

- Basic information¹²
 - Biden was born on November 20, 1942 (77), in Scranton, Pennsylvania.
 - In 1953, The Bidens moved to Claymont, Delaware, and then eventually to Wilmington, Delaware.
 - Biden earned his bachelor's degree in 1965 from the University of Delaware, with a double major in history and political science.
 - Biden graduated from Syracuse University College of Law in 1968 and was admitted to the Delaware bar in 1969.
 - During his first year at Syracuse, Biden was accused of plagiarizing five of fifteen pages of a law review article. As a result, he failed the course and had to retake it. The plagiarism incident has resurfaced during various political campaigns.
- Early political career³
 - After graduating from law school, Biden began practicing law as a public defender and then for a firm headed by Sid Balick, a locally active Democrat. Biden would go on to officially register as a Democrat at this time.
 - At the end of 1969, Biden ran to represent the 4th district on the New Castle County Council, a usually Republican district.
 - He served on the County Council from 1970 to 1972, while continuing his private law practice.
- 1972 US Senate campaign
 - In 1972, longtime Delaware political figure and Republican incumbent Senator J. Caleb Boggs was considering retirement, which would likely have left US Representative Pete du Pont and Wilmington Mayor Harry G. Haskell Jr. in a divisive primary fight.
 - To avoid that, President Nixon convinced Boggs to run again with full party support which kept several known Democrats out of the race.
 - Biden's grassroots campaign, managed by his sister Valerie Biden Owens, focused on withdrawals from Vietnam, the environment, civil rights, mass transit, more equitable taxation, and health care.
 - Biden won the November 7 election by 3,162 votes.

¹ Joe Biden - The New York Times

<https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2020/us/elections/joe-biden.html>

² Joe Biden - Wikipedia

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joe_Biden#:~:text=Joseph%20Robinette%20Biden%20Jr.%20\(%2F.Senate%20from%201973%20to%202009.](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joe_Biden#:~:text=Joseph%20Robinette%20Biden%20Jr.%20(%2F.Senate%20from%201973%20to%202009.)

³ Joe Biden Fast Facts - CNN

<https://www.cnn.com/2013/01/22/us/joe-biden-fast-facts/index.html>

- United States Senate Career (1973-2009)
 - At age 30, Biden became the sixth youngest senator in US history.
 - In a 1974 interview with the Washingtonian, Biden described himself as liberal on civil rights and liberties, senior citizens' concerns, and healthcare, but conservative on other issues, including abortion and the draft.
 - Biden became ranking minority member of the US Senate Committee on the Judiciary in 1981.
 - In 1993, Biden voted in favor of 10 U.S.C 654, a section of a broader federally mandated policy that deemed homosexuality incompatible with military life thereby banning gay Americans from serving in the military in any capacity without exception.
 - In 1996, Biden voted in favor of the Defense of Marriage Act.
 - Biden chaired the Senate Committee on the Judiciary from 1987 to 1995 as served as ranking minority member from 1981 to 1987 and from 1995 to 1997.
 - Biden sponsored bills primarily in these issue areas:⁴
 - Government Operations and Politics: 19%
 - Crime and Law Enforcement: 18%
 - International Affairs: 17%
 - Armed Forces and National Security: 11%
 - Economics and Public Finance: 10%
 - From Jan. 1973 to Jan. 2009, Biden missed 1,781 of 14,556 roll call votes, which is 12.2%. This is higher than the median 2% among the lifetime records of senators serving in Jan. 2009.⁵
- Senate Foreign Relations Committee
 - Biden was a longtime member of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations. In 1997 he became the ranking minority member and chaired the committee in Jan. 2001 and from June 2001 to 2003.
 - In 1999, during the Kosovo War, Biden supported the NATO bombing of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and co-sponsored with John McCain the McCain-Biden Kosovo Resolution, which called on Bill Clinton to use all necessary force, including ground troops.⁶⁷

⁴ Joe Biden - govtrack

https://www.govtrack.us/congress/members/joseph_biden/300008

⁵ Joe Biden - govtrack

https://www.govtrack.us/congress/members/joseph_biden/300008

⁶ On foreign policy, he's willing to go his own way - LA Times

<https://www.latimes.com/archives/la-xpm-2008-aug-24-na-foreignpol24-story.html>

⁷ In Biden, Obama chooses a foreign policy adherent of diplomacy before force - The New York Times

