



***Biden Sassses Fox News' Peter Doocy Over Question About Putin***  
*Lindsey Ellefson*



*TheWrap Joe Biden peter Doocy*

*President Joe Biden got sassy with Fox News' Peter Doocy Tuesday when the White House correspondent asked him about a recent call with Russian president Vladimir Putin.*

*"Mr. President," called out Doocy, who covered Biden during the 2020 presidential campaign. "What did you talk to Vladimir Putin about?"*

*Biden quipped, "You. He sends his best!"*

*Other assembled journalists laughed as Biden put on his face mask and exited the briefing.*

*The moment came one day after Biden called on Doocy during a different briefing, saying, "I know he always asks me tough questions and he always has an edge to them, but I like him anyway, so go ahead and ask the question."*

*Amid a series of staffing and scheduling shakeups, Fox News announced earlier this month that White House correspondent John Roberts would be leaving the West Wing to host his own hour-long program on the cable network.*

*Doocy was [announced](#) as the channel's new White House correspondent shortly thereafter. He joins colleague Kristin Fisher in the briefing room.*

*Prior to covering Biden's campaign for Fox News, Doocy worked on coverage of the Democratic primary field. He first joined Fox News as a general assignment reporter in 2009 just after graduating from Villanova University.*



***An equitable distribution of COVID-19 vaccine must include noncitizens***  
*Rep. Raúl M. Grijalva (D-Ariz.), Medha D. Makhoul, Dr. Megan L Srinivas, and Gilberto Lopez, opinion contributor*

*On Dec. 14, 2020, with the initiation of COVID-19 vaccine distribution, the nation saw its first glimmer of hope during the pandemic. However, that sense of hope is not necessarily shared by a vital segment of the population: noncitizens.*

*Noncitizens work in high-risk, essential industries but have been overlooked in the pandemic response. To protect both the lives and livelihoods of all people in the United States, it is critical that noncitizens are equitably included in COVID-19 vaccine distribution.*



*Getty Images An equitable distribution of COVID-19 vaccine must include noncitizens*

*The federal government must ensure that all people living in the United States have equitable and uniform access to the COVID-19 vaccine. Equitable access means that noncitizens receive access to the vaccine on the same terms as U.S. citizens - in the phase for which they qualify, and without cost as a barrier. This virus does not discriminate based on nationality, gender, religion, or immigration status.*

*It doesn't respect invisible geographic borders between cities, counties or states. If noncitizens are excluded or deterred from receiving the COVID-19 vaccine, we will face a prolonged pandemic with many opportunities for the virus to mutate and cases will continue to surge.*

*This is not simply a matter of fairness, although it is that, too. It is also a matter of keeping society functioning during this national emergency, ending the risk of contagion as soon as possible, and protecting the personal and economic liberty of the American people.*

*Eighteen percent of the essential workforce in this country is foreign-born. We must protect this workforce, including the noncitizen employees, in order to keep critical industries functioning during the pandemic.*

*Although the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) has issued [recommendations](#) for phased allocation of COVID-19 vaccines, states make the final decisions.*

*This opens the door to geopolitical biases and increases vaccination inequities. Non-uniform state pandemic responses can [exacerbate racial health disparities](#) and [increase risks of exposure](#) for low-income workers who do not have the luxury of working from home.*

*This includes noncitizens with various immigration statuses and those without legal status, the vast majority of whom are members of racial or ethnic minorities and have low incomes.*

*While states' decisions about allocation of limited supplies of COVID-19 vaccine are [ongoing](#), some have already deviated from ACIP's recommendations. [Nebraska has become the first state](#) to declare that citizenship and immigration status will be a factor in its vaccine distribution plan.*

*Some states, including Arizona, still do not have their state vaccine portals available in multiple languages, leaving non-English speakers that may otherwise qualify excluded.*

*Although other states may not follow suit, public health authorities in parts of the country subject to heightened immigration enforcement will need to take additional steps to persuade noncitizens to be vaccinated. Fears of negative immigration consequences from getting the vaccine must be addressed directly through active outreach and engagement with noncitizen communities.*

*The federal government's messaging on this issue is unclear. The CDC and the Biden-Harris administration have promised no-cost vaccines for "Americans." But who does this include? In contrast with the leading frameworks informing ACIP's recommendations, its [Ethical Principles for Allocating Initial Supplies of COVID-19 Vaccine](#) does not recommend that noncitizens have access to the COVID-19 vaccine on the same terms as U.S. citizens.*

*In addition to equitable allocation of the vaccine, meaningful access for noncitizens also requires unqualified assurances that vaccine recipients' information will not be shared with immigration agencies for enforcement purposes or to jeopardize future immigration applications under the public charge regulations.*

*Immigrant communities subjected to heightened immigration enforcement and harsh rhetoric by federal officials have reason to distrust unenforceable statements by political appointees.*

*Clear communication, in culturally and linguistically appropriate materials, from the federal government and targeted outreach regarding noncitizen eligibility for the COVID-19 vaccine and confidentiality protections are essential to ensuring equitable access.*

*The Biden-Harris administration should seize this opportunity to plan for the equitable distribution of COVID-19 vaccine, including to noncitizens. Doing so will protect an often-disregarded population that is vulnerable to COVID-19 and in effect, protect our society as a whole.*

*After four years of divisive policies and unprecedented corruption from the Trump administration, this is an important step toward rebuilding trust and transparency in the U.S. government, which has eroded considerably among citizens and noncitizens alike.*



## ***Stimulus checks and taxes: What you need to know before filing your 2020 income tax returns***

*Aimee Picchi*

*Americans have now received two rounds of stimulus checks, and questions abound about how these payments tie into your 2020 tax returns as filing season approaches.*

