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# AMERICANS WANT RESULTS IN WASHINGTON, NOT PARTISAN GAMES

## THE VAST MAJORITY OF AMERICANS WANT COMPROMISE IN WASHINGTON

### *Recent Polling Shows Americans Want Elected Officials To Set Aside Partisan Differences To Address The Country's Challenges*

**“Most Americans Crave Compromise Among The Nation’s Leaders Rather Than Gridlock ...”** “Nearly six in ten Americans have no confidence in the 118th Congress’ ability to work together in a bipartisan way, and most Americans crave compromise among the nation’s leaders rather than gridlock even if that gridlock results from a principled stand on the issues.” (“A New Session Of Congress,” [MaristPoll](#), 12/15/22)

**According To A December 2022 National Poll Conducted By NPR/PBS NewsHour/Marist, 74 Percent Of Americans Favor Bipartisanship In Washington Over Standing on Principle.** “74% of Americans, up from 64% in February, say it is more important for government officials in Washington to compromise to find solutions than to stand on principle (24%).” (“A New Session Of Congress,” [MaristPoll](#), 12/15/22)

- **“The 74% Of Americans Who Prioritize Compromise Over Principle Matches The Highest Proportion Of Americans With This View In A Decade.”** (“A New Session Of Congress,” [MaristPoll](#), 12/15/22)

### Inflation, Preserving Democracy And Immigration Are Top Priorities Voters Want Addressed By Their Elected Officials In Washington

**A Plurality Of Americans Say Inflation Is The Top Priority That Washington Should Address. Preserving Democracy And Immigration Are Also Top Priorities.** “31% of U.S. residents say inflation should be the top priority for the new Congress. Preserving democracy (18%), immigration (11%), crime (9%), climate change (9%), and health care (9%) follow. Abortion receives 7% while gun policy garners 6%. Priorities differ between parties. The top three issues for Democrats are preserving democracy (29%), inflation (20%), and climate change (17%). Republicans cite inflation (41%), immigration (23%), and preserving democracy (11%) as their top three issues for the new Congress.” (“A New Session Of Congress,” [MaristPoll](#), 12/15/22)

## EXAMPLES OF COMPROMISE WHEN WASHINGTON PUTS ASIDE ITS PARTISAN DIFFERENCES

### In The Years Preceding Biden’s Presidency, Congress Worked Together To Pass Historic Legislation Including The First Step Act And Support For Patients And Communities Act

**In 2018, Congress Passed The Bipartisan First Step Act. The Bill’s Passage Marked An Example Of “Rare Bipartisanship” In The House And Senate.** “The House of Representatives on Thursday overwhelmingly passed bipartisan criminal justice legislation, marking a win for Republicans, Democrats and the administration alike. The legislation, dubbed the First Step Act, includes measures that will allow thousands of federal inmates to leave prison earlier than they otherwise would have, will ease some mandatory minimum sentences and will give judges more leeway in sentencing, among other things. It would also retroactively apply the 2010 Fair Sentencing Act, which reduced the disparity between sentences for offenses involving powder versus crack cocaine. ... Reps. Doug Collins, R-Georgia, Hakeem Jeffries, D-New York, Bob Goodlatte, R-Virginia, Jerry Nadler, D-New York, Sheila Jackson Lee, D-Texas, Mark Walker, R-North Carolina, and Cedric Richmond, D-Louisiana, assembled

Thursday afternoon for a news conference after the passage of the 'historic' bill, which the Senate passed earlier this week. ... The bill, which needed a two-thirds majority, passed by 358-36. However, the mark of rare bipartisanship was beset by news about the government funding bill, which stood in limbo." (Sophie Tatum, "Bipartisan Criminal Justice Bill Clears Congress," [CNN](#), 12/20/18)

**In 2018, Congress Overwhelmingly Approved The Opioid-Related Support For Patients And Communities Act.** "Setting aside the Supreme Court fight, members of Congress this week approved bipartisan legislation aimed at curbing the devastating opioid addiction across the country. But the Support for Patients and Communities Act, which President Donald Trump said he would sign into law, has political implications. It includes contributions from at least 70 lawmakers, some of whom face tough re-election campaigns in November. The measure, which the Senate passed 98-1 on Wednesday and the House approved 393-8 on Sept. 28, ensures incumbents have something positive to campaign on in the final weeks before the election. ... The measure attacks the problem in hundreds of ways. It would require the U.S. Postal Service to track international packages and test them for drugs. It would especially target China, who officials say is the United States' primary source of the deadly synthetic opioid fentanyl. It would allow physicians assistants and nurse practitioners to prescribe addiction treatment medication." (Adam Beam, "Congress OKs Opioid Legislation In Show Of Bipartisanship," *The Associated Press*, 10/4/18)

**In 2019, The House And Senate Approved The Bipartisan Natural Resources Management Act, Which Was The "Largest Public Lands Bill Approved By Congress In More Than A Decade."** "A wide-ranging bill that revives a popular conservation program, adds 1.3 million acres of new wilderness, expands several national parks and creates five new national monuments has won congressional approval. The measure is the largest public lands bill approved by Congress in more than a decade. The House passed the bill Tuesday, 363-62, sending it to the White House for the president's signature. The bill combines more than 100 separate bills that designate more than 350 miles of river as wild and scenic and create nearly 700,000 acres of new recreation and conservation areas. The bill also withdraws 370,000 acres in Montana and Washington state from mineral development. The bill would permanently reauthorize the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund, which supports conservation and outdoor recreation projects across the country. The program expired last fall after Congress could not agree on language to extend it." (Matthew Daly, "Congress Approves Major Public Lands, Conservation Bill," *The Associated Press*, 2/27/19)

