again you, and you're in trouble.

Joe Biden: When I did the sentencing act that was designed to keep, make sure we had the same time for the same crime. As chairman of the Judiciary Committee, I'd looked at all 10 federal districts, and we took six months to do it, and found out if you're black and you were your first time offense of being accused of burglary, and maybe you committed it, and you were white, and you did the same exact crime, in all 10 districts throughout the United States of America, the person ... and don't hold me to the exact numbers, but the percentages is right. If you're a first-time white guy, you'd get two years. You get seven years if you're black.

Joe Biden: So, in order to make sure that you could not send people to jail for the same crime, I came up with this sentencing commission, which said that everybody who commits the crime has to receive between instead of zero to 20 years, you drastically cut down the number of years you could go to jail, but say you have to, if you're, it's a one first-time offense, you have to get sentenced between one and a half and three years. Okay?

Joe Biden: But what happens is prosecutors use that as a mechanism to send people to jail, and it makes it look like they were dealing with mandatory sentencing, which it wasn't designed to do at all. It's designed to make sure that people were treated fairly. There's much more, I'm sorry to go on. There's much more to talk about, but-

Anderson Cooper: We actually have a related question over here. This is Dannie Evans, a pastor in Janesville who works as a supervisor for the Juvenile Justice Diversion Program in Rock County. He's an Independent, voted for Donald Trump in 2020. He's also a member of the state's 32 member Racial Disparity Task Force created in the wake of the Jacob Blake shooting last summer. Dannie, welcome.

Dannie Evans: Good afternoon, Mr. President. Defund the police is discussed as an option for reforming policing. However, there are communities where people live in fear, not of the police, but in fear of the violent gangs who commit crimes in those neighborhoods. How can we be sure that we don't over-legislate police officers so that they can't do their job to protect the law-abiding citizens who live in these high-crime neighborhoods, and yet train officers to police with compassion?

Joe Biden: By number one, not defunding the police. We have to put more money in police work, so we have legitimate community policing and we're in a situation where we changed the legislation. No one should go to jail for a drug offense. No one should go to jail for the use of a drug. They should go to drug rehabilitation. Drug rehabilitation, number one. We should be in a position where we change the system of sentencing system to one that relates to a notion of ... think they're telling you that ... is related to making sure that what you do is you focus on making sure that there's rehabilitation. The idea that we don't have people in prison systems learning how to be spending the money, learning how to be mechanics, learning how to be cooks, learning how to have a profession when you get out. The idea that we deny someone who served their time access to Pell grants, access to housing, access to ... Right now, as you well know, most places you get out of prison, you get 25 bucks and a bus ticket. You end up back under the bridge exactly where you were before.

Joe Biden: And the fact is that the concern in many minority communities is black on black, Hispanic on Hispanic, not just ... but here's the deal. There has to be much more serious ... How can I say it? Much more serious determination as to what the background and the attitudes of the recruit is, what their views are. There should be much more psychological testing, like you would if you go into the intelligence community. What is it? What are the things that make you respond the way you do? Because there is inherent prejudice built into the system as well.

Joe Biden: And we also need to provide for, and it's happening, more African-American and more Hispanic police officers. Now, by the way, they don't get it all right either by a long shot. But every cop, when they get up in the morning and put on that shield has a right to expect to be able to go home to their family that night. Conversely, every kid walking across the street wearing a hoodie is not a member of a gang and is about to knock somebody off. So, it's about education. I'd love to talk to you more about it because it is the answer in my view, that and education. Actually, access to education.

Joe Biden: And one of the things that I talk a lot about, and I'm sorry to go on about this, but it's important, I don't think we can look at our opportunity, and let's stick with the African-American community for a minute. In terms of the criminal justice system, that is only one small piece of why people are the way they are. You realize, I don't know what home you live in, but if you go ahead and you want to get insurance and you're in a black neighborhood, you're going to pay more for the same insurance I'm going to pay for the exact same home. Your car, you never had an accident in your car. You live in a black neighborhood, you're going to pay a higher premium in your car.

