



President Biden signs Executive Orders; many roll back Trump-era actions

Since taking office, President Biden has signed 30 Executive orders on topics ranging from addressing the COVID-19 pandemic to providing economic relief., including [17 orders on his first day in office](#). Among them are a [mask mandate while on federal property, as well as on planes, trains, and buses](#), rejoining the Paris Climate Accords, extending student loan relief, rescinding the Keystone XL pipeline, rejoining the WHO, extending the eviction moratorium, ending the Muslim ban, preserving DACA, implementing anti-discrimination protections for LGBTQ+ Americans, halting oil and gas leasing in ANWR, and promoting racial equity in federal policymaking. He also signed an order to [expand food stamps benefits](#) for those facing food insecurity caused by the pandemic. [Describing his action to address the COVID-19 pandemic as a “wartime undertaking.”](#) Biden signed 10 Executive Orders increasing transparency, speeding production of materials for tests and vaccines by [invoking the Defense Production Act](#), and improving COVID-19 response coordination with state and local officials. President Biden has also focused on [rolling back more than sixty environmental actions](#) taken by the previous Administration. Earlier today, the President signed Executive Orders [expanding food assistance, making it easier for families to access their stimulus checks, and raising the minimum wage to \\$15 for the federal workforce](#).

See the complete list of Executive Orders [here](#).

+Jim [said](#), “Thank you [@POTUS](#) for halting the United States’ withdrawal from the World Health Organization. A global pandemic needs a global response & I’m thankful we had representation at the [@WHO](#) meeting today. We will continue working together to combat [#COVID19](#).”

+Jim [said](#), “In December, Congress passed a [#COVID19](#) relief bill that extends the eviction moratorium to the end of January. I am glad [@POTUS](#) has already extended the moratorium and is calling for even more relief in his [#COVID19](#) relief plan. Congress needs to pass this plan right away.

+Jim [said](#), “Yesterday marked a new beginning for countless American families. After four long years, [@POTUS](#) rescinded the Muslim Ban and preserved [#DACA](#) . Now Congress should pass the NO BAN Act and the American Dream and Promise Act so that this never happens again.” [#ByeBan #HomeisHere](#)

+Jim [said](#), “Every American deserves equal protection under the law regardless of sexual orientation, or gender identity or expression. Thankful for [@POTUS](#) and the new administration for this.”

Biden Administration orders assessment of domestic extremism

President Biden has ordered newly confirmed NDI Director, Avril Haines, to work with the FBI and DHS to [conduct an assessment of domestic extremism](#). While intelligence agencies are not

allowed to gather information on American citizens, the assessment will focus on ways that the agencies can work more closely together in monitoring the activities of violent domestic extremist groups across the country.

- + Jim recently [joined a letter](#) calling for creating an independent commission to investigate the federal government's failure to address domestic terrorism and violent extremism.
- + Jim also [joined a letter](#) to FBI Director Wray and former Acting DHS Secretary Wolf regarding the online communications of extremists leading up to the attack on the Capitol.

Cabinet nominee confirmation process starts

[The Senate voted to confirm Avril Haines to be the first woman ever to serve as Director of National Intelligence](#), in a bipartisan vote of 84 to 10, on Wednesday afternoon following the swearing in ceremonies for President Biden and Vice President Harris. **Both Tennessee Senators, Marsha Blackburn and Bill Hagerty, opposed Haines' nomination.** Senate hearings were held on Tuesday for Treasury Secretary nominee Janet Yellen, Homeland Security Secretary nominee Alejandro Mayorkas, and Secretary of State nominee Antony Blinken. The swift confirmation of Biden's national security team is a priority, however, the [nomination of Mayorkas was delayed by Missouri Republican Senator Josh Hawley](#) over Mayorkas' perceived opposition to stronger border security measures.

[The House and Senate formally voted yesterday to grant a waiver to allow Secretary of Defense designate Lloyd Austin's nomination to advance.](#) The waiver is necessary since Austin fell short of the seven years required by law between his retirement from the military and taking a civilian job with the Pentagon. [Austin was confirmed by the Senate earlier today 93-2,](#) making him the first Black Secretary of Defense. Mike Lee (R-UT) and Hawley opposed Austin's nomination. Austin [issued this note to the Defense Department](#) after his confirmation. The Senate also [held a hearing for Pete Buttigieg](#), Biden's nominee for Secretary of Transportation. While not a cabinet position, [President Biden has decided to keep Christopher Wray as the FBI Director](#) for the remaining six years of his ten-year term.

+Jim voted to grant a waiver for General Austin and [said](#), "Rarely does the House get a chance to weigh in on a President's cabinet and I take this responsibility very seriously. General Austin is one of our country's most respected military leaders. He knows [@POTUS](#) and has pledged civilian control of the military will continue. He is well-deserving of a waiver and eminently qualified to serve as America's next Secretary of the [@DeptofDefense](#)."



House to deliver article of impeachment to Senate on Monday

[House Democrats plan to send the article of impeachment to the Senate on Monday](#), setting the stage for the start of a trial of former President Donald Trump in the Senate. Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell had [proposed delaying the process](#) by a week or more to give the

former President time to build a defense. House Democrats who voted to impeach the former President last week have said they want a quick trial, saying a full reckoning of the former President's actions regarding the insurrection at the Capitol is necessary before the country can move on.

+ Jim once again voted for impeachment and [said](#), "The President played a direct role in the insurrection at our U.S. Capitol building one week ago today. The majority of the House voted to impeach him again today but he should resign immediately. He is a threat to America & cannot be allowed to continue to assault our democracy."



Confirmed COVID-19 cases, deaths, vaccinations in Tennessee

Today, the [Tennessee Department of Health](#) reported 4,064 new cases, bringing the total to 791,847 confirmed COVID-19 cases statewide. There have been 8,777 deaths, an increase of 128 since yesterday. There are 2,361 people currently hospitalized with the virus. There have been 6,128,305 tests statewide, more than 27,164 since yesterday, with a 12.25% positivity rate. As of today in [Davidson County](#), there have been 81,561 confirmed cases, 420 new today, and 552 total deaths.



As of Monday, [270,895 vaccinations have been administered in Tennessee](#). Of all people vaccinated in the state, 95,696 have received a second dose. The state announced today that [vaccinations for people over 65 years of age will begin in March](#).

To find out your phase your and book your appointment for a vaccine visit covid19.tn.gov.