

# TOO LITTLE, TOO LATE: BIDEN'S EXECUTIVE ORDER WON'T ADDRESS THE BORDER CRISIS

Biden's executive order restricts the ability of migrants to seek asylum at the U.S.-Mexico border when the number of people attempting to cross reaches a certain threshold — **a level that has been repeatedly hit since he took office.**

## Did you know...?

Biden's order will likely not be enforced since it will likely be stalled in the court, which his administration is apparently "counting on." **The ACLU is already gearing up to challenge the order in court.**

[Read more at AP →](#)

The U.S. Border Patrol has **lost nearly a quarter of its workforce** since Biden was elected president.

[Read more at Washington Examiner →](#)

Multiple surveys have found that **immigration or border security is tied or just ahead of the economy or inflation** as the most important issue to voters.

[Read more at The Washington Post →](#)



"Biden's decision is an acknowledgment of a 2024 political reality: **Unchecked immigration has become deeply unpopular across all demographics in the U.S.**, with a slight majority of Americans now backing mass deportations, as Trump has proposed."

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# TOO LITTLE, TOO LATE: BIDEN'S EXECUTIVE ORDER WON'T ADDRESS THE BORDER CRISIS

## Overview

### Biden Signed A New Executive Order Seeking To Curb Illegal Immigration

**Biden Signed An Executive Order To Restrict Migrants Seeking Asylum At The U.S.-Mexico Border If The Number Of People Crossing Meets A Certain Threshold.** “The White House has invited border city mayors and Democratic lawmakers to accompany President Joe Biden on Tuesday when he announces an executive action to limit asylum — and tries to change the political narrative around immigration. The invitations are the latest attempt by the administration to project political strength — and governing consensus — on an issue that polls show have created a liability for Biden. Biden plans to sign an order that will restrict the ability of migrants to seek asylum at the U.S.-Mexico border when the number of people attempting to cross reaches a certain threshold — a level that has been repeatedly hit since he took office.” (Myah Ward and Jennifer Haberkorn, “Border Mayors, Democratic Allies To Join Biden As He Announces Asylum Limits,” [Politico](#), 6/3/24)

- **The Order Halts Asylum Requests For People Trying To Enter The Country If It Reaches A Daily Average Of 2,500 People Over A Week.** “Under the order, the U.S. would halt new asylum requests if the number of people trying to enter the country between the ports of entry reaches a daily average of 2,500 over a week, according to three people familiar with the administration’s plans who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss details ahead of the announcement. Details of the order are still fluid but it’s expected to go into effect Wednesday. It would include a provision to allow asylum petitions to resume when crossings fall back to a daily average of 1,500, the people said.” (Myah Ward and Jennifer Haberkorn, “Border Mayors, Democratic Allies To Join Biden As He Announces Asylum Limits,” [Politico](#), 6/3/24)
- **“The Restriction Will Likely Not Apply To Minors Who Cross The Border Alone.”** “The restrictions will likely not apply to minors who cross the border alone, according to an official briefed on the order.” (Zolan Kanno-Youngs and Hamed Aleaziz, “Biden Expected To Sign Executive Order Restricting Asylum,” [The New York Times](#), 6/3/24)

### The New Executive Order Will Do “Little To Resolve” The Border Crisis And Many Will “Still Be Released Into The U.S.”

**Immigration Policy Experts Are Pouring Cold Water On Biden’s Executive Order, Claiming It Will Do “Little To Resolve The Crisis At The Border” As Some Migrants Can’t Be Easily Removed As They Are From Countries Like Cuba, Venezuela And Columbia That Don’t Consistently Accept Deportation Flights.** “Immigration policy experts warn that the policy change will do little to resolve the crisis at the border. Even with the administration’s efforts to curtail asylum seekers during spikes in crossings, smugglers and traffickers will continue to target nationalities — like Cubans, Venezuelans and Colombians — that can’t be easily removed to countries that haven’t consistently accepted deportation flights from the U.S. or Mexico.” (Myah Ward and Jennifer Haberkorn, “Border Mayors, Democratic Allies To Join Biden As He Announces Asylum Limits,” [Politico](#), 6/3/24)

- **Record Numbers Of Migrants Are Coming From Those Countries, Including China And India.** “U.S. authorities have tallied about 2 million illegal crossings per year along the southern border since 2021, the highest levels ever, and migrants have been arriving in record numbers from China, India, Venezuela and dozens of other countries.” (Nick Miroff and Toluse Olorunnipa, “Biden Expected To Announce New Asylum Restrictions At Border,” [The Washington Post](#), 6/3/24)

**Those Experts “Also Warn That Triggered Border Shutdowns Tied To A Specific Number Of Illegal Crossings Will Lead To More Erratic Surges At The Border In Isolated Areas.”** “They also warn that triggered border shutdowns tied to a specific number of illegal crossings will lead to more erratic surges at the border in isolated areas, upending Border

Patrol's security posture." (Myah Ward and Jennifer Haberkorn, "Border Mayors, Democratic Allies To Join Biden As He Announces Asylum Limits," [Politico](#), 6/3/24)