Joe Biden: You're going to ... so there's so many things that are built in institutionally that disadvantaged African-Americans and Latinos that, in fact, I think, and one of the great advantages ... I'm sorry to go on, but one of the great advantages, as bad as things are, I keep reading from presidential historians how I've inherited the worst situation since Lincoln, worse than Roosevelt because economic crisis, political crisis, racial crisis, et cetera. But the fact is that everyone's gotten a close-up look now and seeing what's happened. That kid, that kid holding that camera for eight minutes and 46 seconds awakened the whole world. When I met with his little daughter after he was dead, she said, "My daddy changed the world." Guess what? Not only here in the United States, around the world, people said, "Whoa, I didn't know that happened."

Joe Biden: Dr. King, when my generation, when I got involved in the civil rights movement as a high school student in the early sixties, and you had Bull Connor and his dogs in the late fifties, singing on those ladies going in their black dresses, going to church, and little kids, and fire hoses ripping their skin off. He said, "What happened there was it was a second emancipation." Because people in places where there weren't black communities said, "That really happens? I didn't believe it." They saw it happen. And so it generated the Voting Rights Act. It generated Civil Rights Act and he called the Second Emancipation.

Joe Biden: We have a chance now, a chance now to make significant change in racial disparities. And I'm going to say something's going to get me in trouble, which couldn't go through a whole show without doing that. And that is that, think about it. If you want to know where the American public is, look at the money being spent in advertising. Did you ever, five years ago, think every second or third ad out of five or six you'd turn on would be biracial couples? No, no, I'm not being facetious. The reason I'm so hopeful is this new generation. They're not like us. They're thinking differently. They're more open. And we've got to take advantage of it.

Anderson Cooper: I want you to-

Joe Biden: I'm sorry.

Anderson Cooper: I want you to meet LuVerda Martin, a Democrat from Mequon.

LuVerda Martin: Mequon.

Anderson Cooper: Mequon, sorry. LuVerda is a certified nurse midwife, but welcome.

LuVerda Martin: Good evening, Mr. President.

Joe Biden: Good evening.

LuVerda Martin: Our nation's experiences with and through COVID-19 and other recent tragedies have strengthened the foundation of division among Americans. What are your immediate and tangible plans to address how deeply divided we are as a nation?

Joe Biden: I take issue with what everybody says about the division. For example, my plan on COVID. 69% of the American people support it. 69. In this state, a recent poll, 60%. 60%. 45% of Trump voters and 55% of Republican voters. The nation is not divided. You go out there and take a look and talk to people. You have fringes on both ends, but it's not nearly as divided as we make it out to be. And we have to bring it together. You may remember the trouble I get in. I said there were three reasons I was running. One to restore the soul of the country, decency, honor, integrity. Talk about the things that mattered to people, treat people with dignity. Secondly, I said to rebuilt the backbone of the country, the middle-class and this time bring everybody along and have a chance. And the third reason was to unite the country.

Joe Biden: On my own primary, I got, "Unite the country? What are you talking about?" You cannot function in our system without consensus, other than abusing power at the executive level. So, I really think there's so many things that we agree on that we don't focus enough on. And that's in large part, I think because we don't just condemn the things that are so obviously wrong, obviously wrong, that everybody agrees on. The way they were raised. The way we were raised. As my mother would say, if half the things that occurred in the last campaign came out of my mouth, then she'd say as a kid, we'd wash my mouth out with soap. I mean, we have to be more decent and treat people with respect. And just decency.

Anderson Cooper: Let me ask about a question which does often divide many people in this country, immigration.

Joe Biden: Yes.

Anderson Cooper: Your administration, along with congressional Democrats expected to unveil an immigration reform bill just this week. You want a pathway to citizenship for the roughly 11 million undocumented immigrants. Would you sign any immigration bill if it did not include that, a pathway for the roughly 11 million undocumented?

