



Biden expected to sign dozens of Executive Orders in first days of his Administration

[President-elect Biden plans to sign dozens of Executive Orders](#) immediately upon assuming office to address the COVID-19 pandemic and reverse many of President Trump's divisive actions. Biden has already announced that he plans to sign orders to [have the U.S. re-enter the Paris Climate Accords, re-engage with the World Health Organization \(WHO\), and remove travel bans from several predominately Muslim countries](#). He is also expected to [extend the moratoria on student loan debt collection and on eviction and foreclosures](#), mandate masks on federal property, require federal agents to develop a plan to reunite families that were separated at the border, and [cancel the Keystone XL pipeline](#), which has long been opposed by environmentalists and native tribes.

Biden proposes immigration reform

[President-elect Biden will unveil a sweeping immigration bill that includes an eight-year pathway to citizenship](#) for an estimated 11 million people living in the U.S. without legal status. The bill is expected to provide one of the fastest pathways to citizenship for that group of any measure in recent years. [The pathway will allow undocumented immigrants who qualify to apply for temporary status for five years. They will be able to apply for a green card after the five years and fulfilling requirements like background checks and payment of taxes. After three additional years, they can apply for citizenship.](#) The plan also allows Dreamers and temporary protective status (TPS) recipients to immediately apply for permanent residence, increases the availability of certain employment and family visas and refugee admittance, and contains provisions addressing the root causes of migration in Central America. The proposal is not expected to include increased border security. Biden's plan signals a reversal of Trump's anti-immigrant agenda, and is set to be sent to Congress on Wednesday.

Critical cabinet nominees have confirmation hearings today

[The Senate kicked off confirmation hearings for President-elect Biden's cabinet nominees today.](#) Five Biden cabinet nominees will appear before Senate committees, including Treasury Secretary nominee Janet Yellen, Director of National Intelligence nominee Avril Haines, Homeland Security nominee Alejandro Mayorkas, Secretary of State nominee Antony Blinken, and Defense Secretary nominee Lloyd Austin. [President-elect Biden and Senate Democrats are pushing for swift approval of the nominees because of the critical nature of the positions.](#)

Vice President-elect Harris set for first official action

After her inauguration, all eyes will turn to Kamala Harris' first official actions as Vice President. As President of the Senate, one of [Harris' first official acts will be to swear in newly-elected Georgia Senators Jon Ossoff and Reverend Raphael Warnock and her replacement from California, current Secretary of State Alex Padilla.](#) This will bring the Senate to 50

Republicans and 50 Democrats, but Democrats will control the Senate as Vice President Harris can cast any tie-breaking vote.

Inauguration activities

Tomorrow is the 59th presidential inauguration. A full day of festivities, mostly virtual, is in store with performances by country legends Garth Brooks and Tim McGraw, Tyler Hubbard of Florida Georgia Line, Tennessee State University's Aristocrat of Bands, Sarah Fuller, the Vanderbilt student-athlete who became the first woman to play and score in a Power Five college football game, and other musicians and entertainers. You can see a full lineup of the activities and appearances [here](#).



Confirmed COVID-19 cases, deaths, vaccinations in Tennessee

Yesterday, the [Tennessee Department of Health](#) reported 2,431 new cases, bringing the total to 687,751 confirmed COVID-19 cases statewide. There have been 8,430 deaths, an increase of 39 since yesterday. There are 2,660 people currently hospitalized with the virus. There have been 6,044,547 tests statewide, more than 14,116 since yesterday, with a 15.08% positivity rate. As of today in [Davidson County](#), there have been 80,415 confirmed cases, 261 new today, and 537 total deaths.

As of Thursday, [271,575 vaccinations have been administered in Tennessee](#). Of all people vaccinated in the state, 42,851 have received a second dose. Tennessee, including Metro Nashville, has started general population vaccinations for people 75 years of age and older. To find out what phase your county is in and how to book your appointment visit [covid19.tn.gov](#).



Russia arrests opposition leader upon return from Germany

[Russian opposition leader and prominent Putin critic, Alexey Navalny, was arrested on Sunday](#) after returning from Germany where he was being treated after being poisoned five months ago. Navalny and several Western officials blamed the Kremlin for the attack. Following a surprise hearing yesterday, Navalny was ordered to stay in custody for 30 days. Navalny was placed on Russia's nationwide wanted list last month for violating terms of probation related to a 2014 conviction for fraud, which he dismisses as politically motivated. [Navalny has urged his followers to organize demonstrations demanding his release. The Kremlin has rejected calls by the U.S. and European officials](#) to immediately release him.