***The Wall Street Journal: Biden's Order "Will Prove Difficult To Implement" As The Government Does Not Have The Resources To Rapidly Deport Those Found Ineligible For Asylum, "Meaning Many Would Likely Still Be Released In The U.S."*** "The ban, if it were to take effect, will prove difficult to implement. The federal government currently doesn't have nearly enough personnel or detention space to rapidly deport everyone found ineligible for asylum under the order, meaning many would likely still be released into the U.S. pending an immigration case to determine whether they might be eligible for a form of humanitarian relief other than asylum." (Michelle Hackman and Tarini Parti, "Biden To Issue Executive Order On Southern Border, Limiting Asylum," [The Wall Street Journal](#), 6/3/24)

**Biden's Order Will Likely Not Be Enforced As It Will Be Stalled In The Courts, Which Has Been Mentioned That The His Administration Is "Counting On" It**

**"Many Immigration Policy Experts Expect The Action To Be Stalled By Legal Challenges, Potentially Making Its Way To The Supreme Court."** (Myah Ward and Jennifer Haberkorn, "Border Mayors, Democratic Allies To Join Biden As He Announces Asylum Limits," [Politico](#), 6/3/24)

- **The ACLU Is Already Gearing Up To Challenge The Order In Court.** "We will need to review the (executive order) before making final litigation decisions,' said Lee Gelernt, an attorney for the American Civil Liberties Union who led several of the most high-profile challenges to Trump's border policies. 'But a policy that effectively shuts down asylum would raise clear legal problems, just as (it) did when the Trump administration tried to end asylum.'" (Seung Min Kim, Colleen Long and Stephen Groves, "Biden Prepares An Order That Would Shut Down Asylum If A Daily Average Of 2,500 Migrants Arrive," [The Associated Press](#), 6/4/24)

**Thomas Warrick, Senior Fellow At The Atlantic Council Expects The Courts To Temporarily Prevent The Order From Taking Effect.** "Biden's executive order is almost certain to trigger immediate lawsuits, touching off a fight that will last months and probably reach the Supreme Court, according to immigration policy experts. Thomas Warrick, a former Department of Homeland Security official who's now a senior fellow at the Atlantic Council, said he expected the courts to respond by staying the order, temporarily preventing it from taking effect. 'Groups that are going to be challenging this executive order will be able to make the case that there is a class of people who will suffer irreparable harm if the order is enforced right away,' he said." (Leigh Ann Caldwell and Theodorice Meyer, "Democrats Frustrated With Biden Border Order," [The Washington Post](#), 6/4/24)

**Rep. Tony Gonzales (R-TX): "I Think They Are Making A Political Calculation Right Now. ... I Also Think They're Counting On The Courts To Stop Whatever They're Doing."** "I think they are making a political calculation right now. I get it,' said Rep. Tony Gonzales (R-Tex.), whose district runs along the Mexico border. 'I also think they're counting on the courts to stop whatever they're doing.'" (Leigh Ann Caldwell and Theodorice Meyer, "Democrats Frustrated With Biden Border Order," [The Washington Post](#), 6/4/24)

**The Order Has Been Rightfully Panned As "Coming Months Too Late" And An Admission That Biden Has Had The Authority To Get Serious About The Border All Along**

**Biden's Executive Order Is "Coming Months Too Late."** "Republicans gave Biden no credit for taking the steps, as expected, arguing that the order is coming months too late." (Danielle Diaz and Nicholas Wu, "Congress' Early Review Of New Biden Border Plan: Almost No One Is Happy," [Politico](#), 6/4/24)

- **Sen. John Cornyn (R-TX): "Why Did You Wait Until Now If You Were Serious About [The Border]? ... The Simple Answer Is, He's Not Serious About Securing Our Border."** "Why did you wait until now if you were serious about [the border]?" asked Sen. John Cornyn (R-Texas), a contender to be the next Senate GOP leader. "The simple answer is, he's not serious about securing the border.'" (Danielle Diaz and Nicholas Wu, "Congress' Early Review Of New Biden Border Plan: Almost No One Is Happy," [Politico](#), 6/4/24)



- **Sen. Roger Marshall (R-KS) Called Biden's Order A "Superficial Gesture" And "Too Little, Too Late."** "'Too little, too late,' Sen. Roger Marshall (R-Kan.) warned Biden, calling the order a 'superficial gesture' that is 'not going to save your political life.'" (Danielle Diaz and Nicholas Wu, "Congress' Early Review Of New Biden Border Plan: Almost No One Is Happy," [Politico](#), 6/4/24)

**Sen. Kevin Cramer (R-ND): The Executive Order "Is An Admission That He Could Have Done Something About It All Along."** "Sen. Kevin Cramer (R-N.D.) said President Biden's anticipated border proposal this week could end up hurting him with Democrats. ... 'And then suddenly the last five months before an election, he decides he's got the power to do something about it now. He's irredeemable on this topic, and frankly, I think he's gonna irritate his base a lot more than he does any good for himself,' Cramer said Monday on 'The Hill on NewsNation.' Cramer said Biden 'sees he's in a lot of trouble, and the number one concern for the American people is the border crisis.' He also said the executive order 'is an admission that he could have done something about it all along.'" (Lauren Sforza, "GOP Senator Says Biden Border Proposal Will Hurt Him With Democrats," [The Hill](#), 6/3/24)

