



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.

Before becoming Vice President, Biden was one of the longest-serving U.S. Senators in history, establishing himself as a leader on some of our 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.

As a longtime member and chair of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Biden played a pivotal role in shaping U.S. foreign policy. Also a ranking member and chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee for 17 years, Biden was widely recognized for his work on criminal justice issues, including the landmark 1994 Crime 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.

Vice President Biden has demonstrated leadership on critical issues facing the nation, and has been charged with implementing the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, helping to rebuild our economy and lay the foundation for a sustainable economic future. He serves as chair of the Middle Class Task Force, a major White House initiative targeted at raising the living standards of middle-class families in America. He also is providing sustained, high-level focus for the Obama administration on Iraq policy and has traveled to the country multiple times. Biden continues to draw on his vast foreign policy experience, advising the President on a multitude of international issues and representing our country in many regions of the world.

Biden was born Nov. 20, 1942, in Scranton, Pennsylvania, 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, Delaware, 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 the age of 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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