- Biden was a strong supporter of the 2001 war in Afghanistan, saying, “Whatever it takes, we should do it.”⁸
- As head of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Biden said in 2002 that Saddam Hussein was a threat to national security and there was no option by to “eliminate” that threat.⁹
 - In October 2002, he voted in favor of the US invasion of Iraq.¹⁰
 - As chair of the Foreign Relations Committee, Biden had enormous influence and argued strongly in favor of the invasion.
 - Just days before the vote, Biden said, “I do not believe this is a rush to war, I believe it is a march to peace and security. I believe that failure to overwhelmingly support this resolution is likely to enhance the prospects that war will occur...”¹¹
 - Biden was able to choose all 18 witnesses in the main Senate hearings on Iraq. And he mainly chose people who supported a pro-war position. The restricted testimony that Biden allowed played a major role in the deception of the American people.
 - His witnesses argued in favor of “regime change as the stated US policy”¹²
 - They warned of “a nuclear-armed Saddam sometime this decade”¹³
 - They said Iraqis would “welcome the United States as liberators”¹⁴
- Joe Biden’s role in federal criminal legislation
 - In a 1993 speech on the Senate floor, Joe Biden boasted, “The truth is, every major crime bill since 1976 that’s come out of this Congress, every

<https://www.nytimes.com/2008/08/24/world/americas/24iht-policy.4.15591832.html>

⁸ Hawk Down - The New Republic

<https://newrepublic.com/article/69645/hawk-down>

⁹ MTP Transcript for April 29, 2007 - Meet the Press

<http://www.nbcnews.com/id/18381961>

¹⁰ On foreign policy, he’s willing to go his own way - LA Times

<https://www.latimes.com/archives/la-xpm-2008-aug-24-na-foreignpol24-story.html>

¹¹ Joe Biden championed the Iraq war. Will that come back to haunt him now? - The Guardian

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2020/feb/17/joe-biden-role-iraq-war>

¹² CFR Iraq AUMF Hearing: Dr. Hamza on supporting US regime change - C-SPAN

<https://www.c-span.org/video/?c4850037/user-clip-cfr-iraq-aumf-hearing-dr-hamza-supporting-regime-change>

¹³ Berger on Saddam Nuclear Threat - C-SPAN

<https://www.c-span.org/video/?c4850039/user-clip-berger-saddam-nuclear-threat>

¹⁴ Rend Rahim Francke - C-SPAN

<https://www.c-span.org/video/?c4850040/user-clip-francke-they-ready-united-states-liberators>

- minor crime bill, has had the name of the Democratic senator from the State of Delaware: Joe Biden.”¹⁵
- Biden has recently apologized for portions of his anti-crime legislation, but he has largely tried to play down his involvement, saying the he “got stuck with” shepherding the bills because he was chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee. An examination of his record, however, indicates that Biden’s current characterization of his role is in many ways at odds with his own actions and rhetoric.
 - As early as 1977, Biden pushed for mandatory minimum sentences that would limit judges’ discretion in sentencing. Biden also partnered with Strom Thurmond on a string of bills that effectively rewrote the nation’s criminal justice laws with an eye toward putting more criminals behind bars.
 - In 1989, Biden lamented that the Republican president, George H. W. Bush, was not doing enough to put “violent thugs” in prison. In 1993, he warned of “predators on our streets.” And in a 1994 Senate floor speech, he said, “Every time Richard Nixon, when he was running in 1972, would say, ‘Law and order,’ the Democratic match or response was, ‘Law and order with justice’ - whatever that meant. And I would say, ‘Lock the S.O.B.s up.’”¹⁶
 - In 1993 Biden said, “It doesn’t matter whether or not they’re the victims of society. I don’t want to ask, ‘What made them do this?’ They must be taken off the street.”¹⁷
 - In 1977, while in charge of the subcommittee overseeing prisons and sentencing, Biden pushed to narrow judicial discretion by creating a commission to set “presumptive sentences,” and to eliminate pardons and parole.¹⁸
 - His aim, he told The Wilmington Evening Journal, was “equitable and definitive sentences for all, “ including defendants “who don’t meet the middle-class criteria of susceptibility to rehabilitation.”
 - 1984 Crime Bill¹⁹

¹⁵ “Lock the S.O.B.s Up: Joe Biden and the Era of Mass Incarceration” - The New York Times <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/06/25/us/joe-biden-crime-laws.html>

¹⁶ “Lock the S.O.B.s Up: Joe Biden and the Era of Mass Incarceration” - The New York Times <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/06/25/us/joe-biden-crime-laws.html>

¹⁷ “Lock the S.O.B.s Up: Joe Biden and the Era of Mass Incarceration” - The New York Times <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/06/25/us/joe-biden-crime-laws.html>