**Senator Ted Cruz (R-TX) Said Biden Was "Doing This Right Before The Election So The Useful Idiots In The Corporate Media Will Say 'Gosh, Biden Solved The Problem! Nothing Else To Worry About Here!'"** "Texas Senator Ted Cruz was a guest on Monday night's Hannity where he shared his thoughts on the latest disastrous immigration moves from the Biden Administration. Biden granted mass amnesty to 350,000 asylum cases and is planning an executive order to 'secure' the border after dismantling nearly one hundred of Donald Trump's safety orders. 'Just like the gasoline prices going down a little bit, they're doing this right before the election so the useful idiots in the corporate media will say 'gosh, Biden solved the problem! Nothing else to worry about here!'" Cruz told Hannity." ("TED Talk: Senator Cruz Stops By Hannity, Unloads On Biden's Latest Border Blunders," [Hannity.com](#), 6/6/24)

**Cruz: "This Executive Order – He Admits, He Had The Power To Do This Three-And-A-Half Years Ago. He Didn't Do It."** "'This executive order — he admits, he had the power to do this three-and-a-half years ago. He didn't do it. He wants 11 million. He wants 20 million. He wants 40 million because they're all future Democrat voters.'" ("TED Talk: Senator Cruz Stops By Hannity, Unloads On Biden's Latest Border Blunders," [Hannity.com](#), 6/6/24)

### **As The Federal Government Lacks Resources To Implement Biden's New Executive Order, Thousands Of Border Patrol Agents Have Left The Force Under Biden**

**The U.S. Border Patrol Has Lost Nearly A Quarter Of Its Workforce Since Biden Was Elected President.** "The U.S. Border Patrol has lost nearly a quarter of its workforce since Democratic candidate Joe Biden beat incumbent Donald Trump in the 2020 presidential election, and some agents say it is no coincidence." (Anna Gaiaritelli, "The Biden Effect? Border Patrol Has Lost A Quarter Of Workforce Since 2020 Election," [Washington Examiner](#), 5/23/24)

- **"More Than 4,000 Federal Agents Have Left The Border Patrol Since October 2020."** "More than 4,000 federal agents have left the Border Patrol since October 2020. Twice as many agents have chosen to retire early compared to retirement rates during the Obama and Trump administrations." (Anna Gaiaritelli, "The Biden Effect? Border Patrol Has Lost A Quarter Of Workforce Since 2020 Election," [Washington Examiner](#), 5/23/24)

**U.S. Customs And Border Protection (USCBP) Data Shows More Agents Leaving The Force Than Normal.** "In recent years, Border Patrol agents have lamented that the Biden administration's immigration policy has caused a crisis that has sunk morale, but the new data provided by U.S. Customs and Border Protection confirmed that far more agents are choosing to leave than normal." (Anna Gaiaritelli, "The Biden Effect? Border Patrol Has Lost A Quarter Of Workforce Since 2020 Election," [Washington Examiner](#), 5/23/24)

**From October 2020 To April 2024, 4,281 Border Patrol Agents Have Left The Agency.** The Border Patrol comprises more than 19,000 agents. Between October 2020 and April 2024, exactly 4,281 federal law enforcement agents left the organization. The total number of agents who

left the Border Patrol included those who quit, were forced to retire due to their age or number of years on the job, or who chose to retire as soon as they became eligible.” (Anna Gaiaritelli, “The Biden Effect? Border Patrol Has Lost A Quarter Of Workforce Since 2020 Election,” [Washington Examiner](#), 5/23/24)

- **“By Contrast, In The Seven Years Leading Up To Fall 2020, When Biden Won The Election, The Organization Lost An Average Of 996 Agents Annually.”** (Anna Gaiaritelli, “The Biden Effect? Border Patrol Has Lost A Quarter Of Workforce Since 2020 Election,” [Washington Examiner](#), 5/23/24)
- **“Between Fiscal 2021 And 2023, 3,665 Agents Left For An Average Of 1,222 Per Year.”** (Anna Gaiaritelli, “The Biden Effect? Border Patrol Has Lost A Quarter Of Workforce Since 2020 Election,” [Washington Examiner](#), 5/23/24)
- **“An Additional 616 Agents Have Left In The First Seven Months Of Fiscal 2024, Which Runs From October 2023 Through September 2024.”** (Anna Gaiaritelli, “The Biden Effect? Border Patrol Has Lost A Quarter Of Workforce Since 2020 Election,” [Washington Examiner](#), 5/23/24)

**According To The *Washington Examiner*, Border Patrol Agents Have Said Since 2021 That Morale Has Been Dropping Or Gone Altogether.** “Border Patrol agents in rank-and-file and leadership roles across the southern border have told the Washington Examiner on numerous occasions since 2021 that morale was dropping, was at a new low, or gone altogether.” (Anna Gaiaritelli, “The Biden Effect? Border Patrol Has Lost A Quarter Of Workforce Since 2020 Election,” [Washington Examiner](#), 5/23/24)

**An Agent In Arizona Said “Under Biden, Things Are The Worst They Have Ever Been By Far ... There Is No Morale.”** “‘Under Biden, things are the worst they have ever been by far,’ said one agent who is based in Arizona in a previous interview. ‘Agents are calling in all the time. You always hear, ‘It doesn’t matter,’ or, ‘What’s the point?’ in reference to doing our job. Agents are afraid of ending up on the news for doing their job or getting in trouble for doing their job. There is no morale.’” (Anna Gaiaritelli, “The Biden Effect? Border Patrol Has Lost A Quarter Of Workforce Since 2020 Election,” [Washington Examiner](#), 5/23/24)

