

Sarah Huckabee Sanders Is Running For Governor Of Arkansas: 'America Is At Stake'

Tim Pearce



Steven Ferdman/Getty Images

Former White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders announced her intent to run for governor of Arkansas on Monday.

Sanders released a video on Monday morning officially announcing her bid following [reports](#) over the weekend that she planned to jump into the race. She [resigned](#) her post in the Trump administration in June 2019.

Sanders began her video with an anecdote of meeting a soldier in Iraq while working under former President Donald Trump. She went on to say the “radical left” has taken control of Washington, D.C., and that state governors are now the “last line of defense.”

“America is great because we are free, but today our freedom and the rule of law are under attack. I was the first White House press secretary to require Secret Service protection because of a credible, violent threat against me. We’ve seen violence in our streets, at a congressional baseball practice and at our Capitol. This is not who we are as Americans,” Sanders says.

“To remain free, we must have law and order and resolve our differences peacefully. The radical left’s solution is to impose government control and censorship from the top down. But their socialism and cancel culture will not heal America, it will only further divide and destroy us,” she continued.

“Everything we love about America is at stake, and with the radical left now in control of Washington, your governor is your last line of defense. In fact, your

governor must be on the front line, so today I announce my candidacy for governor of Arkansas and ask for your prayers and your support.”

“As governor, I will defend your right to be free from socialism and tyranny, your 2nd Amendment right to keep your family safe, and your freedom of speech and religious liberty. Our state needs a leader with the courage to do what’s right, not what’s politically correct or convenient. I took on the media, the radical left, and their cancel culture – and I won,” Sanders said.

“As governor, I will be your voice and never let them silence you.”

The Daily Wire noted the state of the race as Sanders joins two other GOP candidates for governor of Arkansas:

Sanders, the daughter of former Arkansas Governor Mike Huckabee (R-AR), will be entering the field with high national name recognition and an expected polling edge over other Republican candidates, according to Washington Post journalist Josh Dawson, who first reported on the development in the Arkansas governor’s race. ...

Incumbent Governor Asa Hutchinson (R-AR) cannot seek re-election due to term limits. The Associated Press reports that Sanders will be joining a field that already contains two high-profile Republicans in the state, including Lieutenant Governor Tim Griffin and Attorney General Leslie Rutledge.

Rumors over an eventual Sanders run for office have swirled since soon after her departure from the Trump White House. In November 2019, Sanders all but [declared](#) that she would run to be governor of Arkansas at some point.

“There are two types of people who run for office,” Sanders said at the time. “People that are called and people that just want to be a senator or governor. I feel like I’ve been called.”

Biden Repeals Trump Ban On Military Funding For Sex Reassignment Surgeries
Tim Pearce



Ken Cedeno/CNP/Bloomberg via Getty Images

President Joe Biden repealed a Trump-era executive order barring people who identify as transgender from serving in the military in most cases, as well as preventing military funding from paying for sex reassignment surgeries.

Biden's executive order, which the White House announced on Monday morning, rescinds one Trump issued in 2017 and implemented in 2019.

"Allowing all qualified Americans to serve their country in uniform is better for the military and better for the country because an inclusive force is a more effective force," the White House said in a statement, according to [Axios](#).

"Simply put, it's the right thing to do and is in our national interest."

The new executive order comes after the Senate confirmed Biden's pick to lead the Department of Defense, retired Gen. [Lloyd Austin](#), last week in a 93-2 vote. Austin was sworn into office on Friday, making him the first black man to hold the position of Secretary of Defense.

During his confirmation hearing, Austin voiced support for rescinding the Trump administration ban on transgender people serving in the military.

"If you're fit and you're qualified to serve and you can maintain the standards, you should be allowed to serve and you can expect that I will support that throughout," Austin said.

White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki had earlier said that Biden was looking at changing the transgender policy "in the coming days and weeks."

The Trump policy, after it was reworked by the Defense Department and approved by then-Defense Secretary James Mattis, [mandated](#) that service members identify by their biological gender while in the military with few exceptions.

The policy also blocked military funding from paying for sex reassignment surgeries for service members diagnosed with gender dysphoria, unless to “protect the health” of a service member who was already transitioning when the policy was rolled out. Trump announced the shift in policy in a tweet in 2017.

“Our military must be focused on decisive and overwhelming victory and cannot be burdened with the tremendous medical costs and disruption that transgender in the military would entail,” Trump wrote.

The military allowed people who identified as transgender to openly serve in the military beginning in 2016 under former President Barack Obama. Critics said that the policy would have a detrimental effect on military readiness and siphon away defense spending. As [The Wall Street Journal](#) reports:

Opponents to transgender service members, including some conservative congressional Republicans, have said their presence disrupts military readiness and imposes heavy medical costs on the military’s health-care system.

They also have questioned whether transgender service members are as capable as others in the military of deploying whenever and wherever needed, a contention rebutted by advocacy groups.

ACLU senior legislative representative Ian Thompson celebrated Biden’s repeal of the transgender policy in a statement to [Axios](#).

“Repealing the military ban sends a powerful message that transgender people belong in our country,” Thompson said. Biden’s new order “is the first of many essential steps to not only rollback the many discriminatory policies from the Trump administration but go farther than any previous administration in fully recognizing transgender and non-binary people.”

Update note: This article has been expanded after publication to include additional information.

Rand Paul Calls Trump Impeachment Process ‘A Farce,’ Says It ‘Should Be Dismissed’

Eric Quintanar



Stefani Reynolds/Bloomberg via Getty Images

Senator Rand Paul (R-KY) called the impeachment process against former President Donald Trump a farce in an op-ed on Sunday morning and suggested that it should be dismissed before the trial can begin.

