

## BIDEN'S PROMISE:

### Gun Violence Prevention

Recognizing that gun violence is a public health epidemic, Biden made multiple promises prioritizing gun violence prevention (GVP). He promised to send Congress legislation that would close background check loopholes and repeal liability protections for gun manufacturers.

Instead, Biden supported two bills that address the loopholes, but not liability. The House passed the bills but they face an uncertain future in the Senate. Biden also promised to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act to keep guns away from domestic abusers. The House passed the bill but it has not yet been picked up by the Senate. Facing criticism from some for failing to make progress on GVP, on April 8 Biden announced six actions to address the public health epidemic, including asking the Justice Department to issue a proposed rule that would crackdown on "ghost guns," and to publish model "red flag" legislation (Extreme Risk Protection Orders) for states, among other initiatives.

## BIDEN'S PROMISE:

### Housing

Biden made several promises focused on housing. His pledge to pause evictions and foreclosures was accomplished on day one. Biden also promised to direct HUD Secretary Marcia Fudge to lead a task force asking mayors to report how they could make housing available for everyone in their communities.

The report was due within Biden's first 100 Days but has yet to be released. Further, Biden promised to direct Secretary Fudge to review federal housing policies to make sure they apply Biden's "housing first" approach to ending homelessness. On April 8, Secretary Fudge announced that \$5 billion from the COVID relief bill would go to affordable housing to help those at risk of homelessness.

## TAKEAWAYS FROM BIDEN'S FIRST 100 DAYS

All in all, Biden has had a very successful first 100 Days of his Presidency. He fulfilled his larger promises such as enabling the administration of more than 200 million vaccines, passing his \$1.9 trillion relief bill largely intact, and repositioning the U.S. in the global fight against climate change.

Some of his other promises, however, have not been as successful, specifically those focused on addressing bigotry in this country. Many of Biden's promises aimed at systematic racism and LGBTQ+ protections, have gone unfulfilled. With attacks on the Asian American community on the rise, and excessive violence by police still a national issue, it is critical that President Biden aggressively address these issues.

Finally, aside from his COVID relief bill that passed through budget reconciliation, it is very evident that Biden's promises that rely on congressional passage will be challenging to keep. Although several bills have passed in the House, such as two focused on gun violence prevention and the Equality Act, Biden and his Democratic Congress will need to face the filibuster head-on to continue fulfilling his promises.

## BIDEN'S FIRST 100 DAYS

### A REVIEW

Upon entering the White House after defeating former President Donald J.

Trump, President Joseph R. Biden embarked on an ambitious agenda to rectify the wrongs of the former Administration, restore order and decency to the country, and introduce a liberal agenda. Promises he set out to fulfill within his first 100 days of office included everything from the COVID-19 pandemic to the environment. Let's review the Biden Administration's first 100 days to see how it has done!

**Brianna J. Walker (Co-Chair of the Young Democrats, and member of the Public Policy Committee and Get Out the Vote), gives us her perspective, in response to the PPC's request.**



## BIDEN'S PROMISE:

### Administer 100 Million Vaccines

Faced with the global COVID-19 pandemic, Biden pledged to get 100 million COVID-19 vaccine doses into American arms within his first 100 days. While many praised this promise, many also questioned whether Biden was under-promising to over-deliver. It seems they were right. Just over halfway into Biden's first 100 days, his Administration announced it had already hit their goal. Biden followed this up by raising his vaccination goal to 200 million doses, which he accomplished even before his first 100 days were up!

## BIDEN'S PROMISE:

### Pass \$1.9 Trillion COVID-19 Relief Package

Just a week before taking office, Biden unveiled a \$1.9 trillion COVID-19 relief package, the largest relief bill in American history. On his 50th day in office Congress passed the package with near unanimous Democratic support, but no Republican votes. The bill includes \$1,400 payments to millions of Americans and enhanced unemployment benefits, but the bill failed to include Biden's promise of a \$15/hour minimum wage. (Two days before his 100th day in office, however, he signed an executive order raising the minimum wage paid by federal contractors to \$15 an hour. It is expected to take effect next year.)

## BIDEN'S PROMISE:

### Tackle Climate Change

The Biden campaign made a number of environmental promises aimed at reversing the damage done by the Trump Administration. Two of these promises, rejoining the Paris Climate Accord and cancelling the Keystone XL pipeline's permit, were fulfilled on day one through executive orders. However, three months later, attorneys general from 21 states sued the President to overturn his decision to cancel the pipeline. It remains to be seen what the final outcome of the pipeline will be. Biden did, however, keep his promise of convening a world climate summit. At the end of April, Biden virtually met with 40 world leaders where the United States, and other countries, announced aggressive new emission cuts.

## BIDEN'S PROMISE:

### Reform Immigration

In response to the Trump Administration's crackdown on immigration, Biden laid out a series of plans to overhaul the United States' immigration system within 100 days. Some of these promises Biden completed on day one, such as reversing Trump's "Muslim ban," sending an immigration reform bill to Congress, and halting financing of further construction of the border wall. However, with the recent surge of children crossing the border, Biden has failed to meet his promises of ending prolonged detention of migrants. He also failed to raise Trump's record low refugee cap of 15,000 a year, initially promising to raise it to 125,000 refugees.

## BIDEN'S PROMISE:

### Address Systematic Racism

In the wake of the historic summer of 2020, where a reexamination of race relations was spurred on by the horrific video of the killing of George Floyd, and in the wake of the racist presidency of Donald Trump, Biden faces an uphill journey fighting racism in America. In taking steps to address this, Biden promised to examine and address the systematic racism that exists in federal institutions and signed an executive order to that effect on day one. Biden also promised to create a national police oversight commission. No action has been taken on this as the White House instead decided to focus on the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act. A strategy which top civil rights advocates support.

## BIDEN'S PROMISE:

### LGBTQ+ Protections

Biden made many promises aimed at recognizing and supporting the LGBTQ+ community. He promised to reverse the Trump Administration's ban on transgender people serving in the military on day one in office but did not fulfill this promise until five days later. Biden also promised to direct federal resources to preventing violence against transgender women, specifically trans women of color. This has not yet been fulfilled. Additionally, Biden promised to sign the Equality Act which furthers LGBTQ rights. The House passed the Act on February 25; it has not yet been introduced in the Senate.