### **Another Recent Biden Proposal To Address The Border Crisis Will Not Work**

**In May, Biden Proposed A Rule To Expedite Expulsion Of Some Illegal Migrants Seeking Asylum, Which Would Only Affect A Small Percentage Of Those Caught At The Border.** “In May, the administration proposed a rule that would allow the US to expedite expulsions of undocumented migrants seeking to claim asylum in certain cases, though the change will only affect a small percentage of those caught on the border.” (Erik Wasson and Josh Wingrove, “Biden To Crack Down On Migrants By Slashing Asylum Claims,” [Bloomberg](#), 6/3/24)

- **“Under The New Rule, Immigration Officials At The Southern Border Could Quickly Reject An Asylum Claim If That Person's Criminal History Is Deemed To Pose A Threat To National Security.”** “Under the new rule, immigration officials at the Southern border could quickly reject an asylum claim if that person's criminal history is deemed to pose a threat to national security. In that case, the person would be subject to deportation.” (Sergio Martinez-Beltran, “Biden’s New Asylum Rule Would Have ‘Minimal’ Impact On Unauthorized Border Crossings,” [NPR](#), 5/10/24)

**Immigration Experts Said The Measure Would Have “Minimal Impacts” On The Number Of Illegal Crossings At The Southern Border** “The latest measure by President Joe Biden's administration to tackle the U.S.'s outdated asylum system would have minimal impacts on the high number of unauthorized crossings at the Southern border, analysts, immigrant rights organizations and anti-illegal migration advocates said. On Thursday, the Department of Homeland Security announced a new rule intended to speed up the removal of some migrants ineligible for asylum.” (Sergio Martinez-Beltran, “Biden’s New Asylum Rule Would Have ‘Minimal’ Impact On Unauthorized Border Crossings,” [NPR](#), 5/10/24)

- **“Immigration Policy Analysts Say The Rule Would Hardly Put A Dent On The Number Of Migrants Crossing Illegally, Or The Underlying Factors For Mass Migration.”** (Sergio Martinez-Beltran, “Biden’s New Asylum Rule Would Have ‘Minimal’ Impact On Unauthorized Border Crossings,” [NPR](#), 5/10/24)

**Theresa Cardinal Brown, Director Of The Bipartisan Policy Center: “The Vast Majority Of The People Arriving At The Border Right Now Are Not Going Through (The) Credible Fear Process. ... So, The Number Of People (This Rule) Would Apply To Is Small Relative To The Number Of Arrivals At The Border Right Now.”** “‘The vast majority of the people arriving at the border right now are not going through (the) credible fear process,’ Theresa Cardinal Brown, the director of immigration policy at the Washington, D.C.-based Bipartisan Policy Center, told NPR. ‘So, the number of people (this rule) would apply to is small relative to the number of arrivals at the border right now.’” (Sergio Martinez-Beltran, “Biden’s New Asylum Rule Would Have ‘Minimal’ Impact On Unauthorized Border Crossings,” [NPR](#), 5/10/24)

## **BACKGROUND**

### **Biden’s “Liberal” Border Policies Have Created The Current Border Crisis, Which Is A Top Concern For Voters**

**Upon Taking Office, Biden Released The “Most Liberal Immigration Proposal Of Any Mainstream Democratic Candidate In History.”** “The order, which Biden plans to sign at the White House alongside several mayors from southern-border communities, cements the president’s rightward shift on immigration since his 2020 campaign when he released what became the most liberal immigration proposal of any mainstream Democratic candidate in history.” (Michelle Hackman and Tarini Parti, “Biden To Issue Executive Order On Southern Border, Limiting Asylum,” [The Wall Street Journal](#), 6/3/24)

- **What Followed Was Yearly Record Border Crossing, Migrant Camps And Pleas From City Leaders Struggling With The Influx Of Illegal Immigrants.** “Biden came into office vowing to undo Trump’s harsh legacy on immigration — much of which he did. Then came back-to-back years of record border crossings, migrant camps, cries for federal help from city leaders struggling with new populations — and a tough rematch against Trump, whose campaign has tapped into the anger over illegal immigration.” (Stef W. Knight and Hans Nichols, “How Politics, Timing Shaped Biden’s Border Gambit,” [Axios](#), 6/4/24)

**His “Unchecked” Immigration Stance Is “Deeply Unpopular Across All Demographics In The U.S. With A Majority Of Americans Supportive Of Mass Deportations.** “Biden’s decision is an acknowledgment of a 2024 political reality: Unchecked immigration has become deeply unpopular across all demographics in the U.S., with a slight majority of Americans now backing mass deportations, as Trump has proposed.” (Stef W. Knight and Hans Nichols, “How Politics, Timing Shaped Biden’s Border Gambit,” [Axios](#), 6/4/24)