*There's a link between your tax returns and the stimulus checks: the two payments – the first providing **\$1,200 per eligible adult and \$500 per eligible child** and the second distributing **\$600 for each qualifying adult and child** – were based on the adjusted gross income reported on your most recent tax return.*

*But the process of distributing the stimulus payments hasn't always gone smoothly. In some cases, **people didn't get their checks at all** – or may have **received the wrong amount**, given life changes like a **job loss** or the **birth of a child**.*

*The good news is that the 2020 tax filing season will allow people who missed out on a check or received too little to claim their full stimulus payments, which the IRS will send later this year via their tax refunds.*

*“If you didn't receive the full payment you were entitled to, then it's possible that when you are filing your 2020 tax return you may end up getting more money,” says **Eric Bronnenkant**, head of tax at financial services firm **Betterment**.”*

*But, if you received more than you were entitled to, the IRS can't ask for the money back, he notes. Some people whose incomes jumped in 2019 or 2020 compared with*

*their earlier tax returns – which the IRS relied on to determine whether they qualified for the payments – may be in this situation.*

*“If your economic situation change – let's say you qualified based on 2018 or 2019 income because it was lower, but your economic situation improved for 2020 – the IRS actually can't ask for any of that money back,” Bronnenkant adds. “Your situation can't get worse in that scenario.”*

*Here are the basics of what to know about your taxes and the stimulus checks:*

***Will I owe taxes on the stimulus checks?***

*No, because the stimulus checks aren't considered income by the IRS, notes Kathy Pickering, chief tax officer at H&R Block. Instead, they are prepaid tax credits for your 2020 tax return, authorized by two relief bills passed last year that were aimed at stabilizing the U.S. economy amid the coronavirus pandemic.*

*“If you got the full amount for the first and second payments, you don't need to do anything,” Pickering notes.*

***I'm not sure I received the right amount. What should I do?***

*First, check your two stimulus payments against your 2020 adjusted gross income as well as your family situation. That's because the IRS based your two stimulus checks on either your 2019 or 2018 tax returns – but your income or family size could have changed in 2020.*

*For instance, the stimulus checks directed a combined \$1,100 to each dependent child 16 and under – but if you had a baby in 2020, the IRS wouldn't have known that given the tax agency [won't start accepting 2020 tax returns until Feb. 12](#). In other words, you wouldn't have received any stimulus money for your child, even though your family qualifies for the additional \$1,100.*

*In some cases, people didn't receive checks because of [glitches or incorrect bank account information](#) with the IRS. In those situations, people can reconcile their lack of payment when they file their 2020 tax returns.*

*To figure out if you are owed money, turn to the IRS' recovery rebate worksheet, which is available in its [2020 instructions](#) for filing your tax return (Form 1040.) If the calculation on the worksheet is higher than zero, you can claim that amount as a recovery rebate credit on Line 30 of your tax returns, the IRS says.*

***My income changed since I last filed my taxes. What should I do?***

*Taxpayers might not have qualified for the full stimulus checks if their earnings were above the income cutoff based on their 2018 or 2019 tax returns. Single people earning below \$75,000 or married couples with a combined income below \$150,000 qualified for the checks, with the amounts tapering off until the payments were cut off entirely for upper-income families.*

*But 2020 was a rough year, with millions losing their jobs or taking income hits due to cuts in their work hours. That means some people who didn't qualify for the full*

payments based on their 2018 or 2019 tax returns might qualify in 2020 if their income was lower last year.

In that case, they should use the [recovery rebate](#) worksheet to calculate how much they are owed and claim that amount on Line 30 on their 2020 tax return. They'll receive the stimulus payments in their refund check.

But as Betterment's Bronnenkant noted above, if you received stimulus payments based on older tax returns but don't actually qualify based on your 2020 returns, [you won't have to pay back the IRS](#).

### **How will the stimulus checks impact my tax refund – and when will I get it?**

If you are owed more money from the two rounds of stimulus payments, the IRS will provide the additional payments with your refund check. Because the stimulus payments aren't considered income by the tax agency, it won't impact your refund by increasing your adjusted gross income or putting you in a higher tax bracket, for instance.

As noted earlier, taxpayers will have to wait longer get their tax refunds this year since the IRS won't even begin accepting returns until Feb. 12, about two weeks later than is typical. The IRS is urging taxpayers to file electronically to receive their refunds in the shortest amount of time, with the agency projecting that 9 of 10 taxpayers who e-file [will receive their refunds within 21 days](#).

### **Facing a double-whammy, millennials rack up credit card debt during the pandemic**

[Aimee Picchi - USA TODAY](#)

As families struggle in the new pandemic economy, here's what you need to know about loans, providers and how to get the best deal. [USA TODAY](#)

The pandemic's economic hit is making an outsize impact on one generation's debt: A greater share of millennials report they have added to their credit card debt since March compared with older generations.

About 56% of millennials say their credit card debt has grown since the start of the pandemic, compared with 53% of Generation Xers and 46% of baby boomers, according to a new survey from [CreditCards.com](#).

About 55% of millennials blamed the crisis for their snowballing balances, while fewer than half of Gen Xers and baby boomers pointed to the pandemic as the cause of their growing debt, according to the survey of 2,475 adults in mid-December.

The reason isn't due to poor spending decisions but more likely stems from the pandemic's greater financial impact on millennials compared with older generations, says Ted Rossman, [CreditCards.com](#) industry analyst.