**In 2019, Congress "Lopsidedly Approved A Border Security Compromise" That Dedicated \$1.4 Billion To The Border.** "Congress lopsidedly approved a border security compromise Thursday that would avert a second painful government shutdown, but a new confrontation was ignited - this time over President Donald Trump's plan to bypass lawmakers and declare a national emergency to siphon billions from other federal coffers for his wall on the Mexican boundary. Money in the bill for border barriers, about \$1.4 billion, is far below the \$5.7 billion Trump insisted he needed and would finance just a quarter of the 200-plus miles he wanted. ... The Senate passed the legislation 83-16, with both parties solidly aboard. The House followed with a 300-128 tally, with Trump's signature planned Friday. Trump will speak Friday morning in the Rose Garden about border security, the White House said. House Democrats overwhelmingly backed the legislation, with only 19 - most of whom were Hispanic - opposed. Just over half of Republicans voted 'no.'" (Alan Fram, Catherine Lucey and Andrew Taylor, "Congress OKs Border Deal; Trump Will Sign, Declare Emergency," *The Associated Press*, 2/15/19)

**In 2020, Congress Passed The \$2.2 Trillion Coronavirus Rescue Bill "With Rare Bipartisanship And Speed."** "With rare bipartisanship and speed, Washington is about to deliver massive, unprecedented legislation to speed help to individuals and businesses as the coronavirus pandemic takes a devastating toll on the U.S. economy and health care system. The House is set to pass the sprawling, \$2.2 trillion measure Friday morning after an extraordinary 96-0 Senate vote late Wednesday. President Donald Trump marveled at the unanimity Thursday and is eager to sign the package into law." (Andrew Taylor, "Washington Set To Deliver \$2.2 Trillion Virus Rescue Bill," *The Associated Press*, 3/27/20)

# JOE BIDEN CLAIMS HE WANTS TO WORK WITH REPUBLICANS, BUT HIS RECORD PROVES OTHERWISE

## *President Biden Recently Kicked Off A “Bipartisanship Blitz” Attempting to Convince Americans He’s Willing To Work Across The Aisle*

### In A New Year, Biden Has Pivoted Towards Bipartisanship

**Kicking Off The New Year, Biden And His Top Administration Officials Kicked Off A “Bipartisanship Blitz” By Fanning Out Across The Country To Tout His Accomplishments.** “President Joe Biden and top administration officials will open a new year of divided government by fanning out across the country to talk about how the economy is benefiting from his work with Democrats and Republicans. ... Biden’s bipartisanship blitz was announced two days before Republicans retake control of the House from Democrats on Tuesday following GOP gains in the November elections.” (Darlene Superville, “Biden’s New Year Pitch Focuses On Benefits Of Bipartisanship,” [The Associated Press](#), 1/1/23)

**Biden Was Recently Joined By Senator Mitch McConnell (R-KY) To Highlight Funding For The Brent Spence Bridge That Connects Kentucky To Ohio.** “President Biden on Wednesday embraced his reputation for compromise and cooperation at a moment of peak Republican chaos in the House, celebrating a vital new bridge alongside the Republican senator who has long vowed to block his agenda. Standing in front of the Ohio River, the president joined Senator Mitch McConnell of Kentucky, the Republican minority leader, and an improbable mix of political rivals to highlight new funding for the Brent Spence Bridge, which connects Covington to Cincinnati. The rare joint appearance was an effort by Mr. Biden, who has said he intends to run for a second term, to focus voter attention on moments of bipartisan accord during his first two years in office.” (Michael D. Shear, “Biden Promotes Compromise At A Moment Of Republican Chaos In Washington,” [The New York Times](#), 1/4/23)

## TOP EXAMPLES OF JOE BIDEN’S REFUSAL TO WORK IN A BIPARTISAN FASHION

### *But As President, He Has Repeatedly Shunned Compromise ...*

#### As President, Biden Has Ruled By Executive Order To Enact Progressive Policies And Authorized Trillions Of Dollars In Federal Spending With No Republican Input

**Biden Has Relied “Heavily On His Executive Authority To Make Headway On Progressive Causes.”** “It said in a statement that Biden remains committed to working across the aisle to secure bipartisan support for his agenda. Biden has relied more heavily on his executive authority to make headway on progressive issues over the last six months, canceling student debt for federal borrowers, forgiving federal marijuana convictions and providing federal assistance to women seeking abortion care.” (Michael Collins and Francesca Chambers, “Biden Agenda Faces Uphill Climb In New Congress As Republicans Take Over House,” [USA Today](#), 1/2/23)

**As President, Biden Has Pushed “Through Trillions Of Dollars In Federal Spending Without Any Republican Votes.”** “Mr. Biden has at times set aside his reputation for bipartisanship, pushing through trillions of dollars in federal spending without any Republican votes.” (Michael D. Shear, “Biden Promotes Compromise At A Moment Of Republican Chaos In Washington,” [The New York Times](#), 1/4/23)

**“Just After Promising To Work Across The Aisle In A Bipartisan Fashion In His Inaugural Address, He Opted To Push Through A \$1.9 Trillion Coronavirus Emergency Bill On A Party-Line Basis.”** (Josh Kraushaar, “Biden’s Agenda Disconnected From Voters’ Everyday Reality,” [National Journal](#), 1/11/22)