- **Immigration Is A Top Concern In This Election Year.** “Still, immigration remains a top concern heading into the U.S. presidential election in November and Republicans are eager to hammer Biden on the issue.” (Colleen Long, “Biden Is Said To Be Finalizing Plans For Migrant Limits As Part Of A US-Mexico Border Clampdown,” [The Associated Press](#), 5/30/24)
- **“Polls Suggest Growing Support, Even Inside The President’s Party, For Border Measures That Once Democrats Denounced And Mr. Trump Championed.”** (Zolan Kanno-Youngs and Hamed Aleaziz, “Biden Expected To Sign Executive Order Restricting Asylum,” [The New York Times](#), 6/3/24)

**“A Gallup Poll Conducted In April Found 27% Of Those Surveyed Said They Found Immigration To Be The Most Important Problem Facing The Country For The Third Consecutive Month.”** (Michelle Hackman and Tarini Parti, “Biden To Issue Executive Order On Southern Border, Limiting Asylum,” [The Wall Street Journal](#), 6/3/24)

- **“That Was The Longest Stretch An Issue Has Dominated The Poll In 24 Years.”** (Michelle Hackman and Tarini Parti, “Biden To Issue Executive Order On Southern Border, Limiting Asylum,” [The Wall Street Journal](#), 6/3/24)

**“Multiple Surveys Have Found That Immigration Or Border Security Is Tied Or Just Ahead Of The Economy Or Inflation As The Most Important Issue To Voters.”** “President Biden is trailing former president Donald Trump in polling both nationally and in most battleground states. Trump also has a strong edge on immigration: In a recent ABC News poll, 47 percent of respondents said they trusted Trump to address the border, while 30 percent said so for Biden.

Multiple surveys have found that immigration or border security is tied or just ahead of the economy or inflation as the most important issue to voters.” (Leigh Ann Caldwell and Theodor Meyer, “Inside Democrats’ Political Strategy On Border Security,” [The Washington Post](#), 5/22/24)

## **Under Biden, There Have Been About 2 Million Illegal Border Crossings A Year**

**“U.S. Authorities Have Tallied About 2 Million Illegal Crossings Per Year Along The Southern Border Since 2021, The Highest Levels Ever.”** “U.S. authorities have tallied about 2 million illegal crossings per year along the southern border since 2021, the highest levels ever, and migrants have been arriving in record numbers from China, India, Venezuela and dozens of other countries.” (Nick Miroff and Toluse Olorunnipa, “Biden Expected To Announce New Asylum Restrictions At Border,” [The Washington Post](#), 6/3/24)

- **According To Government Data, Illegal Crossings Of The U.S.-Mexico Border Have Averaged More Than 3,500 In Recent Weeks.** “Illegal crossings along the U.S.-Mexico border have averaged more than 3,500 in recent weeks, according to the latest government data, so Biden’s order could have immediate effects.” (Nick Miroff and Toluse Olorunnipa, “Biden Expected To Announce New Asylum Restrictions At Border,” [The Washington Post](#), 6/3/24)

## **While Apprehensions At The Border Are “Still Historically High” Arrests Of Migrants At The Border Is Down 6 Percent In April Due To Mexico’s Enforcement Actions, Not Not Biden**

**In April, Arrests For Illegally Crossing The U.S.-Mexico Border Fell More Than 6 Percent.** “Arrests for illegally crossing the U.S. border from Mexico fell more than 6% in April to the fourth lowest month of the Biden administration, authorities said Wednesday, bucking the usual spring increase.” (“US Border Arrests Fall In April, Bucking Usual Spring Increase As Mexico Steps Up Enforcement,” [The Associated Press](#), 5/15/24)

- **“Migrants Were Arrested 128,884 Times In April, Down From 137,480 In March And Barely Half A Record-High Of 249,737 In December, U.S. Customs And Border Protection Said.”** (“US Border Arrests Fall In April, Bucking Usual Spring Increase As Mexico Steps Up Enforcement,” [The Associated Press](#), 5/15/24)

**The Decline In Arrests Has Been “Largely Attributed” To Mexico’s Enhanced Enforcement.** “U.S. officials have largely attributed the decline to more enforcement in Mexico, including in yards where migrants are known to board freight trains. Mexico won’t allow more than 4,000 illegal crossings a day to the U.S., Alicia Barcena, Mexico’s foreign relations secretary, told reporters Tuesday, down from more than 10,000 Border Patrol arrests on some days in December.” (“US Border Arrests Fall In April, Bucking Usual Spring Increase As Mexico Steps Up Enforcement,” [The Associated Press](#), 5/15/24)

## **In An Election Year, Biden Has Sought To Reverse Course From His Reckless Policies That Have Led To The Immigration Crisis**

**The Border Crisis Has Deepened Under Biden.** “Three years later, the border crisis has only deepened, with record numbers of migrants from all over the hemisphere overwhelming the border, and a president on the defense as Republicans make immigration a key issue in his reelection campaign.” (Noah Bierman, “Migrant Shifts Upend Strategy,” [Los Angeles Times](#), 2/6/24)

- **“Chaos Engulfs The Border” Amidst Record Level Border Crossings That Is “More Than Double Than In The Trump Years.”** “But those early promises have largely been set aside as chaos engulfs the border and imperils Mr. Biden’s re-election hopes. The number of people crossing into the United States has reached record levels, more than double than in the Trump years. The asylum system is still all but broken.” (Michael D. Shear, Hamed Aleaziz and Zolan Kanno-Youngs, “How The Border Crisis Shattered Biden’s Immigration Hopes,” [The New York Times](#), 1/30/24)