*Millennials suffered a double-whammy: The generation trailed in wealth creation in the years before the pandemic, and roughly 6 in 10 say they or a household member lost income from mid-March through mid-December, according to census data.*



*Millennials blame the pandemic for their mountain of debt. (Photo: Getty Images)*

*By comparison, 5 in 10 people ages 55 to 64 say they lost income during that same period, census data found.*

*“It really comes back to those two big factors: Millennials are the most likely to have had their income compromised and least likely to have adequate emergency savings,” Rossman says.*

*In the years leading up to the pandemic, the millennial generation fell behind by the yardsticks often used to measure economic progress, such as homeownership and wealth. That placed many of them in a more vulnerable financial position when the pandemic hit.*

### ***Millennial education divide***

*Though the generation as a whole has trailed older Americans in building wealth, there is a divide between millennials with and without college degrees.*

*A Federal Reserve of St. Louis study found that college-educated millennials had about 6% less wealth than older generations at the same age, but those who had only high school degrees had 44% less wealth.*

*The pandemic has caused what some economists describe as a K-shaped recovery, in which wealthier professionals continue to work remotely while lower-paid workers in service jobs suffer higher rates of unemployment.*

*That may explain somewhat conflicting credit card trends, Rossman says. Even though his company’s survey found 51% of Americans overall say they have added to*

*their credit card debt since the pandemic began, the nation's total credit card debt and delinquencies declined, Rossman says.*

*"Higher-income folks have saved a lot because they are commuting less, going out to eat less – they can bank those savings," Rossman says.*

*"People in lower-income jobs, more service-oriented jobs, those are the people that are struggling the most and least equipped to handle a crisis like this."*

*The two rounds of relief checks Congress approved helped many households weather the pandemic. Without that aid, it's likely that even more Americans would have accrued new credit card debt, Rossman says.*

*Unfortunately, it's harder to secure a balance-transfer credit card than it was before the pandemic as credit card companies have tightened their standards, Rossman says. His advice to consumers who want to pare their debt: Consider transferring debt to a lower interest-rate personal loan, or work with a nonprofit credit counselor to develop strategies to pay off debt.*

*"They can help you negotiate a lower rate and hold your hand through the consolidation process," he says.*

***R*** ***Rand Paul says impeachment of Trump is 'dead on arrival' in Senate***  
*Emma Colton*

*Sen. Rand Paul said the impeachment of former President Donald Trump in the Senate is "dead on arrival" after 45 Republicans voted against holding the trial.*



*Provided by Washington Examiner*

*"We had 45 people, 45 Republican senators say that the whole charade is unconstitutional. So, what does that mean? It means ... the trial is dead on arrival.*



*There will be a show. There will be a parade of partisanship, but the Democrats really will not be able to win. They will be able to play a partisan game that they wish to play. But it's all over," Paul said Tuesday evening on Fox News Prime time with Maria Bartiromo.*

*The Kentucky senator [called for a motion on stopping the trial](#) because Trump is no longer in office, and thus, Paul said, the impeachment is "unconstitutional."*

*Five Republican senators voted in support of putting Trump on trial for allegedly inciting an insurrection on Jan. 6, including Susan Collins, Ben Sasse, Lisa Murkowski, Pat Toomey, and Mitt Romney.*

*It would require a supermajority vote in the Senate to convict Trump, meaning 17 Republicans would need to vote that the former president is guilty of the charge. Paul added in his interview with Bartiromo that there is a "double standard" among [Democrats in regards to inciting violence](#).*

*"One of Bernie Sanders's supporters came to the ballfield, nearly killed Steve Scalise ... but nobody talked about impeaching Bernie Sanders. Maxine Waters has said, 'Get up in their face.' So has Cory Booker. 'Become a mob. We want you to mob them at restaurants and cause mayhem.' That sounds like an incitement to violence, but nobody's talking about impeaching Maxine Waters. Nobody's talking about impeaching Bernie Sanders or Cory Booker for saying, 'Get up in their face,'" he said.*

*"So, it's a significant hypocrisy and double standard that they're putting forward, and they should be called out on it. We should not be shy about calling them out about their hypocrisy."*

*[Paul's interview comes after he delivered a floor speech on Tuesday](#) arguing that the impeachment would only further "divide the country" while noting that Supreme Court Chief Justice John Roberts won't preside over the trial.*

*"If we are about to try to impeach a president, where is the chief justice?" Paul asked. "If the accused is no longer president, where is the constitutional power to impeach him?"*

*"Impeachment is for removal from office, and the accused here has already left office," Paul said. "Hyperpartisan Democrats are about to drag our great country down into the gutter of rancor and vitriol, the likes of which has never been seen in our nation's history."*

## **ELEPHANTS IN THE ROOM**

### ***Why Biden's Plan to Rejoin the Iran Deal Makes No Sense***

*Richard Goldberg & Mark Dubowitz*

*This week's escalation of tensions by Tehran looks like blackmail to force Biden to abandon sanctions—and give up leverage over the regime.*

### ***Biden's first 100 days***

*This article is part of Foreign Policy's ongoing coverage of **U.S. President Joe Biden's first 100 days in office**, detailing key administration policies as they get drafted—and the people who will put them into practice.*



*U. S. President Donald Trump holds up a memorandum reinstating sanctions on Iran after the U.S. withdrawal from the Iran nuclear deal at the White House in Washington on May 8, 2018. CHIP SOMODEVILLA/GETTY IMAGES*

*Iran has decided to escalate tensions with the West by publicly confirming the production of **enriched uranium** at an underground nuclear facility and seizing a **South Korean oil tanker** transiting the Persian Gulf.*