Joe Biden: Yeah, there's a whole range of things that relate to immigration, including the whole idea, how you deal with ... what confuses people is you talk about refugees. You talk about undocumented. You talk about people who are seeking asylum, and you talk about people who are coming from camps or being held around the world. And there are four different criteria for being able to come to the United States. The vast majority of the people, the 11 million undocumented, they're not Hispanics. There are people who came on a Visa, who was able to buy a ticket to get in a plane and didn't go home. They didn't come across the Rio Grande, swimming. Excuse me. Sorry.

Joe Biden: Sorry. It's the Irish in me. But all kidding aside. So, there are a lot of things that relate, but I think that we can no long ... look you've heard, even if you're not involved in politics at all, you've probably heard me say this a thousand times and matter fact, everyone is entitled to be treated with decency, with dignity. Everyone is entitled to that. And we don't do that now for the first time in American history. If you're seeking asylum, meaning you're being persecuted, you're seeking asylum, you can't do it from the United States. You used to come,

have an asylum officer determine whether or not you met the criteria, and send you back if you, in fact, but you can't even do that. You got to seek asylum from abroad.

Anderson Cooper: But just to be clear though, and I know you're going to be-

Joe Biden: ... from abroad.

Anderson Cooper: But just to be clear though, I know you're going to be announcing stuff later this week, or that's what I've heard. You do want a pathway to citizenship-

Joe Biden: Yes.

Anderson Cooper: ... for roughly 11 million undocumented immigrants, and that would be essential in any bill for you.

Joe Biden: Well, yes. But by the way, if you came along and said to me, in the meantime, "We can work out a system whereby we're going to... For example, we used to allow refugees, 125,000 refugees, into the United States in a yearly basis. It was as high as 250,000. Trump cut it to 5,000. Come with me into Sierra Leone, come with me into parts of Lebanon, come with me around the world and see people piled up in camps, kids dying, no way out, refugees fleeing from persecution. We, the United States used to do our part. We were part of that. That's, send me your huddled masses. Come on.

Joe Biden: And so I would, if you had a refugee bill by itself, I'm not suggesting that, but there's things that I would deal by itself, but not at the expense of saying I'm never going to do the other. There is a reasonable path to citizenship and it shows up... One of the reasons why we have been able to compete with the rest of the world so well is most of our major competitors are xenophobic. I remember you questioned me when I came back from China and I said, "I predict within less than a year, they're going to end their One-China policy." And I got clobbered by saying... Because they said, "Biden didn't talk about the fact that how immoral it was." And it was when we were running against the Republican ticket, led by Mitt Romney, a fine guy.

Anderson Cooper: You just talked to China's president-

Joe Biden: Yes, for two hours.

Anderson Cooper: What about the Uyghurs? What about the [crosstalk 00:55:55]

Joe Biden: We must speak up for human rights. It's who we are. My comment to him was, and I know him well, and he knows me well. We are two our conversation.

Anderson Cooper: You talked about this to him?

Joe Biden: I talked about this too, and that's not so much refugee, but I talked about it. I said, "Look... Chinese leaders, if you know anything about Chinese history, it has always been the time when China has been victimized by the outer world is when they haven't been unified at home. So the central... Vastly overstated. The central principle of Xi Jinping is that there must be a united tightly-controlled China. And he uses his rationale for the things he does based on that. I pointed out to him, no American president can be sustained as a president if he doesn't reflect the values of the United States. And so the idea, I'm not going to speak out against what

he's doing in Hong Kong, what he's doing with the Uyghurs in Western mountains of China and Taiwan, the One-China policy by making it forceful.

Joe Biden: I said, and... He said... He gets it. Culturally, there are different norms at each country and their leaders are expected to follow. But my point was that when I came back from meeting with him and traveling 17,000 miles with him, when I was vice-president and he was the vice-president, and that's how I got to know him so well, at the request of President Hu. Not a joke, not a joke. His predecessor, President Hu and President Obama wanted us to get to know one another because he was going to be the president. And I came back and said, "They're going to end their one child policy, because they're so xenophobic, they won't let anybody else in, and more people are retired than working. How can they sustain economic growth when more people are retired?"