**The Border Crisis That Biden Is Responsible For Has Led Him To Embrace Immigration Policies He Ran Against In 2020.** “The rolling chaos along the border has grown to the point that Biden now is embracing immigration policies he ran against in 2020 — such as



restricting asylum laws and suggesting he'll 'shut down' the border — as the crisis threatens his re-election.” (Alex Thompson and Stef W. Kight, “Exclusive: How Biden Botched The Border,” [AXIOS](#), 2/12/24)

- **Polling Shows Biden’s Handling Of Immigration Is Among His Worst Issues He Has With Voters, With Two-Thirds Of Respondents To A Recent Quinnipiac University Poll Disapproving Of Him.** “Polls indicate that immigration is one of Biden’s worst issues among voters, and a growing number of Americans rank it as a top priority. A Quinnipiac University poll released Wednesday found immigration was tied with the economy as the second-most urgent issue for voters, after ‘preserving democracy.’ Only 28 percent of respondents approved of Biden’s handling of the border, with nearly two-thirds disapproving, the poll found.” (Toluse Olorunnipa, “Biden’s Journey To ‘Shut Down’ Border Paved With Political Fault Lines,” [The Washington Post](#), 2/6/24)

## **Biden Is Responsible For The Border Crisis As His “Day 1” Actions Essentially Opened The U.S. Border**

**On His First Day As President, Biden Began Rolling Back Trump’s Immigration Policies.** “Almost immediately after he walked into the Oval Office on his first day as president, Joe Biden began rolling back his predecessor’s immigration policies, which he had assailed throughout the 2020 campaign as harsh and inhumane.” (Jonathan J. Cooper, “Biden Is Left With Few Choices As Immigration Takes Center Stage In American Politics,” [The Associated Press](#), 2/2/24)

- **Biden Planned To Legalize 11 Million Illegal Immigrants.** “Tipton’s order is an early blow to the Biden administration, which has proposed far-reaching changes sought by immigration advocates, including a plan to legalize an estimated 11 million immigrants living in the U.S. illegally. Biden promised during his campaign to issue the moratorium.” (Nomaan Merchant, “Judge Bars Biden From Enforcing 100-Day Deportation Ban,” [The Associated Press](#), 1/26/21)

**He Signed 17 Executive Orders, Memorandums, And Proclamations That Included Numerous Actions Intended To “Tear Down” Trump’s Immigration Policies.** “President Biden unleashed a full-scale assault on his predecessor’s legacy on Wednesday, acting hours after taking the oath of office to sweep aside President Donald J. Trump’s pandemic response, reverse his environmental agenda, tear down his anti-immigration policies, bolster the sluggish economic recovery and restore federal efforts aimed at promoting diversity. Moving with an urgency not seen from any other modern president, Mr. Biden signed 17 executive orders, memorandums and proclamations from the Oval Office on Wednesday afternoon. Among the steps the president took were orders to rejoin the Paris climate accord and end Mr. Trump’s travel ban on predominantly Muslim and African countries.” (Michael D. Shear, “With His Pen, Biden Moves To Dismantle Predecessor’s Legacy,” [The New York Times](#), 1/21/21)

**Biden “Created Legal Pathways For Migrants And Began Rebuilding The Refugee System.”** “He created legal pathways for migrants and began rebuilding the refugee system even as he embraced some of former President Donald J. Trump’s more restrictive tactics. But those efforts were quickly overwhelmed by the sheer numbers of people arriving at the border, and at times Mr. Biden failed to appreciate the growing anger in both parties.” (Michael D. Shear, Hamed Aleaziz and Zolan Kanno-Youngs, “How The Border Crisis Shattered Biden’s Immigration Hopes,” [The New York Times](#), 1/30/24)

**Biden “Paused Nearly All Deportations.”** “On President Biden’s first day in office, he paused nearly all deportations. He vowed to end the harsh practices of the Trump administration, show compassion toward those wishing to come to the United States and secure the southern border.” (Michael D. Shear, Hamed Aleaziz and Zolan Kanno-Youngs, “How The Border Crisis Shattered Biden’s Immigration Hopes,” [The New York Times](#), 1/30/24)

- **Biden’s Pause On Deportations Was Later Blocked.** “On his first day in office, he proposed a vast immigration bill to Congress that would have provided a path to citizenship for millions of undocumented immigrants already living in America. The next day, he paused deportations for 100 days, and even though a federal judge later blocked that policy, some migrants took it as a sign that it was worth a dangerous trek to the U.S. border.” (Michael D. Shear, Hamed Aleaziz and Zolan Kanno-Youngs, “How The Border Crisis Shattered Biden’s Immigration Hopes,” [The New York Times](#), 1/30/24)



**“He Signed An Executive Order Revoking The Trump Administration's Plan To Exclude Noncitizens From The Census Count And A Second Order Aimed At Bolstering The Deferred Action For Childhood Arrivals Program That Protects ‘Dreamers’ From Deportation.”**

“He signed an executive order revoking the Trump administration's plan to exclude noncitizens from the census count and a second order aimed at bolstering the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program that protects ‘Dreamers’ from deportation. Mr. Trump had sought for years to end the program, known as DACA.” (Michael D. Shear, “With His Pen, Biden Moves To Dismantle Predecessor’s Legacy,” *The New York Times*, 1/21/21)