*This escalation may be designed to put additional pressure on President-elect Joe Biden to rejoin the 2015 Iran nuclear deal—a move that would give extensive sanctions relief to a regime under enormous economic stress.*

*But if Biden were to give in to nuclear extortion and abandon sanctions, he would surrender his most important leverage against Tehran and never achieve his stated goal of negotiating a longer-lasting, better agreement.*

*Five years ago, nearly every Republican in the U.S. Congress—and many leading Democrats including Senators Charles Schumer, Bob Menendez, and Joe Manchin—opposed the Iran deal for good reasons.*

*The agreement set expiration dates on key restrictions, ruled out on-demand inspections, and let Iran maintain its nuclear enrichment capabilities. It didn't address the regime's accelerating missile program, gave Tehran the financial*

resources to sponsor regional aggression and terrorism, and ignored its egregious abuse of human rights.

Hinting at these flaws, Biden recently *said* he wants to build on the 2015 deal with a new agreement to “tighten and lengthen Iran’s nuclear constraints, as we address the missile program.”

During the presidential campaign, he also *promised* to confront Iran’s human-rights record and its “destabilizing activities, which threaten our friends and partners in the region.” But the president-elect maintains that the only way to negotiate a new framework is by first returning to the old one.

There’s one big problem with that logic. Since rejoining the original nuclear deal requires Washington to lift its most punishing sanctions, the economic leverage against Tehran that Biden inherits from his predecessor will evaporate the moment sanctions are relaxed.

Congress had worked for years to enact tough sanctions to force the Iranian regime to abandon its malign activities. Indeed, former President Barack Obama *credited* these sanctions with bringing Iran to the negotiating table in the first place.

If Obama contends sanctions pressure was necessary to produce the nuclear deal, how could Biden ever negotiate far more restrictions on Iran with far less economic leverage?

The obvious question, then, is this: If Obama contends U.S. sanctions pressure was necessary to produce an agreement as deeply flawed as the Iran nuclear deal, how could Biden ever negotiate far more restrictions on Iran with far less economic leverage?

Biden’s retreat from sanctions in the face of Iran’s threats to expand its enrichment-related activities, kick out international inspectors, and build additional nuclear reactors—in effect, giving in to a nuclear extortion racket—would also send a clear message to the mullahs: They can wait out a Biden administration in negotiations because he will never reimpose sanctions out of fear Iran might again expand its nuclear activities.

Another challenge to Biden’s race to rejoin the nuclear deal: The agreement has already started to expire. The deal’s first so-called sunset clause—the termination of United Nations restrictions on transferring conventional arms to Iran—already came into effect in October. Were it not for an executive order issued by the Trump administration threatening sanctions against Russia and China if they transfer weapons to Iran, such arms sales would already be underway. Biden has not said whether he will enforce those sanctions.

Developments in the nuclear realm should also prompt Biden to clarify his *expectation* that Tehran will return to strict compliance with the old deal if Washington rejoins it. The International Atomic Energy Agency has evidence that Iran is concealing undeclared nuclear material, activities, and sites.

*The agency's investigation follows Israel's 2018 clandestine acquisition of the Iranian regime's secret nuclear weapons archive as well as **declarations** from the U.S. State Department that Iran has been keeping nuclear-weapons scientists employed at a military agency.*

*At the very least, Biden must require Iran to fully account for its undeclared nuclear work before considering even the slightest of sanctions relief. Otherwise, he will have traded away Washington's leverage without achieving his one and only condition.*

*If Biden needs another compelling reason to change course: Congress would oppose sanctions relief for Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), just as Democrats and Republicans united in 2017 to pass legislation requiring the Trump administration to designate the Corps as a terrorist entity and impose sanctions on its affiliates. Notably, that vote came while the United States was still a participant in the nuclear deal.*



### ***Iran Increases Nuclear Enrichment, Posing First Challenge for Incoming Biden Administration***

*Robbie Gramer, Colum Lynch & Jack Detsch*

*The newest move could be negotiating leverage, but it's set to worsen already strained U.S.-Iran relations in the final weeks of the Trump administration.*



***Iran: Maximum Pressure, Minimum Gain***  
*Colum Lynch*

*In 2020, the Trump administration sought to bury the Iran nuclear deal for good. Biden is poised to breathe new life into the pact.*



***China Won't Rescue Iran***  
*Wang Xiyue*

*Despite reports of a major Chinese-Iranian trade deal, Beijing won't jeopardize the possibility of better relations with Washington in order to cozy up to Tehran.*

Last year, the U.S. Treasury Department *sanctioned* the Central Bank of Iran for its financing of the IRGC's Quds Force and Hezbollah. The U.S. Financial Crimes Enforcement Network declared Iran's financial sector to be a primary jurisdiction of money laundering concern—a finding reinforced when the intergovernmental Financial Action Task Force urged a blacklisting of Iran's banking system due to evidence of terror financing.

The U.S. Treasury also imposed terrorism sanctions on the National Iranian Oil Company and National Iranian Tanker Company, two pillars of Iran's energy economy, for their financial support to the IRGC. Congress should send a clear message to the incoming administration that sanctions relief benefiting the IRGC and its auxiliaries is simply unacceptable.

