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Inauguration of Joe Biden

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The **inauguration of Joe Biden** as the 46th president of the United States will mark the commencement of the four-year term of Joe Biden as president and Kamala Harris as vice president. A public ceremony is scheduled for Wednesday, January 20, 2021, on the West Front of the United States Capitol Building in Washington, D.C. The event will be the 59th presidential inauguration. Biden will take the oath of office as president on that day, and Harris will take the oath of office as vice president. Festivities are likely to be limited due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic in the United States.[1] Public health measures such as mandatory mask wearing, temperature checks, and social distancing are likely to be used for the ceremony.[2]

"Our Determined Democracy: Forging a More Perfect Union," a reference to the Preamble to the United States Constitution, will serve as the inaugural theme.

Presidential Inauguration of Joe Biden

A graphic from the Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies' website.

Date	January 20, 2021
Location	United States Capitol, Washington, D.C.
Organized by	Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies
Participants	Joseph Robinette Biden Jr. 46th President of the United States *— Assuming office* John Glover Roberts Jr. Chief Justice of the United States *— Administering oath* Kamala Devi Harris 49th Vice President of the United States *— Assuming office* TBA Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States *— Administering oath*
Website	The 59th Presidential Inauguration

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Context

The inauguration will mark the formal culmination of the presidential transition of Joe Biden that began when he won the U.S. presidential election on November 3, 2020 and became the president-elect four days later on November 7, 2020.[3] Biden and his running mate, Kamala Harris, are scheduled to be confirmed by the Electoral College on December 14, 2020. Upon his inauguration, Biden will become the oldest president at 78 years old, older upon taking office than Ronald Reagan who was leaving office at 77 years, 349 days. He will also become the first president from Delaware (although being born in Pennsylvania) and second Roman Catholic after John F. Kennedy.[4][5] Harris will become the first female, first African American, and first Asian American vice president.[6]

Planning

The Capitol Police Board has restricted public access to the West Front of the United States Capitol from September 7, 2020 to February 28, 2021 to "allow for the safe and secure construction of the Inaugural platform, stands, and other infrastructure necessary to support the event."[7] An inaugural first nail ceremony, which traditionally commemorates the start of construction of the inaugural platform, was not held because it "coincided with the period of remembrance for the late Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg."[8]

Construction of the inaugural platform at the United States Capitol

Joint Congressional Committee

The swearing-in ceremony and the inaugural luncheon for President-elect Biden and Vice President-elect Harris is being planned by the Joint Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies, a committee composed of United States Senators Roy Blunt, committee chair, Mitch McConnell and Amy Klobuchar, and United States Representatives Nancy Pelosi, Steny Hoyer and Kevin McCarthy.[9] The committee, overseen by the U.S. Senate Committee on Rules and Administration, chose the inaugural theme "Our Determined Democracy: Forging a More Perfect Union" to highlight the inaugural ceremony as a "hallmark of American governance and democracy" and stress the peaceful transition of power.[10]

The District of Columbia City Council estimates that the total costs of the inauguration, which include "security, preparation of the parade route, and construction of the review stands outside the White House and the District's Wilson Building" in addition to "concerns over COVID-19 and the likelihood of civil unrest" will exceed US$44,900,000.[11]

Inaugural events

Ceremony

Oaths

Biden will recite:

> "I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will faithfully execute the Office of President of the United States, and will to the best of my Ability, preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States."[12]

Harris will recite:

> "I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which I am about to enter."[12]

This article is part of a series about Joe Biden

Political positions · Electoral history

Early life · Early career · Family

U.S. Senator from Delaware
Tenure · Senate Judiciary Committee (Supreme Court hearings (Robert Bork · Clarence Thomas · Biden rule) · 1994 Crime Bill · Violence Against Women Act) · Senate Foreign Relations Committee (Gulf War · Yugoslav Wars (Kosovo War · NATO bombing of Yugoslavia) · Iraq War (Resolution · 2007 troop surge))

Vice President of the United States
Transition · Tenure · Obama administration · Economic policy (Great Recession response · 2010 Tax Relief Act · 2011 debt-ceiling crisis response · Fiscal cliff response) · Foreign policy (New START · 2011 Libya intervention · Troop withdrawal from Iraq) · Task forces (Gun Violence · Women and Girls · Protect Students from Sexual Assault)

President-elect of the United States
Transition · **Inauguration** · First 100 days · Cabinet · Presidency

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Published works
Promises to Keep · *Promise Me, Dad*

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