**Biden Also Repealed The Ban On Travel To The U.S. From Several Predominantly Muslim And African Countries.**

“Mr. Biden repealed two Trump-era proclamations that established a ban on travel to the United States from several predominantly Muslim and African countries, ending one of his predecessor's earliest actions to limit immigration.” (Michael D. Shear, “With His Pen, Biden Moves To Dismantle Predecessor’s Legacy,” *The New York Times*, 1/21/21)

- **He Called On The State Department To Address The Harm Done To Those Prevented From Entering The U.S. Due To The Ban.** “The president also directed the State Department to develop ways to address the harm caused to those prevented from coming to the United States because of the ban.” (Michael D. Shear, “With His Pen, Biden Moves To Dismantle Predecessor’s Legacy,” *The New York Times*, 1/21/21)

**Biden Ceased Construction Of The Border Wall.** “And in a strike at Mr. Trump's most cherished ambition, the construction of a border wall between the United States and Mexico -- which was devised to keep immigrants out of the country -- Mr. Biden halted construction as his administration examines the legality of the wall's funding and contracts.” (Michael D. Shear, “With His Pen, Biden Moves To Dismantle Predecessor’s Legacy,” *The New York Times*, 1/21/21)

- **450 Miles Of The Wall Had Already Been Completed.** “By the end of Trump's administration, the U.S. had completed more than 450 miles (720 kilometers) of new wall construction along the 2,000-mile (3,145 kilometer) border. Much of the construction was in areas where there had already been some form of barrier.” (Jonathan J. Cooper, “Biden Is Left With Few Choices As Immigration Takes Center Stage In American Politics,” *The Associated Press*, 2/2/24)

**He Suspended The “Remain In Mexico” Program That Required Migrants To Wait In Mexico While Their Immigration Cases Were Heard.** “Mr. Biden also suspended a Trump-era program that forced migrants to wait in Mexico while their immigration cases made their way through the courts. While the Migrant Protection Protocols, or ‘Remain in Mexico’ program was brought to a halt, Mr. Biden did not lift a pandemic emergency rule that has effectively sealed the border to asylum seekers, according to a statement from the Department of Homeland Security.” (Michael D. Shear, “With His Pen, Biden Moves To Dismantle Predecessor’s Legacy,” *The New York Times*, 1/21/21)

**Biden’s Actions Sent The Message That The Border Was Wide Open And As A Result, The Crisis Has Only Gotten Worse**

**“Illegal Border Crossings Soared In The Months After Biden Took Office And Immediately Rolled Back Many Trump-Era Restrictions.”** (Nick Miroff, Maria Sacchetti and Sarah Frostenson, “Trump vs. Biden On Immigration: 12 Charts Comparing U.S. Border Security,” [The Washington Post](#), 2/11/24)

- **In February 2024, The Washington Post Reported Biden Has Released More Than 2.3 Million Of Those Crossing The Border Illegally Into The U.S. Since 2021.** “The Biden administration has released more than 2.3 million border crossers into the United States since 2021.” (Nick Miroff, Maria Sacchetti and Sarah Frostenson, “Trump vs. Biden On Immigration: 12 Charts Comparing U.S. Border Security,” [The Washington Post](#), 2/11/24)
- **A Separate Report From The U.S. House Judiciary Committee Found 3.3 Million Illegal Immigrants Had Been Released In The U.S.** “Since the inauguration of President Biden on January 20, 2021, over 3.3 million illegal immigrants have been released into the U.S., according to the Committee on the Judiciary and Subcommittee on Immigration Integrity,

Security, and Enforcement, which is costing taxpayers billions at the federal and state levels.”  
(Alexander Fabino, “How Much Do Illegal Immigrants Cost The U.S.?”, [Newsweek](#), 2/2/24)

**Biden’s Orders Sent A “Message To The World That The United States’ Border Are No Longer Slammed Shut.”** “Many of Mr. Biden's actions on Wednesday were aimed at reversing Mr. Trump's harshest immigration policies, moving swiftly to send a message to the world that the United States' borders are no longer slammed shut.” (Michael D. Shear, “With His Pen, Biden Moves To Dismantle Predecessor’s Legacy,” *The New York Times*, 1/21/21)

- **Because Of Biden’s Border Misdeeds, Migrants Got The Sense That The U.S. Has Become More Welcoming, Which Led To The Largest Number Of People Attempting To Enter The U.S. In Two Decades.** “After taking office, Biden began putting this idea into action. He announced a 100-day halt on deportations (which a judge has blocked). He allowed more migrants — especially children — to enter the country, rather than being detained. And Central American migrants, sensing that the U.S. has become more welcoming, are streaming north in the largest numbers in two decades. The surge appears to have surprised the Biden administration, as Doris Meissner of the Migration Policy Institute, who ran the Immigration and Naturalization Service in the 1990s, told me. Republicans have pounced, accusing Democrats of favoring an ‘open border.’” (David Leonhardt, “The Democrats’ Immigration Problem,” *The New York Times*, 3/22/21)