- **In March 2021, Biden Signed Into Law The Covid-19 Economic Relief Package Called The American Rescue Plan.** “President Joe Biden signed his sweeping \$1.9 trillion Covid-19 economic relief package into law on Thursday afternoon. ‘This historic legislation is about rebuilding the backbone of this country and giving people in this nation, working people, middle class folks, people who built the country, a fighting chance’ Biden said in the Oval Office before signing the legislation. ‘That’s what the essence of it is.’ Congress on Wednesday passed the relief package, which has been Biden’s first and most pressing legislative priority since taking office in January.” (Kate Sullivan, “Biden Signs Historic \$1.9 Trillion Covid-19 Relief Law,” [CNN](#), 3/11/21)
- **“Not A Single Republican Lawmaker In Either Chamber Voted In Favor” Of Biden’s American Rescue Plan Act.** “Not a single Republican lawmaker in either chamber voted in favor of President Joe Biden’s \$1.9 trillion economic aid package over the past few weeks, reflecting their fierce opposition to an early Democratic legislative priority.” (Joseph Zeballos-Roig, “Not A Single Republican In Either Chamber Of Congress Voted For Biden’s \$1.9 Trillion Stimulus Package,” [Business Insider](#), 3/10/21)
- **The Wall Street Journal Editorial Board Said The Bill Was Full Of “Bailouts For Democratic Constituencies” And A “Progressive Blowout.”** “All told, this generous definition of Covid-related provisions tallies some \$825 billion. The rest of the bill—more than \$1 trillion—is a combination of bailouts for Democratic constituencies, expansions of progressive programs, pork, and unrelated policy changes. ... No wonder Democrats want to pass all this on a partisan vote. It’s a progressive blowout for the ages that does little for the economy but will finance Democratic interest groups for years. Please don’t call it Covid relief.” (Editorial, “The Non-Covid Spending Bailout,” [The Wall Street Journal](#), 2/21/21)
- **In The New York Times, Former Obama Economic Advisor Steven Rattner Called The “Almost Completely Unfunded” American Rescue Plan The “Original Sin” That Has Contributed To Today’s High Inflation.** “The original sin was the \$1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan, passed in March. The bill — almost completely unfunded — sought to counter the effects of the Covid pandemic by focusing on demand-side stimulus rather than on investment. That has contributed materially to today’s inflation levels.” (Steven Rattner, Op-Ed, “I Warned The Democrats About Inflation,” [The New York Times](#), 11/16/21)

**In June 2021, Biden Nearly Jettisoned The Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill By Holding It Hostage Unless It Came To Him Alongside A Multi-Trillion-Dollar Democratic Spending Plan.** “That Joe Biden’s cherished bipartisan infrastructure plan was nearly destroyed by a few of his own ill-chosen words highlights both the fragility of the deal and his own hopes for a productive domestic presidency. Biden’s extraordinary weekend effort to walk back his own remark on Thursday, interpreted as a threat to veto the bill if it did not arrive at his desk alongside a multi-trillion-dollar Democratic spending plan, appears, for now, to have succeeded.” (Stephen Collison, “Biden’s Frantic Weekend Saves Infrastructure Deal But Leaves Him On Thinner Political Ice,” [CNN](#), 6/28/21)

- **Biden Said He Would Not Sign The Bipartisan Bill “If This Is The Only Thing That Comes To Me.”** “President Biden tried to shore up his crumbling bipartisan infrastructure deal in the face of Republican fury Saturday — by claiming that he didn’t mean to say he’d hold the legislation hostage to a monster \$4 trillion social-spending bill that Democrats could pass on a party-line vote. ‘That statement understandably upset some Republicans,’ Biden admitted in a lengthy statement, two days after he told reporters ‘I’m not signing’ the bipartisan deal ‘if this is the only thing that comes to me.’ ‘My comments,’ Biden said Saturday, ‘created the impression that I was issuing a veto threat on the very plan I had just agreed to, which was certainly not my intent.’” (Mary Kay Linge, “Biden Walks Back Threat To Hold Infrastructure Bill Hostage,” [New York Post](#), 6/26/21)

**In August 2022, Biden Signed Into Law The \$750 Billion Inflation Reduction Act, Calling It “One Of The Most Significant Laws In Our History.”** “President Joe Biden signed a sweeping \$750 billion health care, tax and climate bill into law at the White House on Tuesday – marking a major victory for his administration and the Democratic Party ahead of the midterm elections. Biden said during a signing ceremony in the State Dining Room that the legislation, called the Inflation Reduction Act, is “one of the most significant laws in our history.” (Maegan Vazquez and Donald Judd, “Biden Signs Inflation Reduction Act Into Law,” [CNN](#), 8/16/22)

- **The Inflation Reduction Act Was Adopted In Congress “Entirely Along Party Lines,” With No Republicans In The House Or Senate Voting For The Bill.** “The Inflation Reduction Act, passed by the House of Representatives today, is about to become the first comprehensive climate legislation in U.S. history. Compared with Congress’s desultory approach to the issue in the past, the numbers are striking: The legislation will spend roughly \$374 billion on decarbonization and climate resilience over the next 10 years, getting us two-thirds of the way to America’s Paris Agreement goals. But perhaps the most important number about the package is zero. Zero Republicans in the House. Zero Republicans in the Senate. The IRA was adopted entirely along party lines, with all Democrats and not a single congressional Republican in support of the legislation.” (Robinson Meyer, “Not Even A Single Republican Voted For The Climate Bill,” [The Atlantic](#), 8/12/22)

