

**BIDEN'S FIRST 100 DAYS**

April 30 will mark the 100th day of the Biden-Harris administration.

According to an April 27, 2017, article by Jeff Nilsson in the *Saturday Evening Post*, President Franklin D. Roosevelt initially referenced the idea of “the first 100 days” in a July 1933 radio address to the nation as he summarized the sweeping accomplishments of his first few months in office. At that time, the nation was in a tailspin due to the Great Depression.

According to Nilsson, much of FDR’s eventual success can be attributed to a mostly cooperative Congress, a national sense of urgency and the overwhelming support of the American public.

Applying Nilsson’s points to the current situation:

- Congress might not be cooperative as the balance in the U.S. Senate is 50-50 following the successful runoff victories of Rev. Raphael Warnock and Jon Ossoff in Georgia (Vice President Harris can break ties). And the Democrats now have only a four-seat majority in the House.
- Although there is a “national sense of urgency” due to the devastating Covid-19 pandemic, and the shamelessly uneven economy, millions of Trump adherents, and the former President’s diehard supporters in Congress, are ignoring that urgency.
- Overwhelming support for Biden is questionable given the nation’s continued divisiveness.

That divisiveness erupted on Jan. 6, as a seemingly well-organized group of thousands of domestic terrorists attacked the U.S. Capitol, inspired by a speech that morning to the crowd by President Trump, as the official results of the November 2020 Presidential Election were being certified.

Five people were killed. The lives of Vice President Mike Pence, and members of the House and Senate who were present for the certification, were directly threatened, as domestic terrorists smashed windows and destroyed property, and defecated and urinated in the hallways.

This resulted in the impeachment of President Trump for a second time, on a charge of Incitement of Insurrection, which passed in the House by a vote of 232-197 with 10 Republicans voting with the majority. Understandably, President Biden is taking an arms-length approach to the Senate impeachment trial of Trump.

Meanwhile, the FBI and other law enforcement agencies continue to investigate individuals involved in the Jan. 6 insurrection. Some of the participants came from our region, including recently elected Sierra Unified School District Board Trustee James Hoak and local realtor Benjamin Martin. Martin, whose California real estate license was restricted in July due to a conviction for misdemeanor battery in 2019, has staged confrontational protests against mask-wearing at two north Fresno grocery stores.

As of this writing, these local insurrectionists have not been charged with a federal crime in conjunction with their participation. What will happen to Republican members of the House and Senate who allegedly supported the insurrectionists also remains an open question.

President Biden’s 21-minute Inaugural Address—exactly two weeks after the insurrection—was straightforward, truthful and empathetic—characteristics absent the past four years. The challenges facing the nation are daunting, and it will take New Deal–style thinking and magnitude by the Biden-Harris administration to tackle those issues simultaneously.

In Biden’s Inaugural Address, and in subsequent new reports, four issues were front and center: controlling the spread of Covid-19 by vaccinating 100 million Americans in his first 100 days in office; dealing boldly with the cataclysmic effects of Covid-19 on our economy and state and local governments; seriously addressing rampant racial injustice and White supremacy/domestic terrorism; and acting boldly to deal with anthropogenic climate change.

President Biden set the tone by invoking at least 30 executive actions in his first two days in office, including 10 that reversed damaging executive actions by former President Trump. These included stopping the U.S. withdrawal from the World Health Organization, rejoining the Paris Climate Agreement, restoring collective bargaining for federal workers and rescinding Trump’s attempt to rewrite the history of racial injustice—the 1776 Commission.

Because of the slim Democratic majorities in both legislative chambers, it will take progressive grassroots pressure to nudge the Biden-Harris administration to embrace the sweeping, transformative and bold solutions necessary to deal with these issues, and more, simultaneously. If you are reading this, that means you!

Reverend William Barber’s Poor People’s Campaign has outlined an aggressive program ([poorpeoplescampaign.org](http://poorpeoplescampaign.org)) that the Biden-Harris administration should consider in its first 100 days.

Indivisible has issued a four-pronged call to action for its membership: impeach, convict and disqualify Trump from holding office; pass \$2,000 survival checks for Americans; pass the For the People Act to strengthen our democracy; and pass the D.C. Statehood Bill. To learn more, visit [indivisible.org](http://indivisible.org).

The most magical moments of the Biden-Harris Inauguration were the swearing in of the Vice President, former U.S. Senator Kamala Harris, whose Vice Presidency carries with it many “firsts,” and the stunning, emotional Inaugural Poem, “The Hill We Climb,” boldly and beautifully spoken by its young, dynamic author, Los Angeles–born Harvard graduate Amanda Gorman, our U.S. Youth Poet Laureate.

**Redistricting in California**

Of the 21 U.S. states that have some sort of commission to redraw their U.S. House of Representatives districts based on the decadal U.S. Census, 13 of those states leave that responsibility exclusively to those commissions. California is one of the those.

According to Ballotpedia, due to the delays and confusion caused by the outgoing Trump administration’s handling of the 2020 U.S. Census, the California Supreme Court last July ordered the California Citizens Redistricting Commission to abide by a six-week delay in submitting draft and final district plans. The new dates are Aug. 15, 2021, for the draft plans and Dec. 15, 2021, for the final plans.

This delays the redrawing of district lines for the U.S. House of Representatives, the State Senate, the State Assembly and the Board of Equalization and could delay candidate declarations for those respective offices. To learn more, visit [wedrawthelines.ca.gov](http://wedrawthelines.ca.gov).

**Request for Strategic Input**

The Fresno County Democratic Party wants to hear from you. What do you want to see from your local Democratic Party in the 2022 election cycle? Forward your input to [dems@fresnocountydemocratic.org](mailto:dems@fresnocountydemocratic.org).

*Thanks to Sean Boyd and Jeff Rosendale for preparation of this page.*

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**VOLUNTEER CALL TO ACTION**