*Iran-deal supporters avoid debating the many fallacies inherent in returning to the agreement.*

*Iran-deal supporters avoid debating the many fallacies inherent in returning to the agreement. Instead, they point to Iran's recent expansion of uranium enrichment activities and declare the Trump administration's maximum-pressure strategy a failure.*

*For them, the only way to contain Iran's nuclear program is to pay the mullahs to stop enriching—even if it means funding the IRGC, rejoining an expiring deal, turning a blind eye to clandestine nuclear activity, missile testing, and human-rights abuses, and leaving Iran's enrichment capabilities intact so that the regime can shake down the international community for more money in the future.*

*What the deal's supporters ignore, however, is that maximum pressure is only a year or so old—and that it took Obama four years to get Iran to the negotiating table and another two years to get the nuclear deal.*

*The Trump administration remained in the Iran deal until 2018. **Sanctions waivers** allowed Iran to export a million barrels per day of oil until 2019. Sanctions on Iran's main shipping line, non-oil companies, and the financial sector did not arrive until 2020. While the International Monetary Fund already reports that Iran has only a few billion dollars of remaining foreign exchange reserves, the peak impact of maximum pressure is still to come.*

*The deal's supporters ignore another important fact: The regime is threatening the international community with nuclear enrichment because the agreement allowed Tehran to retain its enrichment-related capabilities. So long as the regime maintains these capabilities, it can threaten to expand enrichment at any time of its choosing.*

*Notably, however, the mullahs have avoided overt nuclear moves that might trigger a U.S. or Israeli military strike. The regime's slow and steady escalation of enrichment appears intended to create anxiety and political pressure in Europe rather than trip Washington's or Jerusalem's red lines for military action.*

*The mullahs have avoided overt nuclear moves that might trigger a U.S. or Israeli military strike.*

*Biden's stated eagerness to submit to the mullah's extortion racket could alter Iranian nuclear strategy. Not only will Tehran rightly perceive that Biden will be unwilling to act on any threat to reimpose sanctions in the future—a move that would prompt the regime to return to the very same enrichment we see today—it might also assess Biden to be more averse than Trump to the use of military force—making the unanswered questions surrounding Iran's clandestine program even more critical.*

*It makes perfect sense that the president-elect wants to work with U.S. allies to confront the myriad national-security challenges posed by Iran. But turning a blind eye to the clerical regime's nuclear deception, racing back into a deal that's already expiring, undermining U.S. negotiating leverage, and subsidizing Iranian-sponsored imperialism and terrorism—that doesn't make much sense at all.*

***'Not My Most Christian Statement But It's Very American': Roy Fires Back After Biden Rips His Remark***

*Hank Berrien*



*Roy: Al Drago/Bloomberg via Getty Images Biden: Logan Cyrus/Bloomberg via Getty Images*

*On Tuesday, President Biden slammed Rep. Chip Roy (R-TX) for a remark Roy made in December responding to Biden's December 9 statement that as president, he would require masks in federal buildings starting on "day one."*

*Roy had replied on Twitter in December, "On day one I will tell you to kiss my a\*\*. #StandUpFor America."*

*Bide said on Tuesday, "He used a very colorful term to say, 'Wearing a mask, tell them to kiss my ear, I'm not going to wear a mask.' Well, guess what? Not very*

*American. The fact is, you want to be patriotic, you're going to protect people," as [Bloomberg](#) reported. Apprised of Biden's remarks, Roy told RealClearPolitics, "It's not my most Christian statement but it's very American."*

*On December 9, Biden had stated, "My first 100 days is going to require, I'm going to ask for a masking plan, everyone for the first 100 days of my administration to wear a mask. It will start with my signing an order on day one to require masks where I can under the law, like federal buildings, interstate travel on planes, trains and buses. I'll also be working with the governors and mayors to do the same in their states and their cities. We're going to require masks wherever possible. But this goes beyond government action."*

*"And so as the new president, I'm going to speak directly to the American people and say what I'm saying now, we need your help," Biden continued.*

*"Wear masks for just 100 days. It's the easiest thing you can do to reduce COVID cases, hospitalizations, and death. Help yourself, your family and your community.*

*Whatever your politics or point of view, mask up for 100 days once we take office. 100 days to make a difference. It's not a political statement. It's a patriotic act. It won't be the end of our efforts, but it's a necessary and easy beginning, an easy start."*  
*That prompted Roy's December 9 tweet.*

*Roy had argued against severe lockdowns last May, saying, "The goal here is for the least amount of human harm, right? And so the virus is one piece of a much larger puzzle. So should we reopen our society? I believe yes. I think it is important for us to engage as human beings together, to worship together, to work together. Can we do it in a way that protects the most vulnerable? ... It's important that we do that, and we can do that."*

*"We need immune systems that are strong," he added. "We need immunity systems that can fight this. We need herd immunity. So we have to work through this together to get reengaged so we can build that up."*

*"Roy said he is encouraged that most Texans he encounters in his daily life are following social distancing guidelines, including wearing masks," The [Texas Tribune](#) reported, adding, "While recently voting at the U.S. Capitol, Roy said he frequently wore his mask and opted to take the staircases rather than the small elevators around the building. But when delivering a floor speech, he removed his mask — like many other lawmakers."*

*Roy concluded, "It's important for the American people to be able to see your face. So, when I spoke on the floor of the House, when I was down there, I didn't wear a mask."*



*Sex Trafficking Survivor Challenges Jack Dorsey On Heels Of Bombshell Lawsuit: 'How Do You Sleep At Night'*

*"All victims and survivors of Twitter and big tech deserve justice."*

*Amanda Prestigiacomo*



*Eliza Bleu, Michael Reynolds-Pool/Getty Images*

*Twitter was hit with a bombshell lawsuit last week alleging that a young boy who was solicited and recruited for sex trafficking had to endure his own sexual abuse material being promoted on Twitter, even after attempts were made to remove the content.*