**On Election Reform, Biden Failed To Encourage The Efforts Of A Bipartisan Group Of Senators Working To Overhaul The Vote-Counting Process.** “The ideological approach to election reform is even more self-defeating, now that there’s a small bipartisan group of senators working on narrowly focused efforts to overhaul the vote-counting process (which Donald Trump and his allies have targeted), as opposed to broader Democratic-backed reforms designed to incentivize broader participation. One such idea being discussed is preventing state legislatures from certifying a different slate of electors than the state’s certified count. If Biden encouraged these bipartisan efforts, there’s a chance he’d find some middle ground that would accomplish some of his goals in a bipartisan manner no less. But it would tick off progressive activists, who are convinced democracy is in danger because of small-scale tweaks to election rules like the length of early voting.” (Josh Kraushaar, “Biden’s Agenda Disconnected From Voters’ Everyday Reality,” [National Journal](#), 1/11/22)

## ***Biden Has Assailed Republicans Throughout His Presidency***

### **As President, Biden Has Repeatedly Demonized Republicans**

**“Biden Has Abandoned His Pledge To Be A ‘President For All People’ And Has Doubled Down On Campaign Rhetoric Casting His Political Opponents As Anti-Democratic Extremists.”** “Battling persistently low approval ratings, a souring economy and skyrocketing crime, Mr. Biden has abandoned his pledge to be a ‘president for all people’ and has doubled down on campaign rhetoric casting his political opponents as anti-democratic extremists in his final push to salvage Democrats’ seats in Congress.” (Joseph Clark, “Biden Ignoring Centrists In Crusade Against ‘MAGA Republicans’ Ahead Of Midterms,” [The Washington Times](#), 9/7/22)

- **Despite Running For President As A Bipartisan Candidate, Biden Has Likened Republicans To A “Party Of Extremists.”** “Biden campaigned for president on his ability to work in a bipartisan fashion and has passed a number of bills with Republican support. But as the election nears and many Republican nominees continue to deny the 2020 election results, he has been more willing to cast the opposition as a party of extremists.” (Toluse Olorunnipa, “Biden’s Closing Argument: Republicans Would Trash The Economy,” [The Washington Post](#), 10/26/22)

**In The Closing Days Of The 2022 Midterm Elections, Biden Warned Voters That Republicans Want To Create Chaos And Trash The American Economy.** “President Biden, in an 11th-hour effort to shift the debate over inflation and the economy, has begun warning voters of the threat of government shutdowns, entitlement cuts, debt defaults and general chaos if Republicans take control of Congress. ... ‘Hear this closely: The Republicans have made it clear that if they win control of the Congress, they will shut down the government, refuse to pay our bills, and it’ll be the first time in our history America will default — unless I yield and cut Social Security and Medicare,’ Biden said Monday in a speech to the Democratic National Committee. ‘There’s nothing, nothing, that will create more chaos, more inflation and more damage to the American economy than this.’” (Toluse Olorunnipa, “Biden’s Closing Argument: Republicans Would Trash The Economy,” [The Washington Post](#), 10/26/22)

- **The Washington Post Headline: “Biden’s Closing Argument: Republicans Would Trash The Economy”** (Toluse Olorunnipa, “Biden’s Closing Argument: Republicans Would Trash The Economy,” [The Washington Post](#), 10/26/22)

**Biden Harped On The “Threat He Believes Republicans Pose To Democracy” And Called His Opponents “Semi-Fascist.”** “Joe Biden’s White House wants voters headed into midterm elections to think more about the



threat he believes Republicans pose to democracy -- and less about the complicated state of the economy. In recent speeches, the president has portrayed the GOP as still under the spell of his predecessor, Donald Trump, and his false claims that the 2020 election was fraudulent. Last week Biden even described his opponents as 'semi-fascist' and bent on curtailing Americans' freedoms." (Nancy Cook, "Biden Demonizes GOP In Midterm Pivot From Uncertain Economy," [Bloomberg](#), 9/1/22)

- **Bloomberg Headline: "Biden Demonizes GOP In Midterm Pivot From Uncertain Economy"** (Nancy Cook, "Biden Demonizes GOP In Midterm Pivot From Uncertain Economy," [Bloomberg](#), 9/1/22)

**Biden Had "Ramped-Up" Partisan Rhetoric Accusing Republicans Of "Semi-Fascism" And That He Can't Work With Them, Adding That Democracy Is Under Threat.** "On Thursday night, he used newly ramped-up rhetoric in ways that the White House and Biden's political advisers are signaling will be part of a no-holds-barred strategy for the midterms. The president accused the GOP of 'semi-fascism' and said he doesn't respect, and can't work with, 'MAGA Republicans' who he said 'embrace political violence.' He hardened his assertion that democracy is under threat, and said the country could be facing the sort of test that comes every few generations, 'one of the moments that changes everything.'" (Matt Viser, "'Semi-Fascism': Rhetoric Reflects Newly Aggressive Biden Strategy," [The Washington Post](#), 8/26/22)

**Biden Also Said That MAGA Republicans "Represent An Extremism That Threatens The Very Republic."** "Donald Trump and MAGA Republicans represent an extremism that threatens the very republic,' Biden said in a rare moment of calling out his predecessor by his name." (Jonathan Lemire and Meridith McGraw, "Biden Addresses Nation: 'Too Much Of What's Happening ... Today Is Not Norman,'" [Politico](#), 9/1/22)