In an op-ed for [The Hill](#) called “Boycott Sham Impeachment,” Paul wrote: “The Constitution says two things about impeachment — it is a tool to remove the office holder, and it must be presided over by the chief justice of the Supreme Court.”

“If Justice Roberts is not presiding over this, then it is not impeachment. This charade will be nothing more than bitter partisanship and political theater,” wrote the junior Kentucky senator.

Politico, citing multiple Republican and Democratic “sources close to the impeachment trial negotiations,” [reported](#) last week that Chief Justice John Roberts didn’t want a role in the trial. A spokesperson for Roberts declined to comment to Politico about the story.

Paul, who declined to object to any Electoral College votes, also accused unnamed lawmakers of performing “a little play for their supporters” and said they were “fighting for a different outcome they all knew couldn’t happen.” But Paul also said politicians who tell crowds to “fight to take back your country” can’t be held responsible for incitement.

If we are to blame politicians for the most violent acts of their craziest supporters, then many of my colleagues would face some pretty harsh charges themselves. I’ve been shot at, assaulted and harassed by supporters of the left, including some who directly said the words of politicians moved them to this violence.

I was there at the ball field when a deranged [Bernie Sanders supporter](#) almost killed [Steve Scalise](#) and seriously wounded several others. At the time, Democrats were arguing that the GOP plan for health care was “you get sick, then they let you die.”

Is it any wonder an insane left-wing gunman took that rhetoric to heart and concluded: “If the GOP is going to let me die then maybe I’ll just kill them first”?

Paul concluded his op-ed: “I am more than willing to work with Democrats to find common ground on protecting civil liberties or ending some of our many foreign military interventions, but no unity or common ground will be found while Democrats continue to fight the last election. This so-called impeachment is a farce and should be dismissed before it is even allowed to begin.”

The impeachment trial has been scheduled to begin the week of February 8, and public statements indicate that while many Republican lawmakers have ruled out convicting Trump — twenty-eight so far — fourteen of them have suggested they’re open to convicting him, according to a [Washington Post](#) tracker.

Another eight Republican lawmakers have not made public comments or made ambiguous statements on where they would stand.

Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY), the Senate’s top-ranking Republican, said earlier this month that he had not made a decision on whether to vote to convict Trump.

NYT: Biden Most ‘Religiously Observant’ President ‘In Half A Century,’ Ushering In A ‘Liberal Christianity’

Emily Zanotti



Chip Somodevilla/Getty Images

The New York Times praised President Joe Biden’s faith on Saturday, calling Biden the “most religiously observant commander in chief in half a century” and crediting him with ushering in a “different, more liberal Christianity,” by publicly attending

Catholic Mass — even though Biden has run afoul of Catholic hierarchy for his recent change of heart on abortion.

In a glowing story published late Saturday, [The New York Times lavished](#) on Biden for his religious “conviction,” and commended the new president for abiding piously by his Catholic beliefs, even though the Times has often looked askance at other presidents for having similar piety — including, most notably, President George W. Bush, who is a committed Evangelical Christian.

The difference, of course, The New York Times points out, is that, despite the Catholic Church’s strict line on the issue, Joe Biden publicly supports abortion.

“Mr. Biden, perhaps the most religiously observant commander in chief in half a century, regularly attends Mass and speaks of how his Catholic faith grounds his life and his policies,” the NYT writes, glowingly.

“And with Mr. Biden, a different, more liberal Christianity is ascendant: less focused on sexual politics and more on combating poverty, climate change, and racial inequality.”

Those “sexual politics” the NYT says, foster “hate” and “division” — so, thankfully, Biden has abandoned them, despite the fact that opposition to abortion is a core aim of the Catholic Church in the public square, as no less than Pope Francis has repeatedly stressed.

Biden’s inauguration speech, the NYT crowed, “was a subtle and explicit effort to show a different vision of a way in which a Christian could imagine themselves as part of a diverse America, one that is defined by these common objects of love, rather than by hate and fear or exclusion.”

Beyond the strange idea that Biden is somehow alone in being religious — George W. Bush and former President Jimmy Carter, both of whom served in the last “half-century” wore their Christianity on their sleeves — the story of Biden’s commitment to Catholicism comes just days after the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, one of the highest Catholic authorities in America, [warned Catholics that the Biden administration’s policy priorities](#) could “advance moral evils.”

“Mr. Biden’s piety and personal story, his moving witness to how his faith has brought him solace in times of darkness and tragedy, his longstanding commitment to the Gospel’s priority for the poor — all of this I find hopeful and inspiring,” President of the USCCB, Archbishop Jose Gomez wrote.

But, the archbishop added, “I must point out that our new President has pledged to pursue certain policies that would advance moral evils and threaten human life and dignity, most seriously in the areas of abortion, contraception, marriage, and gender. Of deep concern is the liberty of the Church and the freedom of believers to live according to their consciences.”

The New York Times, though, is quite happy with Biden’s outlook.

“While conservative Catholics have doubled down on abortion policy and religious freedom for the past four years, Mr. Biden’s policy priorities reflect those of Pope Francis, who has sought to turn the church’s attention from sexual politics to issues like environmental protection, poverty, and migration,” they said.

The New York Times might have checked its own archives for Pope Francis’ feelings on the subject of abortion. “Is it legitimate to take out a human life to solve a problem?” Francis asked at a Vatican conference, [per the NYT](#). “Is it permissible to contract a hitman to solve a problem?”

Indeed, in his first address to the World Health Organization, Dr. Anthony Fauci, the Biden administration’s emissary to the global health organization, announced that the U.S. would repeal the so-called “Mexico City Policy” again freeing up American taxpayer money for abortions overseas.