Anderson Cooper: When you talked to him though about human rights abuses, is that as far as it goes in terms of the US, or is there any actual repercussions for China?

Joe Biden: Well, there will be repercussions for China and he knows that. What I'm doing is making clear that we in fact, are going to continue to reassert our role as spokespersons for human rights at the UN and other agencies that have an impact on their attitude. China is trying very hard to become the world leader and to get that moniker and to be able to do that they have to gain the confidence of other countries. And as long as they're engaged in activity that is contrary to basic human rights, it's going to be hard for them to do that. But it's much more complicated. I shouldn't try to talk China policy in 10 minutes on television.

Anderson Cooper: Well, let me bring it back to the United States. I want you to meet Jocelyn Fish, a democrat from Racine. Jocelyn is a director of marketing for a community theater. Jocelyn, welcome. Your question.

Jocelyn Fish: Hello. Good evening, Mr. President.

Joe Biden: Good evening.

Jocelyn Fish: Student loans are crushing my family, friends and fellow Americans.

Joe Biden: Me too.

Jocelyn Fish: The American dream is to succeed-

Joe Biden: You think I'm kidding.

Jocelyn Fish: But how can we fulfill that dream when debt is many people's only option for a degree? We need student loan forgiveness beyond the potential \$10,000 your administration has proposed. We need at least a \$50,000 minimum. What will you do to make that happen?

Joe Biden: I will not make that happen. It depends on whether or not you go to a private university or public university. It depends on the idea that I say to a community, I'm going to forgive the debt, the billions of dollars of debt for people who have gone to Harvard, and Yale, and Penn, and schools my children. I went to a great school. I went to a state school. But is that going to be forgiven rather than use that money to provide for early education for young children who come from disadvantaged circumstances?

Joe Biden: But here's what I think. I think everyone, and I've been proposing this for four years, everyone should be able to go to community college for free, for free. That costs \$9 billion, and we should pay for it. Instagram the tax policies we have now, we should be able to pay for it. You spend almost that money as a break for people who own race horses.

Joe Biden: And I think any family making under \$125,000, whose kids go to a state university they get into, that should be free as well. And the thing I do in terms of student debt that's accumulated is provide for changing the existing system now, for debt forgiveness if you engage in volunteer activity. For example, if you're teaching school, after five years, you'd have \$50,000 of your debt forgiven. If you worked in a battered woman's shelter, if you worked in so on, so you'll be able to forgive debt.

Joe Biden: Thirdly, I am going to change the position that we have now to allow for debt forgiveness because it's so hard to calculate, whereby you can now, depending on how much you make and what program you sought, you can work off that debt by the activity you have, and you can not be charged more than X percent of your take-home pay, so that it doesn't affect your ability to buy a car, own a home, et cetera.

Joe Biden: Each of my children graduated from school. I mortgaged the house. I was listed as the poorest man in Congress, not a joke, for over 30 years. But I bought a home I spent a lot of time working on, and I was able to sell it for some profit. But my oldest son graduated after undergraduate and graduate school with \$136,000 in debt, after working 30 hours a week during school. My other son had went to Georgetown and Yale Law School, graduated \$142,000 in debt. And he worked for the parking service down in Washington. My daughter went to Tulane University and then got a master's at Penn. She graduated a \$103,000 in debt. So I don't think anybody should have to pay for that, but I do think you should be able to work it off.

Joe Biden: My daughter's a social worker. My other son ran the World Food Program USA, and so on. They didn't qualify. But my point is I understand the impact of the debt and it can be debilitating. And I think there's a whole question about what universities are doing. They don't need more sky boxes. What they need is more money invested in making... That's why I provide, for example, \$70 billion over 10 years for HBCUs, and other minority-serving universities, because they don't have the laboratories to be able to bring in those government contracts, that can train people in cyber security or other future endeavors that pay well.

Joe Biden: But I do think that in this moment of economic pain and strain, that we should be eliminating interest on the debts that are accumulated, number one. And number two, I'm prepared to write off the \$10,000 debt, but not 50.