¹⁸ “Lock the S.O.B.s Up: Joe Biden and the Era of Mass Incarceration” - The New York Times <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/06/25/us/joe-biden-crime-laws.html>

¹⁹ “Comprehensive Crime Control Act of 1984” - Wikipedia https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Comprehensive_Crime_Control_Act_of_1984

- In 1984, he was a Democratic floor manager for the successful passage of the Comprehensive Crime Control Act, a controversial “tough-on-crime” bill.
 - The Comprehensive Crime Control Act of 1984 was the first comprehensive revision of the US criminal code since the early 1900s and was signed into law by Ronald Reagan. This act established mandatory minimum sentences for drug offenses. Among its other constituent parts and provisions were:
 - Armed Career Criminal Act
 - Sentencing Reform Act which created the United States Sentencing Commission
 - Extension of the Secret Service’s jurisdiction over credit card fraud and computer fraud.
 - Increased penalties for cultivation, possession, or transfer of marijuana
 - A new section in the criminal code for hostage-taking
 - Stipulations about using civil forfeiture to seize assets of organized crime.
- Biden also served as ranking minority member of the Judiciary Committee during the passage of the 1986 Anti-Drug Abuse Act.
 - This act created much harsher sentences for possession of crack than for powder cocaine.²⁰
 - The act mandated a minimum sentence of 5 years without parole for possession of 5 grams of crack cocaine while it mandated the same for possession of 500 grams of powder cocaine.
 - This 100:1 disparity was reduced to 18:1 when crack was increased to 28 grams by the Fair Sentencing Act of 2010.
 - A 2002 report to Congress from the United States Sentencing Commission found that in 1992, 91.4% of federal crack cocaine offenders were black.²¹
- 1994 Crime Bill²²

²⁰ “Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1986” - Wikipedia

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anti-Drug_Abuse_Act_of_1986

²¹ “2002 Report to the Congress: Federal Cocaine Sentencing Policy” - US Sentencing Commission

<https://www.ussc.gov/research/congressional-reports/2002-report-congress-federal-cocaine-sentencing-policy>

²² Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act - Wikipedia

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Violent_Crime_Control_and_Law_Enforcement_Act

- Biden chaired the Senate Judiciary Committee during the passage of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act. Biden helped author and was a major proponent of the vast, catchall, tough-on-crime bill.
- In Senate floor speeches in 1993 and 1994, Biden spoke openly of wanting to rid Democrats of their reputation of being soft on crime.
 - He said, “One of the things I want to do, in addition to end the crime, is end the political carnage that goes on when we talk about crime. This is one of these issues that I hope, after this bill, will be moved out of the gridlock category and into an emerging consensus.”
- The bill he helped fashion was a vast catchall bill that has a string of punitive measures desired by law enforcement. It banned assault weapons, created 60 new death penalty offenses, stripped federal inmates of the right to obtain educational Pell grants, gave states incentives to build prisons, set aside money for 100,000 new police officers, and codified the three-strikes rule.²³
 - The law imposed tougher prison sentences at the federal level and encouraged states to do the same. It also backed grant programs that encouraged police officers to carry out more drug-related arrests - and escalation of the war on drugs.²⁴
- In a speech on the Senate floor, Biden said, “The telephones in the State of Delaware are ringing off the hook. They are not talking about pork or pork chops or anything else. They are saying: ‘Pass the crime bill. Give me 100,000 cops, build more prisons, and get on with it.’”
- On the website for his 2008 presidential campaign, Biden referred to the 1994 crime law as the “Biden Crime Law” and bragged that it encouraged states to effectively increase their prison sentences by paying them to build more prisons.
 - Joe Biden’s record supporting the war on drugs.²⁵

²³ “Lock the S.O.B.s Up: Joe Biden and the Era of Mass Incarceration” - The New York Times
<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/06/25/us/joe-biden-crime-laws.html>

²⁴ “The controversial 1994 crime law that Joe Biden helped write, explained” - Vox
<https://www.vox.com/policy-and-politics/2019/6/20/18677998/joe-biden-1994-crime-bill-law-mass-incarceration>

²⁵ “Joe Biden’s long record supporting the war on drugs and mass incarceration” - Vox
<https://www.vox.com/policy-and-politics/2019/4/25/18282870/joe-biden-criminal-justice-war-on-drugs-mass-incarceration>