**In 2022, Biden's Efforts To Work With Republicans Had "Faded" And He He Declared The GOP "Is Not Your Father's Republican Party. This Is A Different Deal."** "Biden still touts his bipartisan legislation — including infrastructure spending, a law to aid veterans exposed to toxic burn pits and an effort to boost domestic semiconductor manufacturing — but his attempts to deal with Republicans in the current Congress have largely faded. The president once predicted there would be an 'epiphany' and an 'altar call' among Republicans when Trump departed the scene, making them again open to bipartisanship. But on Thursday, he declared, 'This is not your father's Republican Party. This is a different deal.'" (Matt Viser, "'Semi-Fascism': Rhetoric Reflects Newly Aggressive Biden Strategy," [The Washington Post](#), 8/26/22)

### **Biden Was Called Out For His Hyper-Partisan Rhetoric Towards Republicans**

**The Washington Post's Editorial Board Critiqued Biden For Failing To Summon "Patriotism Rather Than Partisanship," Writing That He "Fell Short, ... Too Often Sounding More Like A Democrat Than A Democrat."** "It is a depressing reflection of the dangerous political situation in which the nation finds itself that President Biden felt compelled to deliver a prime-time address decrying political violence and election denialism and calling on Americans "to unite behind the single purpose of defending our democracy.' Indeed, democracy is under assault in the United States. Rallying to its defense is an urgent task, and it does the nation no service to pretend that this is a problem of bipartisan dimensions. The leader of one party peddled the false belief that the 2020 presidential election was stolen, sought to prevent the peaceful transfer of power, incited his adherents to storm the Capitol, and continues to stir anger and unrest today. As Mr. Biden put it in Philadelphia on Thursday night, 'Too much of what's happening in our country today is not normal. Donald Trump and the MAGA Republicans represent an extremism that threatens the very foundations of our Republic.' The difficult, perhaps insurmountable, challenge that Mr. Biden confronted — just eight weeks before midterm elections that will determine the future course of his presidency — was how to convey the message of defending democracy in a way that summons patriotism rather than partisanship. Here, as much as we agree with the president about the urgency of the issue, is where he fell short, too often sounding more like a Democrat than a democrat." (Editorial, "Democracy Is In Danger. Biden Should Invoke Patriotism, Not Partisanship, To Make That Point." [The Washington Post](#), 9/2/22)

- **"You Don't Persuade People By Scolding Or Demeaning Them, But That's How The President's Speech Landed For Many Conservatives Of Goodwill."** (Editorial, "Democracy Is In Danger. Biden Should Invoke Patriotism, Not Partisanship, To Make That Point." [The Washington Post](#), 9/2/22)

- **“Mr. Biden Was Wrong To Conflate Upholding The Rule Of Law With His Own Partisan Agenda ... You Can Be For Democracy But Against The President’s Policy Proposals.”** “Mr. Biden was wrong to conflate upholding the rule of law with his own partisan agenda, which he called ‘the work of democracy.’ You can be for democracy but against the president’s policy proposals to use government to lower prescription-drug prices and combat climate change.” (Editorial, “Democracy Is In Danger. Biden Should Invoke Patriotism, Not Partisanship, To Make That Point.” [The Washington Post](#), 9/2/22)

## ***While Campaigning For President, Biden Regularly Trashed Republicans***

### **As A Presidential Candidate Biden Highlighted His Bipartisan Bonafides But He Regularly Poked Republicans**

**Biden Ran As A Bipartisan Candidate For His Ability To Work With Republicans.** “Biden campaigned for president on his ability to work in a bipartisan fashion and has passed a number of bills with Republican support. But as the election nears and many Republican nominees continue to deny the 2020 election results, he has been more willing to cast the opposition as a party of extremists.” (Toluse Olorunnipa, “Biden’s Closing Argument: Republicans Would Trash The Economy,” [The Washington Post](#), 10/26/22)

**In September 2020, Biden Blamed Republicans For The Obama Administration’s Inability To Renegotiate NAFTA.** TAPPER: “But he renegotiated NAFTA, and you didn’t, is the point. I mean...” BIDEN: “Because we had a Republican Congress that wouldn’t go along with us renegotiating it.” TAPPER: “But doesn’t he deserve some credit for that? It’s better. The USMCA is better than NAFTA.” BIDEN: “It is better than NAFTA, but look what the overall trade policy has done, even with NAFTA. We now have this gigantic deficit in trade with Mexico, not because NAFTA wasn’t made better, because his overall trade policy and how he deals with it made everything worse.” (“[The Lead With Jake Tapper](#),” 9/10/20) Minute: 20:55-21:26

**In June 2020, Biden Called Senate Republicans “Stupid” For Not Taking Up The House Democrats’ \$3 Trillion Stimulus Bill.** “Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden on Friday said Senate Republicans were ‘so damn stupid’ for not passing House Democrats’ \$3 trillion coronavirus relief bill.” (Alex Gangitano, “Biden Hits Republicans Over Relief Bill: ‘They’re So Damn Stupid,’” [The Hill](#), 6/12/20)

- **Biden: “They’re So Damn Stupid, Darn Stupid.”** “‘The Republican Senate need to do its job and pass the HEROES Act,’ Biden said on a call with the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME). ‘It passed through the House. Get state and local governments the funding they need to keep millions of people on the job. Because, here’s the — they’re so damn stupid, darn stupid. If you don’t have people on the job dealing with controlling the virus, then it’s just going to get worse,’ Biden said.” (Alex Gangitano, “Biden Hits Republicans Over Relief Bill: ‘They’re So Damn Stupid,’” [The Hill](#), 6/12/20)