*Sex trafficking survivor and advocate Eliza Bleu, who has worked with the boy (dubbed as "John Doe" for anonymity) has challenged Twitter CEO Jack Dorsey in the wake of the suit.*

*"John Doe serves as a voice for countless victims and survivors in the United States and around the world," Bleu told The Daily Wire in a statement sent via email.*

*"Most of the children being abused cannot report their abuse to Twitter. Big tech has shown consistently that they are unwilling to remove the child sexual abuse material and human trafficking from their platforms at scale. So, much as we have seen in times past, it takes brave survivors stepping forward to create change."*

*"John Doe is that survivor in this case," the advocate asserted. "His bravery will have a positive impact on the Internet forever. He is a fighter. A young man wise beyond his years willing to take on big tech."*

*Bleu said she "used to think of Jack and the folks at Twitter corporate as people that I could trust."*

*"I thought that Twitter cared about vulnerable populations," she said. "I thought that Twitter cared about survivors. I changed my mind after hearing the details of John Doe's story. I haven't stopped fighting since."*

*Bleu, who is followed by Dorsey on Twitter, challenged the founder via direct message, though she says that she has yet to get a response from the Big Tech leader.*

*“I have a question I’ve been meaning to ask you for a few months,” Bleu wrote to Dorsey. “How do you sleep at night knowing a portion of your profits are coming from child abuse on Twitter? And you stay silent,” she accused.*

*“John Doe was a 13 years old. He was trafficked,” Bleu outlined via Twitter. “His abuse was watched 167,000 views and 2,223 re-tweets on Twitter. Twitter told Doe that it didn’t violate their terms of service.”*

*“Over the past few months I’ve had the opportunity to walk side by side with this brave young man and his parents,” the advocate said. “John Doe has inspired me in ways that you can’t imagine. He deserves justice. I love you John Doe. Keep fighting bud. You are not alone.”*

*Bleu was present when Doe and his mother (dubbed “Jane Doe” for anonymity) spoke before members of Congress.*

*“When I spoke in front of some members of congress with Jane Doe, John Doe’s mother, she spoke first. Her heart wrenching story of a mother, out of options, begging Twitter to remove the content left no dry eye in the room,” she told The Daily Wire. “I made my statement following Doe and after the meeting I wept.”*

*“I knew John Doe’s story prior to the meeting but hearing it told through the perspective of his mother hit me to the core,” she added.*

*“During the meeting I was trying to uphold a brave front, but the Doe’s family pain is undeniable. John Doe deserves justice. All victims and survivors of Twitter and big tech deserve justice.”*

*As reported by The Daily Wire, the [lawsuit asserts](#), “This lawsuit seeks to shine a light on how Twitter has enabled and profited from CSAM (child sexual abuse material) on its platform, choosing profits over people, money over the safety of children, and wealth at the expense of human freedom and human dignity.”*

*“Twitter is not a passive, inactive, intermediary in the distribution of this harmful material; rather, Twitter has adopted an active role in the dissemination and knowing promotion and distribution of this harmful material. Twitter’s own policies, practices, business model, and technology architecture encourage and profit from the distribution of sexual exploitation material,” the suit continues.*

*Twitter is being sued for damages “under the federal Trafficking Victims’ Protection Re-authorization Act, Failure to Report Child Sexual Abuse Material, Receipt and Distribution of Child Pornography, and related state law.”*

*The claimant alleges that Twitter “knowingly hosted sexual exploitation material, including child sex abuse material (referred to in some instances as child pornography), and allowed human trafficking and the dissemination of child sexual abuse material to continue on its platform, therefore profiting from the harmful and exploitive material and the traffic it draws.”*

Writing at [Evie magazine](#), Bleu outlined ways Twitter can better stop the abuse pattern of sexual victims:

*The solution would be more aggressive and updated artificial intelligence combing the platforms at scale. An easy reporting process for victims. Verification for adult content. Beefing up staff. A 24-hour hotline for survivors to call and report abuse with a trained survivor advocate at Twitter. A hold on all posts with reported CSAM, human trafficking, sexual assault material. Resources available for survivors in need.*

*“Over the last few months, I started calling John Doe ‘my missing puzzle piece,’” Bleu added. “As survivors, we sort of fit together. My main platform for advocacy is the platform that we were both trafficked on, Twitter.*

*Now to be fair, my former abusers used multiple platforms to traffic me[,] not just Twitter. I made a promise to Jane Doe long ago, ‘I will fight for your son like he is my own child.’ I fully intend on fulfilling my promise.”*

*Bleu is set to appear on the podcast of journalist [Tim Pool](#) on Thursday, 8 p.m. Eastern, to further discuss the suit and her work against sex trafficking.*

***This Is Not Normal***  
*Ben Shapiro - Opinion*



*OLIVIER DOULIERY/AFP via Getty Images*

*For four years, we were informed by our establishment media that President Donald Trump's behavior was "not normal."*

*The abnormality of Trump's behavior became a near rallying cry for the self-appointed heroes of journalism, who spent every waking hour poring over his bizarre tweets and his bloviating self-absorption. The media dedicated themselves to preventing Trump's supposed normalization.*

*Now, the media inform us, we have been graced by the most normal normal person to have ever normalled: President Joe Biden. Biden, they proclaim, is utterly boring, nondescript, barely worthy of coverage. His administration, too, is paradigmatically normal.*

*Yascha Mounk of The Atlantic tweets, "It is so nice to have a boring President." Alleged media watchdog Brian Stelter asked this week whether Biden is "making the news boring again," adding, "The Biden White House is clearly a break from the chaos and incompetence of Trump world."*