- In a 1982 New York Times article, Biden coined the term “drug czar” when he called for the federal government to create the new role. The article stated:
 - “But Senator Joseph R. Biden Jr., ... who is a strong advocate of antinarcotics efforts, said today that he thought no program could work without a Cabinet-level “drug czar” in charge to coordinate the work of various agencies.”
- In 1989, Biden went on national television to criticize a plan from President George H. W. Bush to escalate the war on drugs because the plan didn’t go far enough.²⁶
 - “Quite frankly, the president’s plan is not tough enough, bold enough, or imaginative enough to mee the crisis at hand,” he said.
 - He called not for harsher punishments for drug dealers but to “hold every drug user accountable.”
 - Bush’s plan, he added, “doesn’t include enough police officers to catch the violent thugs, not enough prosecutors to convict them, not enough judges to sentence them, and not enough prison cells to put them away for a long time”
- Biden co-sponsored the Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1988 which strengthened prison sentences for drug possession, enhanced penalties for transporting drugs, and established the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP), which coordinates and leads federal anti-drug efforts.
 - Charged with formulating and administrating America’s drug prohibition game plan, the ONDCP almost immediately began agitating for a massive expansion of interdiction, enforcement, and incarceration efforts. A 1989 report to Congress put it in dollar figures:
 - “No attempt should be made to disguise the fact that significant new resources will be required to pay for the many proposals advanced in this report... Last February, this Administration requested nearly \$717 million in new drug budget authority for the Fiscal Year 1990. Now, after six months of careful study, we have identified an immediate need for \$1.478 billion more. With this report, the Administration is requesting FY 1990 drug budget authority totaling \$7.864 billion.”

²⁶ “Democratic Response to Drug Policy Address” - C-SPAN
<https://www.c-span.org/video/?8997-1/democratic-response-drug-policy-address>

- In 1996, when the ONDCP came up for reauthorization, Biden voted in the Senate for a bill that forced the direction for the department. The bill stated:
 - “The Director shall ensure that no Federal funds appropriated to the Office of National Drug Control Policy shall be expended for any study or contract relating to the legalization (for medical use or any other use) of a substance listed in schedule I of section 202 of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 812) and take such actions as necessary to oppose any attempt to legalize the use of [such] a substance (in any form).”
- The ONDCP committed itself to keep certain substances illegal even if new credible information came to light. In fact, as the last line suggests, the drug czar is even encouraged to take whatever action is necessary to keep this information from the American public.
- A 2006 report by the ACLU found that in 1986 before the enactment of federal mandatory minimum sentencing for crack cocaine offense, the average federal drug sentence for African Americans was 11% higher than for whites. Four years later, the average federal drug sentence for African Americans was 49% higher.²⁷
- In 2003, Biden sponsored the Reducing Americans’ Vulnerability to Ecstasy Act (RAVE Act), which altered existing legislation known as the “crackhouse law”. The RAVE Act made it legal for prosecutors to go after club owners and promoters of drugs are found on their property. The law effectively allowed the club owners to be tried as if they were running a crackhouse.²⁸
- In his last few years in the Senate, Biden did support the full elimination of the sentencing disparity between crack and powder cocaine.
- Biden remains one of the very few prominent Democrats who’ve still failed to endorse cannabis legalization at the federal level.²⁹
 - According to his recent stance on the subject, he’d decriminalize use, move to expunge records for using, remove federal

²⁷ “Cracks in the system: 20 years of the unjust federal crack cocaine law” - ACLU
<https://www.aclu.org/other/cracks-system-20-years-unjust-federal-crack-cocaine-law>

²⁸ “Joe Biden: The Architect of America’s Disastrous War on Drugs” FEE
<https://fee.org/articles/joe-biden-the-architect-of-america-s-disastrous-war-on-drugs/>

²⁹ “Joe Biden’s Drug War Record is so Much Worse Than You Think” - Leafly
<https://www.leafly.com/news/politics/joe-bidens-drug-war-record-is-so-much-worse-than-you-think>

enforcement in states that have legalized it, remove it from being a Schedule 1 narcotic.³⁰

- Allegations of inappropriate contact
 - Biden has been accused of inappropriate contact with women at public events, such as embracing, kissing, gripping, and touching.
 - In March of 2019, Former Nevada assemblywoman Lucy Flores alleged that Biden had touched her without her consent at a 2014 campaign rally for lieutenant governor in Las Vegas.³¹
 - Flores recounted her experience with Joe Biden in an essay for New York magazine, describing an incident in 2014 when Biden came up behind her, leaned in, smelled her hair, and kissed her on the back of her head.³²
 - Amy Lappos spoke out to say that at a fundraiser in 2009, Biden touched her face, leaned in for what she thought was an attempt to kiss her on the mouth, and then rubbed her nose with his.
 - Biden has also been criticized for being too handsy with children. At a swearing-in ceremony for Sen. Chris Coons, Biden held the upper arm of the senator's preteen daughter, whispered into her ear, and kissed the side of her forehead. Coons has said that Biden's words and actions did not bother his daughter, who has known Biden her whole life.
 - On March 31, 2019, Biden released a statement saying, "In my many years on the campaign trail and in public life, I have offered countless handshakes, hugs, expressions of affection, support and comfort, and not once -- never -- did I believe I acted inappropriately. If it is suggested I did so, I will listen respectfully. But it was never my intention."³³
 - Days later, Biden released a video on Twitter, saying that he will be "more mindful about respecting personal space in the future."³⁴