**During An Interview In May 2020, Biden Said That If A Black Person Votes For Trump, Then “They Ain’t Black.”** “In the interview, during which the former vice president sidestepped a question about marijuana legalization and his running mate selection, Mr. Biden also made clear that he felt there was no reason black Americans would consider voting for Mr. Trump. ‘If you have a problem figuring out whether you’re for me or Trump then you ain’t black,’ Mr. Biden said.” (Astead W. Herndon and Katie Glueck, “Biden Apologizes For Saying Black Voters ‘Ain’t Black’ If They’re Considering Trump,” [The New York Times](#), 5/22/20)

**In March 2020, Biden Criticized Republicans For Refusing To Give States Enough Help, Not Providing Sufficient Relief To Workers, Not Including Emergency Paid Leave, Not Forgiving Student Debt, Refusing To Increase Social Security Benefits, And Not Providing Enough Health Coverage.** “To make matters worse, as they carry water for corporate America, President Trump and Mitch McConnell are refusing to give states and communities on the front lines the help they need to deal with the crisis they are facing. They are refusing to provide sufficient, sustainable relief to workers. They are denying millions the emergency paid leave they deserve to help keep families safe. They are refusing to forgive a minimum of \$10,000 of student debt per person. They are refusing to increase Social Security benefits for our seniors and people with disabilities. They



are refusing to provide enough health coverage or Medicaid funding during a public health emergency. And they are refusing to take the necessary steps to ensure food and nutrition for vulnerable families or to prevent these families from losing their homes.” (Joe Biden, “Statement From Vice President Joe Biden On Congressional Economic Stimulus Negotiations,” [Press Release](#), 3/22/20)

**In 2019, Biden Said That Republicans Were Unserious About Immigration Reform Back In 2012, “...Republicans Weren’t Playing The Game. They Weren’t Serious About Anything,” When Discussions About Immigration Reform Were Being Held.** TELEMUNDO’s JOSE DIAZ-BALART: “The Obama-Biden legacy includes more than 3 million people deported in the 8 years that you all were in power, and some of the structures that were created during there have really been the ones that President Trump built upon to have his zero tolerance, family separation policy. Should you be apologizing for anything?” BIDEN: “No, I think what we should be doing is acknowledging that comparing what President Obama did and what Trump did — it’s night and day.” DIAZ-BALART: “No, but the numbers are there.” BIDEN: “No, no, no, no, no.” DIAZ-BALART: “Vice President, the numbers are there. More than 3 million people were deported.” BIDEN: “No, I understand that. That was what the law was at the time. What the president finally decided in 2012 was the Republicans weren’t playing the game. They weren’t serious about anything – about immigration reform, they talked about major reform, they talked about how they were going to change things. And he was the first guy to come along and say, ‘OK, DACA, those undocumented kids, they’re going to be able to stay here.’ And then he came along in 2014 and came up with a program with their families would be able to stay here. The court later ruled. That affected five million people, five million people who could stay, DAPA. And the court ruled that was beyond the power of the president to do that.” (“[Noticias](#),” 12/5/19) Minute 16:10-17:25

**As A Candidate For President, Biden Took “A No-Compromise Approach On The Overhaul Of The Nation’s Gun Laws.”** “Democratic presidential candidates Joe Biden and Pete Buttigieg, moderates who project themselves as pragmatic collaborators, are taking a no-compromise approach on the overhaul of the nation’s gun laws after the latest mass shooting. Campaigning separately in eastern Iowa on Monday, the former vice president and the mayor of South Bend, Indiana, say the minimum provisions include universal background checks, a ban on military-style weapons and high-capacity ammunition, and red flag laws to allow officials to confiscate firearms from dangerous people.” (Thomas Beaumont and Bill Barrow, “Biden, Buttigieg Say No Compromises On Overhauling Gun Laws,” [The Associated Press](#), 9/2/19)

- **Asked If There Was Room For Negotiation On Gun Issues, Biden Said, “None. This Is One We Have To Just Push And Push And Push And Push And Push.”** “Biden told reporters before a Labor Day picnic in Cedar Rapids that inaction from President Donald Trump and congressional Republicans is ‘disgraceful.’ Asked if there’s room for negotiation, he declared: ‘None. This is one we have to just push and push and push and push and push.’” (Thomas Beaumont and Bill Barrow, “Biden, Buttigieg Say No Compromises On Overhauling Gun Laws,” [The Associated Press](#), 9/2/19)
- **Biden’s Position Represented A “Rare Case Of Absolutism.”** “Biden’s and Buttigieg’s positions represent a rare case of absolutism from the two men. Despite their generational divide, at ages 76 and 37, both have staked their campaigns in part on calls for a more civil, productive governing process in Washington. They both pointed to public opinion polls are a reason for their uncompromising approach. According to national public opinion polls for the past several years, large majorities of Americans support requiring background checks for all gun buyers. Majorities, though smaller, also support banning the sale of military-style weapons such as the AR-15.” (Thomas Beaumont and Bill Barrow, “Biden, Buttigieg Say No Compromises On Overhauling Gun Laws,” [The Associated Press](#), 9/2/19)