*For his part, Biden obviously revels in this sort of coverage. This week, his favorite ice cream flavor (chocolate chip) was tweeted out as well as a re-tweet of first lady Jill Biden's announcement that Champ and Major, the new first pets, had entered the White House.*

*On a personal level, Biden is clearly more "normal" than Trump — although treating Biden, a career politician worth nearly \$10 million, as the height of normality is rather stunning. The goal for the establishment media isn't to point out merely that Biden is a sort of American Everyman. It's to use that supposed normalcy to disguise the fact that his agenda is absolutely abnormal.*

*The dirty little secret of the Trump administration is that despite Trump's personal abnormality, his agenda was well in line with past precedent, and with mainstream American opinions on everything from taxes to military policy. Trump did not radically shift American policy. Biden will.*

*Within the first five days of his presidency, he issued 30 executive orders, compared with four for Trump, five for Barack Obama and zero for George W. Bush.*

*Those executive orders included endorsement of radical reinterpretation of American history; killing the Keystone XL pipeline, along with its attendant estimated 11,000 American jobs; forcing the military to allow troops to undergo gender reassignment surgery; and forcing federally funded institutions to allow biological men who identify as transgender to compete alongside biological women, among others.*

*He is reportedly pursuing an immigration plan directed toward reopening America's borders. He has staffed his Cabinet by inter-sectional box-checking.*

*Biden's policy is indeed radical. But because Biden is presented as a normal person, we're supposed to ignore all of that. We're supposed to simply be grateful for the "return to normalcy" — complete with caving to the teachers unions that seek to keep schools closed indeterminately, reentering a long-dead deal with the Iranian*

*theocracy, firing government staffers with whom he disagrees and lying openly about the vaccine distribution plan he inherited.*

*Meanwhile, our media pat themselves on the back. It's rare to see a profession declare itself irrelevant, but that's what many in the media are doing these days. According to Stelter, it's "refreshing" that Biden's team promises accountability and transparency. According to Margaret Sullivan of The Washington Post, the media must learn their lesson from the Trump era and cover*

*Democrats more sycophantic-ally.*

*Joe Biden may be a relatively normal guy. But none of this is normal. And pretending it is represents just another way for the media to reject legitimate criticisms of an administration seeking radicalism right off the bat.*

### ***Biden Launches Commission On 'Supreme Court Reform'***

*Ian Haworth*



*Alex Wong/Getty Images*

*"The Biden administration is moving forward with the creation of a bipartisan commission to study reforms to the Supreme Court and the federal judiciary," according to Politico.*

*"The commission will be housed under the purview of the White House Counsel's office and filled out with the behind-the-scenes help of the Biden campaign's lawyer Bob Bauer," the [article](#) continues.*

*"Its specific mandate is still being decided. But, in a signal that the commission is indeed moving ahead, some members have already been selected, according to multiple people familiar with the discussions."*

*President Joe Biden first announced that "he would name a bipartisan commission to propose changes to the Supreme Court and federal judiciary" in October. According*

to [The Washington Post](#), this was an attempt to “make a nod to both camps,” one of which was the “activists on the left” pushing him to “endorse the addition of several justices,” and the other the “swing voters he [was] courting” who showed “little interest in the idea.”

Regarding what reforms to the Supreme Court may be taken, Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer told MSNBC that “we’re going to see what the commission says and go from there.”

Those on the commission are reported to include “Cristina Rodríguez, a professor at Yale Law School, Caroline Fredrickson, the former president of the American Constitution Society, and Jack Goldsmith, a Harvard Law School professor.”

Rodríguez is likely to co-chair the commission and was the deputy assistant attorney general in the Department of Justice under President Barack Obama.

Fredrickson served as an assistant attorney general in the Department of Justice under President Bush and has “hinted that she is intellectually supportive of ideas like court expansion,” saying in 2019 that “I often point out to people who aren’t lawyers that the Supreme Court is not defined as ‘nine-person body’ in the Constitution, and it has changed size many times.”

Politico reported that Goldsmith’s selection “is likely to be the one to frustrate progressives,” since Goldsmith “was a vocal advocate of Brett Kavanaugh’s appointment to the high court — an appointment that sparked Democratic advocacy for expanding the number of Supreme Court seats.”

During the presidential election, Biden repeatedly refused to answer whether or not he would look to pack the Supreme Court.

“If elected, what I will do is I’ll put together a national commission – a bipartisan commission ... and I will ask them to, over 180 days, come back to me with recommendations as to how to reform the court system ... it’s not about court-packing,” Biden [said in October](#). “There’s a number of alternatives that go well beyond court-packing.”

**[White House Already Having To Deal With ‘Ethical Headache’ Created By Kamala Harris’ Niece: Report](#)**

[Ryan Saavedra](#)



*Shawn Thew/EPA/Bloomberg via Getty Images*

*The Biden administration is already facing ethics issues surrounding Vice President Kamala Harris' niece, Meena Harris, who they are reportedly concerned is "leveraging her relationship with her aunt" to advance her own interests.*

*The White House's alleged concern comes after President Joe Biden has repeatedly been dogged over accusations that members of his family have benefited from their relationship with him when he was a senator and vice president.*

*"The Vice President and her family will uphold the highest ethical standards and it's the White House's policy that the Vice President's name should not be used in connection with any commercial activities that could reasonably be understood to imply an endorsement or support," Sabrina Singh, a spokesperson for Harris, said in a statement.*

*"But the policy has been trickier to enforce with Meena than some other family members, given how much Kamala's image is intertwined with her business projects," Politico [reported](#). "After Biden was officially declared the winner last November, transition ethics lawyers informed Meena that she could sell the rest of her Kamala-themed apparel but could not restock the items.*

