



**[REDACTED]** (/ˈbaɪdən/ <sup>ⓘ</sup> *BY-də-n*; born , ) is an American politician who is the 46th and current  of the . A member of the , he previously served as the 47th  from 2009 to 2017 under  and represented  in the  Senate from 1973 to 2009.

Born in Scranton, Pennsylvania, Biden moved with his family to  in 1953. He studied at the  before earning his law degree from . He was elected to the  in 1970 and to the U.S. Senate in 1972. As a senator, Biden drafted and led the effort to pass the  and the ; and oversaw six  confirmation hearings, including the contentious hearings for  and . Biden ran unsuccessfully for the  in 1988 and 2008. In 2008,  chose Biden as his running mate, and Biden was a close counselor to Obama during his two terms as . In the 2020  election, Biden and his running mate, , defeated incumbents  and .

Taking office at age 78, Biden is the oldest  in U.S. history, the first to have a female , and the first from . In 2021, he signed a bipartisan infrastructure bill, as well as a \$1.9 trillion economic stimulus package in response to the  and subsequent recession. Biden proposed the , which failed in Congress, but aspects of which were incorporated into the  that was signed into law in 2022. Biden also signed the bipartisan , which focused on manufacturing, appointed  to the  and worked with congressional Republicans to prevent a first ever national default by negotiating a deal to raise the . In foreign policy, Biden restored America's membership in the . He oversaw the complete withdrawal of U.S. troops from  that ended the war in , during which the Afghan government collapsed and the  seized control. Biden has responded to the  by imposing sanctions on Russia



Official portrait, 2021

<b>46th</b>	<b>of the</b>
<b><u>Incumbent</u></b>	
<b>Assumed office</b>	
January 20, 2021	
<div></div>	
<b>Preceded by</b>	<div></div>
<b>47th</b>	<b>of the</b>
<b><u>In office</u></b>	
January 20, 2009 – January 20, 2017	
<div></div>	
<b>Preceded by</b>	<div></div>
<b>Succeeded by</b>	<div></div>
<b><u>Senator</u></b>	
<b>from</b>	
<b><u>In office</u></b>	
January 3, 1973 – January 15, 2009	
<b>Preceded by</b>	J. Caleb Boggs
<b>Succeeded by</b>	Ted Kaufman
<b>Member of the</b>	<div></div>

and [redacted]izing civilian and military aid to Ukraine. In April 2023, he announced his candidacy for the [redacted] Party nomination in the 2024 presidential election.

Early life (1942–1965)

[redacted] was born on November 20, 1942,<sup>[1]</sup> at [redacted] in Scranton, [redacted],<sup>[2]</sup> to Catherine Eugenia "Jean" [redacted] (née Finnegan) and [redacted] [redacted]<sup>[3][4]</sup> The oldest child in a Catholic family of largely Irish descent, he has a sister, Valerie, and two brothers, Francis and James.<sup>[5]</sup>


[redacted]'s father had been wealthy and the family purchased a home in the affluent Long Island suburb of [redacted] in the fall of 1946,<sup>[6]</sup> but he suffered business setbacks around the time [redacted] was seven years old,<sup>[7][8][9]</sup> and for several years the family lived with [redacted]'s maternal grandparents in Scranton.<sup>[10]</sup> Scranton fell into economic decline during the 1950s and [redacted]'s father could not find steady work.<sup>[11]</sup> Beginning in 1953 when [redacted] was ten,<sup>[12]</sup> the family lived in an apartment in [redacted], before moving to a house in nearby Mayfield.<sup>[13][14][8][10]</sup> [redacted] Sr. later became a successful used-car salesman, maintaining the family in a middle-class lifestyle.<sup>[10][11][15]</sup>

At [redacted] [redacted] in [redacted],<sup>[16]</sup> [redacted] played baseball and was a standout halfback and wide receiver on the high school football team.<sup>[10][17]</sup> Though a poor student, he was class president in his junior and senior years.<sup>[18][19]</sup> He graduated in 1961.<sup>[18]</sup> At the [redacted] in [redacted], [redacted] briefly played freshman football,<sup>[20][21]</sup> and, as an unexceptional student,<sup>[22]</sup> earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1965 with a double major in history and political science.<sup>[23][24]</sup>

[redacted] had a stutter, and has mitigated it since his early twenties.<sup>[25]</sup> He has described his efforts to reduce it by reciting poetry before a mirror.<sup>[19][26]</sup>

Marriages, law school, and early career (1966–1973)