³⁰ "The Marijuana Superweapon Biden Refuses to Use" - The Atlantic
<https://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2020/07/biden-marijuana-pot-legalize/613777/>

³¹

Lucy Flores isn't alone. Joe Biden has a long history of touching women inappropriately - Vox
<https://www.vox.com/policy-and-politics/2019/3/29/18241598/joe-biden-lucy-flores-touching-women-media-history-explained>

³² An Awkward Kiss Changed How I Saw Joe Biden - The Cut
<https://www.thecut.com/amp/2019/03/an-awkward-kiss-changed-how-i-saw-joe-biden.html>

³³ Biden responds to Lucy Flores' allegation, says 'not once' does he believe he acted inappropriately - CNN
<https://www.cnn.com/2019/03/31/politics/joe-biden-lucy-flores/index.html>

³⁴ Joe Biden - Twitter

- Earlier this year, Tara Reade, a former aide to Biden, accused the then-Senator of sexually assaulting her 27 years ago. Biden has denied the allegation.³⁵
- Joe Biden's Senate record being held by the University of Delaware.³⁶³⁷
 - In 2011, Joe Biden donated 1,875 boxes of documents and 415 gigabytes of electronic records from his time as Senator to his alma mater. It includes committee reports, drafts of legislation, and correspondence.
 - Under an agreement made with the University, the records were set to become public last year. However, the records are being kept secret, following new terms the university posted on its website just before Biden made his presidential campaign official.
 - Starting in 2011 and for years after, the university had described the terms of the agreement as keeping the papers sealed "for two years after Biden retires from public office."
 - On the day before Biden announced his presidential campaign, the university changed the way that it described those terms. Instead of citing his departure from "public office," the university said the documents would not be made public until two years after Biden "retires from public life" or after Dec. 31, 2019, whichever is later. It did not define what is considered "public life".
 - Andrea Boyle Tippet, a spokeswoman for the University of Delaware said in a statement, "The entire collection is unavailable. As he is currently running for office, he is in public life. Since retirement for anyone, not just public figures, takes different forms, I can't speculate beyond that."
 - In July, The Daily Caller News Foundation and Judicial Watch announced that it was suing the University of Delaware for access to the Senate records.

https://twitter.com/JoeBiden/status/1113515882960052224?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw%7Ctwcamp%5Etweetembed%7Ctwterm%5E1113515882960052224%7Ctwgr%5E&ref_url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cnn.com%2F2019%2F04%2F03%2Fpolitics%2Fjoe-biden-new-video-response%2Findex.html

³⁵ What we know about Tara Reade's allegation against Joe Biden - CNN

<https://www.cnn.com/2020/05/02/politics/tara-rea-de-allegation-joe-biden/index.html>

³⁶ Joe Biden's Senate records could answer question about his past actions - but they're being kept secret - The Washington Post

https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/joe-bidens-senate-records-could-answer-questions-about-his-past-actions--but-hes-keeping-them-secret/2019/07/11/7d0dd222-a347-11e9-bd56-eac6bb02d01d_story.html#comments-wrapper

³⁷ University of Delaware sued for Joe Biden's Senate records - New York Post

<https://nypost.com/2020/07/09/university-of-delaware-sued-for-joe-bidens-senate-records/>

- According to DCNF, Judicial Watch filed the joint lawsuit in the Superior Court of Delaware related to Freedom of Information Act requests both groups made back in April in hopes of obtaining access to the documents as well as any logs of those who have visited the location where the records are stored.
 - DCNF President said, “The University of Delaware should do the right thing and turn over Joe Biden’s public records as required by law. Partisan gamesmanship by a public university is unseemly and unlawful. If they don’t want to do the right thing, we will force them in court.
- Biden’s Senate records became the subject of scrutiny after Tara Reade came forward accusing Biden of a 1993 sexual assault and suggested that her formal complaint that documented harassment in Biden’s office could be stored at the University.