*Phenomenal's 'Kamala Harris Swimsuit,' 'phenomenal Kamala Tank,' and 'Kamala T-shirt,' that appeared on the site last fall are no longer sold."*

*The author of Politico's report [noted](#) in a tweet that Meena Harris was already becoming an "ethical headache" for the Biden administration.*

*"'Kamala and Maya's Big Idea,' which was published in June 2020 before Biden picked Kamala as vice president, poses further ethical knots.*

*White House officials say that Meena would be prohibited from publishing that book now because it uses Kamala's name in the title and her likeness on the cover, which is a drawing of a younger Kamala with Maya Harris, Meena's mother," the report continued. "The book doesn't violate the White House's policies because she published it before Kamala became vice president, they say.*

*It's not clear if Meena continuing to accept royalties on the book is permitted, however. Asked if she is still accepting royalties, Meena did not comment." The report said that the Biden administration was "worried" about Meena Harris "following the spirit of the rules."*

*Another problematic example that the report noted occurred shortly after Biden picked Harris to be his running mate last year and Meena Harris "pushed" the campaign to sell a shirt on their website that she designed.*

*The campaign later removed the shirt from the website "for appearance sake" because Meena Harris' name was on the shirt and the campaign "didn't want to make it seem or appear that she would be benefiting or profiting from the campaign," a Biden official told Politico.*

*Meena Harris has also allegedly traveled on a private plane that was owned by a donor to Biden's inauguration.*

*Meena Harris created even more potential issues for the Biden administration to deal with when she announced, following the election, that she created a production company with a former member of the Obama White House. Politico noted that one of the company's first projects was a two-minute video that featured the vice president.*

*"Meena's company produced the video with the Super-majority Education Fund, a nonprofit devoted to women's leadership. (An allied super PAC, Super-majority, spent more than \$1 million running ads backing Biden and opposing President DONALD TRUMP last year; most of its funding came from a super PAC started by George Soros). On YouTube, the ad lists Meena as a producer," Politico added.*

*"The White House said it did not know if Meena was paid for the ad, or whether her company volunteered its time. If the former, it might violate White House policy. Asked if she was paid by Superiority, Meena didn't respond."*

*All of this comes as the Biden family has repeatedly faced accusations that Biden's son, Hunter Biden, has used his relationship with his father to advance his own business interests. A separate [report](#) from Politico in 2019 outlined other accusations that the Biden family has faced about how they allegedly cashed in on their relationship with the now-president.*

*The drama surrounding Meena Harris also comes after IMG Models, a top modeling agency, announced that they signed Kamala Harris' stepdaughter, Ella Emhoff. The New York Times [noted](#) that the signing came after "the inauguration ceremony brought a new level of public attention to Ms. Emhoff."*



## ***Democratic Senator Rips Kamala Harris Over Interview: 'I Couldn't Believe It,' 'Not A Way Of Working Together'***

*Tim Pearce*



*Mario Tama/Getty Images*

*Sen. Joe Manchin (D-WV) slammed Vice President Kamala Harris on Friday for pushing the Biden administration's \$1.9 trillion pandemic aid proposal on a West Virginia television station.*

*Manchin said he was not consulted prior to the interview that was aimed at his constituents. The Democratic senator, one of the few widely-recognized moderate Democrats in the upper chamber, is leading efforts with a moderate Republican, Sen. Susan Collins of Maine, on a compromise package.*

*"I saw it. I couldn't believe it. No one called me," Manchin said of Harris' Thursday interview on West Virginia's [WSAZ](#). "We're going to try to find a bipartisan pathway forward. I think we need to. But we need to work together. That's not a way of working together, what was done."*

*Biden has drawn criticism from the GOP for pushing a message of "unity" while pursuing a number of executive actions largely aimed at tearing down former President Donald Trump's legacy. Manchin's comments add fuel to Republicans' charge that the Biden administration is more concerned with appealing to his left-wing base than striking bipartisan deals in Congress.*

*Manchin has criticized Biden's proposed package, which would give \$1,400 aid checks to most Americans. Manchin said that the aid should be more targeted to those Americans who need it most.*

*"We met [Biden's] economic team and they put out what they wanted. We said, 'Just show us the figures.' Because people need to know. We want to help everybody that needs help," Manchin told [WSAZ](#). "But if a person is making \$250,000 or \$300,000, I don't think they're in much as need as a person making \$40,000 or \$50,000. We're going to target it."*

*Harris did a pair of interviews pitching the Biden administration's plan on Thursday, one to WSAZ in West Virginia and the other on a local television station in Arizona.*

*The White House appears to have targeted the states of moderate Democrats that control the fate of President Joe Biden's aid package in the Senate. The future and make-up of the aid package rests largely on Manchin and two others.*

*As [The New York Times](#) reports:*

*The effort is complicated by Democrats' tenuous grip on power in the Senate, which is split 50-50 but where Vice President Kamala Harris can break ties in her party's favor. Those numbers give enormous sway to the most conservative members of the Democratic caucus, including Senators Kyrsten Sinema of Arizona, Joe Manchin III of West Virginia and Jon Tester of Montana. Any one of them could balk at the size of Mr. Biden's demands and force a smaller package.*

*When pressed on the purpose of Harris' interviews, White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki responded that "we want to make the case to the American people across the country. ... This is a way to do just that."*

*Psaki later demurred on giving any specific reason why Arizona and West Virginia voters were targeted with the White House message, saying "I think [Harris will] do a number of additional regional calls and regional interviews, as will members of the team."*