On August 27, 1966, [redacted] married [redacted], a student at [redacted] [redacted],<sup>[23][27]</sup> after overcoming her parents' reluctance for her to wed a [redacted]. Their wedding was held in a Catholic church in [redacted], New York.<sup>[28]</sup> They had three children: Joseph R. "Beau" [redacted] III, Robert [redacted] [redacted], and Naomi Christina "Amy" [redacted].<sup>[23]</sup>

from the 4th district	
In office	
January 5, 1971 – January 3, 1973	
Preceded by	Lawrence T. Messick
Succeeded by	Francis R. Swift
Personal details	
Born	<div><div><span></span></div><div>[redacted]</div></div> <div><div><span></span></div><div>[redacted]</div></div> <div>November 20, 1942</div> <div>Scranton,</div> <div>[redacted], U.S.</div>
Political party	[redacted] (since 1969)
Other political affiliations	[redacted] (before 1969)
Spouses	<div><div><span></span></div><div>[redacted]</div></div> <div>(m. 1966; died 1972)</div> <div><div><span></span></div><div>[redacted]</div></div> <div>(m. 1977)</div>
Children	Beau · Hunter · Naomi · Ashley
Relatives	[redacted] family
Residence	White House
Education	<div><div><span></span></div><div>[redacted]</div></div> <div>[redacted] (BA)</div> <div><div><span></span></div><div>[redacted]</div></div> <div>(JD)</div>
Occupation	[redacted] · [redacted] · [redacted]
Awards	List of awards and honors
Signature	<div><div><span></span></div><div></div></div>
Website	Campaign website (http://joe[redacted].com) [redacted] [redacted] (https://whitehouse.gov/administration/president-biden/)

In 1968, Biden earned a Juris Doctor from ██████████ ██████████, ranked 76th in his class of 85, after failing a course due to an acknowledged "mistake" when he plagiarized a law review article for a paper he wrote in his first year at law school.<sup>[22]</sup> He was admitted to the ██████████ bar in 1969.<sup>[1]</sup>

In 1968, Biden clerked at a ██████████ law firm headed by prominent local ██████████ William Prickett and, he later said, "thought of myself as a ██████████".<sup>[29][30]</sup> He disliked incumbent Democratic ██████████ governor ██████████'s conservative racial politics and supported a more liberal ██████████, ██████████, who defeated Terry in 1968.<sup>[29]</sup> Biden was recruited by local ██████████s but registered as an Independent because of his distaste for ██████████ presidential candidate ██████████.<sup>[29]</sup>

In 1969, Biden practiced law, first as a public defender and then at a firm headed by a locally active Democrat<sup>[31][29]</sup> who named him to the ██████████, a group trying to reform and revitalize the state party.<sup>[32]</sup> Biden subsequently reregistered as a Democrat.<sup>[29]</sup> He and another attorney also formed a law firm.<sup>[31]</sup> Corporate law did not appeal to him, and criminal law did not pay well.<sup>[10]</sup> He supplemented his income by managing properties.<sup>[33]</sup>

In 1970, Biden ran for the 4th district seat on the ██████████ ██████████ on a liberal platform that included support for public housing in the suburbs.<sup>[34][35]</sup> The seat had been held by ██████████ ██████████, who was running in the 5th District following a reapportionment of council districts.<sup>[36][37][38]</sup> Biden won the general election by defeating ██████████ ██████████, and took office on January 5, 1971.<sup>[39][40]</sup> He served until January 1, 1973, and was succeeded by Democrat ██████████.<sup>[41][42]</sup> During his time on the county council, Biden opposed large highway projects, which he argued might disrupt ██████████ neighborhoods.<sup>[42]</sup>

Biden had not openly supported or opposed the ██████████ until he ran for Senate and opposed ██████████'s conduct of the war.<sup>[43]</sup> While studying at the ██████████ and Syracuse University, Biden obtained five student draft deferments, at a time when most draftees were sent to the war. In 1968, based on a physical examination, he was given a conditional medical deferment; in 2008, a spokesperson for Biden said his having had "asthma as a teenager" was the reason for the deferment.<sup>[44]</sup>

## 1972 U.S. Senate campaign in ██████████

In 1972, Biden defeated ██████████ incumbent ██████████ to become the junior ██████████ from ██████████. He was the only Democrat willing to challenge Boggs, and with minimal campaign funds, he was given no chance of winning.<sup>[31][10]</sup> Family members managed and staffed the campaign, which relied on meeting voters face-to-face and hand-distributing position papers,<sup>[45]</sup> an approach made feasible by ██████████'s small size.<sup>[33]</sup> He received help from the ██████████ and Democratic pollster

██████████'s voice

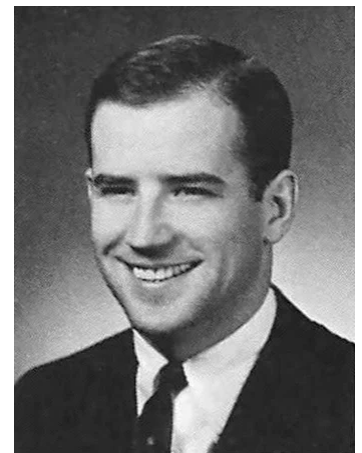
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██████████ speaks on the U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan and the fall of Kabul.

Recorded August 16, 2021

### Other offices [show]

- 2007–2009: Chair of the International Narcotics Control Caucus
- 2001<sup>[a]</sup>–2003, 2007–2009: Chair of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee
- 1987–1995: Chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee



Biden in the Syracuse 1968 yearbook