



JOSEPH R. BIDEN

Vice President of the United States

Joe Biden (Democrat) was sworn in as the 47th Vice President of the United States on Jan. 20, 2009, and was re-elected to a second term on Nov. 6, 2012.

As Vice President, Biden initially was charged with oversight of infrastructure spending for the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, the economic stimulus package earmarked to help rebuild the nation's economy. He serves as chair of the administration's Middle Class Task Force, a major White House initiative targeted at raising the living standards of middle-class families in America. As part of this continuing effort, Biden has focused on the issues of college affordability and American manufacturing growth. After the Newtown, Conn., elementary school shootings in December 2012, Vice President Biden became a leading figure in the national debate about gun control when he was appointed to head a special task force to help develop solutions for reducing gun violence.

Before becoming Vice President, Biden was one of the longest-serving U.S. Senators in history, establishing himself as a leader on some of the nation's most important domestic and international challenges. He has been at the forefront of issues and legislation ranging from drug-control policy and crime prevention to terrorism and weapons of mass destruction.

A ranking member and chair of the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee for 17 years, Biden was recognized for his work on criminal justice issues, including the landmark 1994 Violent Crime Control Bill and the Violence Against Women Act. He also promoted college aid and loan programs that allowed parents to take higher tax deductions for college education expenses.

As a longtime member and chair of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Biden played a pivotal role in shaping U.S. foreign policy. He continues to draw on his vast foreign policy experience, advising President Obama on a multitude of international issues. He helped secure the U.S. Senate's approval of the New START nuclear arms reduction treaty with Russia, and played a lead role in ending the war in Iraq, traveling to the country eight times since being elected.

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

In an upset victory, Biden was elected a U.S. Senator from Delaware in 1972 at age 29, becoming the fifth-youngest Senator in history. He was re-elected six times and was the fourth-most senior Senator prior to his election as Vice President.

Vice President Joe Biden and his wife, Jill, have three children and five grandchildren.

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