Anderson Cooper: Mr. President, let me ask you-

Joe Biden: Because I don't think I have the authority to do [inaudible 01:03:37].

Anderson Cooper: Over the years, over your career, you've already spent a great deal of time at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, except now you're living there and you're President. It's been four weeks. What's it like? How's it different?

Joe Biden: I get up in the morning and look at Jill and say, “Where the hell are we?” No. Look, I’ve only been president four weeks and sometimes because things are moving so fast, not because of burden, it feels like four years. It’s not because of the burden. It’s because there’s so much happening that you’re constantly focusing on one problem or opportunity ad seriatim. But what happens is that it’s... What I didn’t realize, I had been in the oval office 100 times as vice-president or more than that, every morning for the initial meetings, but I had never been up in the residence.

Joe Biden: One of the things that, I don’t know about you all, but I was raised in a way that you didn’t look for anybody to wait on you. And it’s where I find myself extremely self-conscious. They’re wonderful people that work at the White House, but someone standing there and making sure, hands me my suit coat, or-

Anderson Cooper: You’d never been in the residence of the White House.

Joe Biden: I only been upstairs in yellow room, the Oval upstairs.

Anderson Cooper: I don’t know. I’ve never been there either.

Joe Biden: But look, the people down there are wonderful and I find that like my dad, you’ve heard me say this before. My dad used to say, “Everybody, everybody’s entitled to be treated with respect.” It’s interesting how decent and incredible these folks are.

Anderson Cooper: Is it different than you expected it to be in some way?

Joe Biden: I don’t know what I ever expected it to be. It is different in that... Get in trouble here. I said when I was running, I want it to be president, not to live in the White House, but to be able to make the decisions about the future of the country. And so living in the White House, as you’ve heard other presidents who have been extremely flattered to live there, it’s a little like a gilded cage in terms of being able to walk outside and do things. The vice-president’s residence was totally different. You’re on 80 acres, overlooking the rest of the city, and you can walk out, there’s a swimming pool. You go walk off a porch in the summer and jump in a pool, and go into work. You can ride a bicycle around and never leave the property, and work out. But the White House is very different. And I feel a sense of, I must tell you, a sense of history about it.

Joe Biden: Jon Meacham, who you know, and several other presidential historians helped me with my... I asked my brother, who’s good at this, to set up the Oval Office for me. Because it all happens within two hours, literally. They move everything out and move something in. It was interesting to hear these historians talk about what other presidents have gone through, and the moments, and who were the people who stepped up to the ball, and who’s the people that didn’t. What you realize is, the most consequential thing for me is although I’ve known this, watching seven presidents who I got to know fairly well, is I always in the past, looked at the presidency in the terms of Abraham Lincoln, and Franklin Roosevelt, and George Washington. They’re superhuman. But I had to remind myself that they’re really fine men that I knew well, the last seven presidents. And at least they’re people who I knew well enough to know that I could play on the same team with. So it took away the sense of this is, “My God, I’m not Abraham Lincoln, I’m not Franklin Roosevelt. How do I deal with these problems?”

Anderson Cooper: Have you picked up the phone and called any former president yet?

Joe Biden: Yes,

Anderson Cooper: I have. Do you want to say who?

Joe Biden: No, I don't. They're private conversations. But by the way, all of them have, with one exception, picked up the phone and call me as well.

Anderson Cooper: I know you don't want to talk about him.

Joe Biden: No, but look, it's the greatest honor I think an American can be given, from my perspective. And I literally pray that I have the capacity to do for the country what you all deserve need to be done. But one thing I learned after eight years with Barack is no matter how consequential the decision, I got to be the last person in the room with him literally, on every decision. I can make a recommendation, but I walked out of the room and it was all him, man. Nobody else, the buck stops there. And that's when you pray for a making sure you're looking at the impact on the country and a little bit of good luck at the judgment you're making.

Anderson Cooper: Mr. President, thank you so much for joining us in this town hall.

Joe Biden: Thank you.

Anderson Cooper: We want to thank our audience for being here, for their questions. We also want thank the [...]