### **Biden Falsely Claimed He Worked With Republicans To Pass ObamaCare**

**VIDEO: During A December 2019 Community Event In San Antonio, Texas, Biden Claimed He Found Republican Votes To Pass Obamacare And Other Legislation.** BIDEN: “But, the fight ahead of us is not about just whether we have plans, it’s about repairing the soul. Who’s it going to be to take on and get these things passed? We need someone with proven ability to bring people together and do the hard work of getting

legislation passed. I've done that, I've done that before—finding Republican votes for the Recovery Act, Obamacare, helping to keep us from falling into a great depression.” ([Remarks At Community Event](#), 12/13/19) Minute 00:00-00:30

- **Biden: “I’m The Only One On This Stage That Actually Got Anything Done On Health Care ... I’m The Guy The President Turned To And Said, ‘Go Get The Votes For ObamaCare.’”** BIDEN: “Hey, I’m the only one on this stage that actually got anything done on health care, OK? I’m the guy the president turned to and said, ‘Go get the votes for ObamaCare.’ And I notice what everybody’s talking about is the plan that I first introduced.” ([NBC’s Democratic Primary Debate](#), 2/20/20) Minute 23:53 – 24:09

**PolitFact: “We Rate This Claim Mostly False.”** (“Joe Biden Says He Got Republicans To Vote For ObamaCare And The Stimulus Bills. Barely,” [PolitFact](#), 12/18/19)

**ObamaCare Received “Zero Republican Votes In Both The Senate And The House.”** “As for the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, otherwise known as Obamacare, the sweeping health care reform bill passed in 2010 with zero Republican votes in both the Senate and the House. The bill needed to pass in the Senate with a 60-vote veto-proof majority, which it got. Biden lobbied fellow Democrats to back the measure, but again, so did other Democratic leaders.” (“Joe Biden Says He Got Republicans To Vote For ObamaCare And The Stimulus Bills. Barely,” [PolitFact](#), 12/18/19)

**“The Vote Totals Showed Minimal To No Bipartisanship.”** “Biden said cited the 2009 economic recovery bill and the 2010 Affordable Care Act as proof that he can ‘bring the country together.’ At most, those legislative wins show Biden can bring Democrats together. The vote totals showed minimal to no bipartisanship. The recovery bill was opposed by every Republican except for three in the Senate. There was no Republican support in either chamber for Obamacare.” (“Joe Biden Says He Got Republicans To Vote For ObamaCare And The Stimulus Bills. Barely,” [PolitFact](#), 12/18/19)

## ***Partisanship As Vice President***

### **Biden’s Knack For Partisanship Was A Reason He Was Selected By Obama To Be His Running Mate**

**“Biden Has Relished Partisan Warfare” And It Was A Reason Why Obama Chose Him As A Running Mate.** “But throughout his career, Biden has relished the partisan warfare that comes every two years. It was one reason that President Barack Obama chose him as his running mate.” (Matt Viser, “‘Semi-Fascism’: Rhetoric Reflects Newly Aggressive Biden Strategy,” [The Washington Post](#), 8/26/22)

**In 2016, Biden Accused The Republican-Led Senate Of Abdicating It’s Constitutional Responsibility And Said It Could Lead To A Constitutional Crisis Over Not Holding A Hearing For Obama’s Supreme Court Nominee Merrick Garland.** “Weeks ago, my friends, and they are my friends, Republican Senators, announced that whomever the nominee might be, they intended to abdicate their responsibility completely, that what they say today, what they said then, what Republican Senators say they will do, in my view, can lead to a genuine Constitutional crisis.” ([Remarks At Georgetown Law School](#), 3/24/16) Min: 2:28-2:56

- **Biden: “As The President Said, Chief Judge Garland Deserves A Hearing. Just As A Simple Matter Of Fairness Before We Talk About The Constitution. But It’s Also A Matter Of The Senate Fulfilling Its Constitutional Responsibility.”** ([Remarks At Georgetown Law School](#), 3/24/16) Min: 2:12-2:28

**At The Democrat’s 2012 National Convention, Biden Criticized Republicans For Not Embracing The Cuts Put Forward By The Simpson-Bowles Commission.** BIDEN: “Look, folks. That’s not courage. That’s not even truthful. That’s not even truthful. In Tampa, they talk with great urgency about the nation’s debt and the need to act, to act now. But not once, not one single time, did they tell you that they rejected every plan put forward by us, by the bipartisan Simpson-Bowles commission they referenced — (applause) — or by any other respected group to reduce the national debt. They are not for any of them. Why? Because they’re not prepared to do anything about the debt if it contained even one dollar — I’m not exaggerating — even one dollar or one cent in new taxes for millionaires.” (Joe Biden, [Remarks At Democratic National Convention](#), Charlotte, NC, 9/6/12)

**At An August 2012 Campaign Event In 48 Percent Black City In Virginia, Biden Told The Audience That Republicans Would “Put You All Back In Chains.”** “Vice President Joe Biden said Tuesday that a Republican-led effort to loosen new regulations on Wall Street would put voters ‘back in chains.’ ‘Romney wants to, he said in the first 100 days, he’s gonna let the big banks again write their own rules,’ Biden said of the GOP nominee’s proposals to roll back the Obama administration’s financial reforms. ‘Unchain Wall Street!’ Lowering his voice, Biden added, ‘They’re going to put you all back in chains.’ Danville city is about 48 percent black, according to 2011 census numbers. The audience of about 800 at the Institute for Advanced Learning and Research here in Danville reflected the area’s demography.” (NBC News’ [First Read](#), 8/14/12)

- **VIDEO: Biden In August 2012: “[Romney’s] Going To Let The Big Banks Once Again Write Their Own Rules—Unchain Wall Street! He’s Going To Put You All Back In Chains.”** ([Remarks At Campaign Rally](#), 8/14/12) Minute 00:53-1:04

