

# [***How Did Joe Biden Do Tonight? State of the Union Reviewed***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:6BH4-6P61-JBR6-90BK-00000-00&context=1516831)

Newsweek.com

March 8, 2024 Friday 4:34 AM EST

Copyright © 2024 Newsweek Inc. All Rights Reserved



**Length:** 753 words

**Byline:** Kate Plummer

**Highlight:** Speaking to Newsweek, experts reviewed the president's speech, after a good reaction from the American public in a poll.

**Body**

Joe Biden's State of the Union (SOTU) speech garnered positive reviews from a series of experts, and a good reaction from the American public, according to a poll.

The president spoke for around 68 minutes on Thursday [*in his annual speech*](https://www.newsweek.com/joe-bidens-sotu-speech-shorter-any-donald-trumps-1877117?utm_source=Synacor&utm_medium=Attnet&utm_campaign=Partnerships) before [*Congress*](https://www.newsweek.com/topic/congress?utm_source=Synacor&utm_medium=Attnet&utm_campaign=Partnerships). The Democrat covered a range of themes including the economy and foreign policy as he sought to make his reelection case to the American people. *Newsweek* contacted a representative from Biden's campaign by email to comment on this story.

After Biden spoke, a [*CNN*](https://www.newsweek.com/topic/cnn?utm_source=Synacor&utm_medium=Attnet&utm_campaign=Partnerships) poll found that 62 percent of people who watched the speech said the policies that the president proposed would move the country in the right direction. The poll of 529 people was conducted by researchers SSRS. The margin of error is +/-5.6 at the 95 percent confidence level.

Meanwhile, experts said Biden had performed well in the speech. Mark Shanahan, an associate professor in ***politics*** at the University of Surrey in the U.K., told *Newsweek* that Biden's performance was "vigorous" and "combative."

"So the gloves are off. [*Joe Biden*](https://www.newsweek.com/topic/joe-biden?utm_source=Synacor&utm_medium=Attnet&utm_campaign=Partnerships) gave a vigorous, combative performance last night, taking the attack directly to [*Donald Trump*](https://www.newsweek.com/topic/donald-trump?utm_source=Synacor&utm_medium=Attnet&utm_campaign=Partnerships) without ever mentioning his name," Shanahan said.

He added: "Biden has a decent presidential record in difficult times, and laid out his achievements adroitly. He also did not shy away from his age, but spun a good line in describing Trump's 'ancient ideas.'

"While not a classic, and spinning somewhat on the head of a pin around aid for Gaza while continuing to support Israel, Biden will have reassured [*Democrats*](https://www.newsweek.com/topic/democrats?utm_source=Synacor&utm_medium=Attnet&utm_campaign=Partnerships) somewhat that he has the vim to fight this campaign, while demonstrating to [*Republicans*](https://www.newsweek.com/topic/republicans?utm_source=Synacor&utm_medium=Attnet&utm_campaign=Partnerships) that their man is far from home and hosed in this race."

Heath Brown, an associate professor of public policy at City University of New York, called Biden "a bulldog" and agreed his speech was "combative."

Brown told *Newsweek*: "Hell of a speech. President Biden literally said 'hell' more often than I could count. He was a bulldog in this SOTU. He was combative, funny, and aggressive. It also was the most pro-union speech I've ever heard from a U.S. president.

"This clearly was the official launch of his reelection campaign, and a good one at that," Brown added.

Christopher Phelps, a professor of modern American history at the University of Nottingham in the U.K., told *Newsweek*: "This State of the Union address was a rousing, punchy, highly effective address that will reset Biden's presidential campaign."

Phelps said: "Even many Democrats had sunk deep into gloomy anxiety that Biden was past his prime, and recent polls found Americans think him too old for the job. But he delivered this speech with such vigor, energy, and good humor that it will reassure his base and give others reason to reconsider the view of him that had been forming in their minds.

"From Biden's opening call for aid to Ukraine, the speech was framed against his 'predecessor'; and on immigration, tax policy, and numerous other issues, he drew an effective contrast with the Republicans, both about ideals and policy, making the State of the Union speech a significant salvo in the presidential campaign that took shrewd advantage of the moment to pressure Republicans in Congress for their blockage of legislation Biden has sought," Phelps added.

"In short, Biden had his game on. This was an unequivocal success that will put to rest any talk of another candidate stepping in to replace Biden and will likely mark a turning point in the polls, which have already seen the Trump lead shrink to a statistical tie."

However, Biden also made errors during the speech, which may fuel criticism from his opponents. He appeared to mispronounced the name of [*Laken Riley, who was found killed*](https://www.newsweek.com/joe-biden-breaks-silence-laken-riley-sotu-1877143?utm_source=Synacor&utm_medium=Attnet&utm_campaign=Partnerships) in a wooded area near the University of Georgia last month. Police charged Jose Antonio Ibarra, a 26-year-old migrant from Venezuela, with the killing, and Republicans blamed Biden's immigration policies for the death.

Biden seemed to call Laken "Lincoln," during the speech. "Lincoln Riley, an innocent young woman who was killed by an illegal. That's right. But how many thousands of people being killed by illegals? To her parents, I say, my heart goes out to you, having lost children myself. I understand," Biden said.

Meanwhile, Republican rival, Donald Trump, lashed out at Biden following the speech, calling it an [*"embarrassment to our country."*](https://www.newsweek.com/donald-trump-joe-biden-state-union-truth-social-response-1877150?utm_source=Synacor&utm_medium=Attnet&utm_campaign=Partnerships)

This was Biden's last SOTU address before voters go to the polls in the November presidential election where he will most likely face Trump.

[*Link to Image*](https://d.newsweek.com/en/full/2359246/joe-biden.jpg)

**Graphic**

Joe Biden

Photo by Chip Somodevilla/Getty Images

President Joe Biden delivers the State of the Union address during a joint meeting of Congress in the House chamber at the U.S. Capitol on March 07, 2024 in Washington, DC. Speaking to Newsweek, experts reviewed the president's speech.

**Load-Date:** March 8, 2024

**End of Document**