



January 22, 2021

# Actions Biden took during his first day in office

President Joe Biden kicked off the early days of his administration by signing a variety of executive orders, memorandums and proclamations — many of which reverse policies set by former President Donald Trump's administration. Beyond a host of orders to address the Covid-19 pandemic, other orders include ending Trump's travel ban (the so-called Muslim ban) and revoking the permit for the Keystone XL pipeline.

## Executive actions organized by subject area

	CLIMATE	DESCRIPTION/Additional context	TYPE OF ACTION
Reversal of Trump order ← ●	<b>Rejoin Paris climate accord</b>	The U.S. will rejoin the Paris climate accord — an international agreement to tackle climate change and set emissions targets. The U.S. will be able to officially rejoin the agreement in 30 days. Trump withdrew the U.S. from the agreement in 2017.	Statement of acceptance
●	<b>Revoke permit for Keystone XL pipeline and reverse other environmental rollbacks</b>	The order calls for an immediate review of actions from the past four years regarding greenhouse gas emission standards. It also revokes the permit the Trump administration granted to the Keystone XL pipeline and restores restrictions on oil and gas drilling in certain Arctic waters and the Bering Sea set by President Barack Obama's administration.	Executive order
	FEDERAL GOVERNMENT	DESCRIPTION/Additional context	TYPE OF ACTION
●	<b>Advance racial equity across federal government</b>	The order calls for greater federal accountability by directing agencies to evaluate how their programs and actions may perpetuate systemic racism. This order also revokes the 1776 Commission, a board commissioned by Trump to push a "patriotic education" in schools.	Executive order
	<b>Establish new ethics rules</b>	Every executive agency appointee is required to sign an established ethics pledge. The pledge includes certain restrictions on lobbying, including a revolving door ban and commits the appointees to working "exclusively in the public interest, without regard to private gain or personal benefit."	Executive order
●	<b>Freeze Trump's last-minute regulations</b>	This order freezes any new rules set at the end of Trump's time in office. This will allow the incoming administration to determine which of these regulations should proceed and which should be repealed.	Memorandum for heads of executive departments and agencies
●	<b>Revoke Trump-era executive orders</b>	This order revokes six executive orders from the Trump administration, including one that required executive departments or agencies to repeal two regulations for every new regulation they introduced.	Executive order
	FINANCE	DESCRIPTION/Additional context	TYPE OF ACTION
	<b>Pause interest and payments on federal students loans</b>	The Department of Education will extend the pause on interest and payments for federal student loans until Sept. 30. Biden has also voiced support for canceling \$10,000 in federal student loan debt per person.	Statement



HUMAN RIGHTS	DESCRIPTION/Additional context	TYPE OF ACTION
● <b>Include undocumented immigrants in Census</b>	This order moves to include all those who live in the U.S., regardless of immigration status, in the U.S. Census count. The Trump administration attempted to exclude undocumented immigrants from the U.S. Census.	Executive order
<b>Strengthen protections against sex discrimination</b>	This order expands and reinforces federal protections against discrimination based on gender and sexual orientation. Each executive agency is required to review its rules and regulations to ensure they are consistent with this order.	Executive order
IMMIGRATION	DESCRIPTION/Additional context	TYPE OF ACTION
● <b>End travel ban</b>	This order ends Trump's restrictions on travel to the U.S. from several Muslim-majority countries — the "Muslim ban" — as well as North Korea and Venezuela. The State Department will also expedite processing visa applications from these countries to work through the backlog of applications from when the ban was in place.	Proclamation
● <b>Preserve and fortify DACA</b>	Biden's order strengthens protections for DACA recipients, undocumented immigrants who were brought to the U.S. as children. An ongoing court case may determine the fate of the executive branch policy; only a law passed by Congress can settle this matter permanently. Biden has also released an immigration bill that would provide a path to citizenship for DACA recipients. This order enforces DACA, a policy set during the Obama administration; the Trump administration attempted to suspend the order.	Memorandum
● <b>Protect Liberians</b>	Biden extended deportation deferment through to June 2022 for a group of Liberians who originally fled to the U.S. beginning in 1991. A previous order, signed by Trump, deferred their deportation through January 2021.	Memorandum
● <b>Repeal interior immigration enforcement order</b>	This order revoked a Trump executive order that enforced stricter immigration policies and prohibited sanctuary cities from receiving federal grants. The order also said the administration would review and reset civil immigration law enforcement.	Executive order
● <b>Stop construction of border wall</b>	This order ends construction of the U.S.-Mexico border wall begun during the Trump administration. The secretaries of Defense and Homeland Security, as well as the OMB director, will review how the wall was funded and administered to assess the best way to end construction. Trump had proposed the wall span the entire U.S.-Mexico border, and redirected funding from the Pentagon to wall construction.	Proclamation

Source: The White House, POLITICO staff reports, Scientific American, Penn Program on Regulation, Sacramento Bee