**In October 2011, Biden Said Incidents Of Rape “Will Continue To Rise” If Republicans Did Not Pass Obama’s Stimulus 2.0 Bill.** REPORTER: “If the Republicans don’t pass [Obama’s Stimulus 2.0] bill, then rape will continue to rise?” BIDEN: “Murder will continue to rise, rape will continue to rise, all crimes will continue to rise.” REPORTER: “Do you think it is appropriate for the Vice President to use language is such a way?” BIDEN AIDE: “We got to go.” ([Press Gaggle](#), 10/19/11) Minute 0:00-0:19

- **Biden In Flint, Michigan In 2011: “In 2008, When Flint Had 265 Sworn Officers On The Police Force, There Were 35 Murders And 91 Rapes In This City. In 2010, When Flint Had Only 144 Police Officers, The Murder Rate Climbed To 65 And Rapes — Just To Pick Two Categories — Climbed To 229.”** “Biden said that while some voters tell him cities don’t need more police officers and firefighters — which the jobs bill would fund — he believes it’s essential to bulk up public safety forces to keep crime rates down. ‘In 2008, when Flint had 265 sworn officers on the police force, there were 35 murders and 91 rapes in this city. In 2010, when Flint had only 144 police officers, the murder rate climbed to 65 and rapes — just to pick two categories — climbed to 229. In 2011, you now have only 125 shields,’ he said.” (*Politico’s* [44](#), 10/12/11)
- **In 2011, Biden In Flint, Michigan Said, “God Only Knows What The Numbers Will Be Like This Year In Flint,” But The Crime Stats For 2011 Undercut His Argument.** “Biden then added: ‘God only knows what the numbers will be this year in Flint.’ Actually the Michigan State Police know, for at least the first six months of the year, because the city is required to report instances of crime. And rather than supporting Biden’s argument, the evidence we found undercuts it.” (“Biden’s Flint Fiasco, Continued,” [FactCheck.Org](#), 10/23/11)

**In October 2011, Biden Wished Republicans Knew What It’s Like For A Rape Victim Or To Have A Gun Pointed At Their Head.** BIDEN: “I wish these guys that thought it was temporary, I wish they had some notion what it’s like on the other side of a gun or a 200 pound man standing over you telling you to submit. Folks, it matters. It matters!” ([Remarks At Event About American Jobs Act](#), 10/18/11) Minute 00:20-00:31

**In 2010, Biden Criticized Republicans For Voting Against A 30 Percent Tax Credit For Clean-Energy Investments, Saying How Can “They Vote Against Tax Stimulus For Companies To Build Things Here?”** “Among the proposals is an expansion of a 30 percent tax credit for clean-energy investments that was included in the economic stimulus. ‘How are the Republicans pro-business when they vote against tax stimulus for companies to build things here?’ Biden said. ‘How can you be against a 30 percent tax credit if you come here and you build windmills?’” (Mike Dorning and Patrick O’Connor, “Biden Says Outside Money Threatens Democrats’ Control Of House,” [Bloomberg](#), 10/22/10)

**In October 2010, “‘If I Hear One More Republican Tell Me About Balancing The Budget, I Am Going To Strangle Them,’ Biden Said At A Fundraiser In Minnesota, According To A Pool Report. ‘To The Press, That’s A Figure Of Speech.’”** (Michael O’Brien, “Biden: One More GOP Budget Gripe And ‘I Am Going To Strangle Them,’” [The Hill](#), 10/5/10)

**In October 2010, Biden Told Voters In Quincy, MA, "Next Time A Republican Talks To You About Fiscal Responsibility, Tell Them, 'Forgive Me If I Laugh In Your Face...'"** "Biden referred to Perry several times by name, once when he complained about Republicans bemoaning deficit spending despite the last three party presidents building sizable deficits while serving in the White House. 'The next time a Republican talks to you about fiscal responsibility, tell them, 'Forgive me if I laugh in your face,' the vice president said. 'It's bizarre. They have no credibility.'" (Glen Johnson, "Biden Backs Mass. Democrat Battling GOP Challenger," *The Associated Press*, 10/30/10)

## ***As A Senator, Biden Claimed The GOP Were Responsible For Numerous Tragedies***

**In 2007, Biden Implied The 1994 GOP Revolution Led To Tragedies Including The Shooting At Virginia Tech, The Crisis In Darfur, The Iraq War, And Other Issues**

**VIDEO: Biden Implied The 1994 GOP Revolution Led To Tragedies Including The Shooting At Virginia Tech, The Crisis In Darfur, The Iraq War, And Other Issues.** MR. RUSSERT: "Let me ask you about something you said at Al Sharpton's National Action Network on April 19th. Here it is, and let's come back and talk about it."  
SENATOR JOE BIDEN (D-DE): (From videotape.) "To paraphrase a line from the Bible, you reap what you sow, and ladies and gentlemen, we are reaping what we have sown -- the seeds of destruction and the seeds of malcontention that we've sown. I would argue, since 1994, with the Gingrich revolution, ladies and gentlemen, just take a look at Iraq, Venezuela, Katrina, what's gone down in Virginia Tech, Darfur, Imus, take a look. This didn't happen accidentally, all of these things. Since 1994, from the Gingrich revolution to Karl Rove and President Bush, we have wallowed -- wallowed -- in the politics of polarization." (NBC's "Meet The Press," 4/29/07)