**Under Biden, There Have Been 6 Million Illegal Border Crossings And 2 Million People Who Were Detected But Not Apprehended.** “The U.S. Border Patrol has recorded more than 6 million illegal crossings along the Mexico border since Biden took office, the busiest span in the agency’s 100-year history, in addition to nearly 2 million ‘gotaways’ who were detected but not apprehended.” (Nick Miroff and Toluse Olorunnipa, “Biden Pledge To Shut Down Border Points To Policy Shortfalls,” [The Washington Post](#), 1/27/24)

**In December 2023, Illegal Border Crossing Arrests At The U.S.-Mexico Border Hit An All-Time High.** “Arrests for illegal border crossings from Mexico reached an all-time high in December since monthly numbers have been released. The Border Patrol tallied just under 250,000 arrests on the Mexican border in December, up 31% from 191,000 in November and up 13% from 222,000 in December 2022, the previous all-time high.” (Jonathan J. Cooper, “Biden Is Left With Few Choices As Immigration Takes Center Stage In American Politics,” *The Associated Press*, 2/2/24)

**Daily Encounters Amongst Migrants And U.S. Customs And Border Protection Is Surpassing 10,000 People Per Day.** “U.S. Customs and Border Protection is surpassing 10,000 encounters with migrants along the southern border per day, an influx likely to exacerbate strains on New York, Chicago and other cities already swamped by newcomers seeking shelter, food and assistance.” (Nick Miroff, “U.S. Faces ‘Unprecedented’ Border Surge As Immigration Deal Stalls In D.C.,” [The Washington Post](#), 12/20/23)

**The Vast Number Of People Arriving At The Border Has Led To 2 Million People Being Taken Into Custody, The Largest Number In Border Patrol History.** “Biden warned that he’d still enforce immigration laws, and he temporarily kept in place a Trump pandemic policy known as Title 42 that allowed authorities to quickly expel border crossers. The number of people taken into custody by the U.S. Border Patrol has reached the highest levels in the agency’s 100-year history under Biden, averaging 2 million per year. During the president’s first days in office, his administration announced it would not use the Title 42 policy to turn back unaccompanied minors who arrive without a parent or guardian. Their numbers began to shoot up almost immediately, and images of migrant children and teens packed shoulder-to-shoulder in detention facilities produced the administration’s first border emergency.” (Nick Miroff, Maria Sacchetti and Sarah Frostenson, “Trump vs. Biden On Immigration: 12 Charts Comparing U.S. Border Security,” [The Washington Post](#), 2/11/24)

## **Biden Vs. Trump Border Statistics**

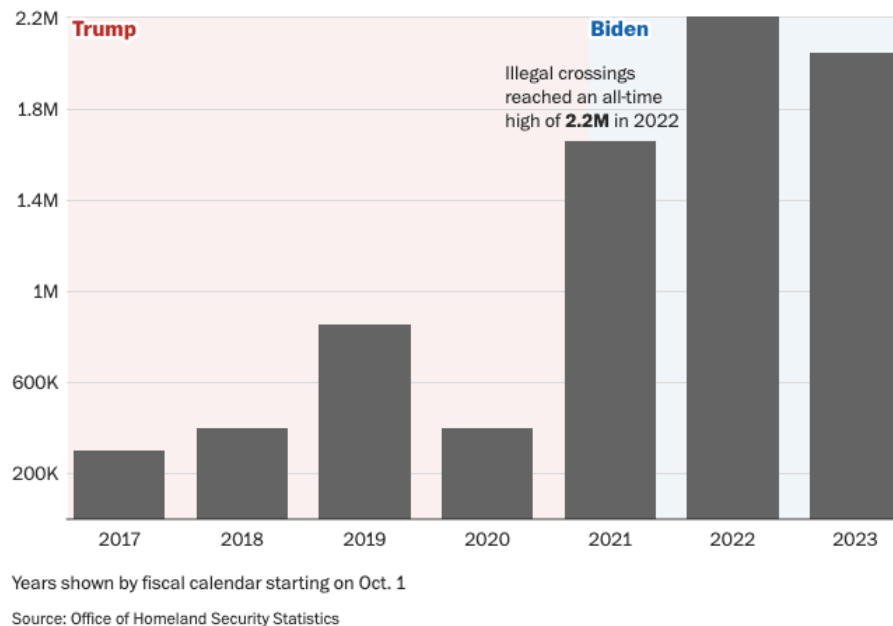
**“Illegal Border Crossings Soared In The Months After Biden Took Office And Immediately Rolled Back Many Trump-Era Restrictions.”** “Illegal border crossings soared in the months after Biden took office and immediately rolled back many Trump-era restrictions. Biden

warned that he'd still enforce immigration laws, and he temporarily kept in place a Trump pandemic policy known as Title 42 that allowed authorities to quickly expel border crossers.” (Nick Miroff, Maria Sacchetti and Sarah Frostenson, “Trump vs. Biden On Immigration: 12 Charts Comparing U.S. Border Security,” [The Washington Post](#), 2/11/24)

**From The Onset Of Biden’s Presidency, Illegal Crossings At The Southern Border Increased Exponentially, Hitting An “All-Time High Of 2.2M In 2022.”** (Nick Miroff, Maria Sacchetti and Sarah Frostenson, “Trump vs. Biden On Immigration: 12 Charts Comparing U.S. Border Security,” [The Washington Post](#), 2/11/24)

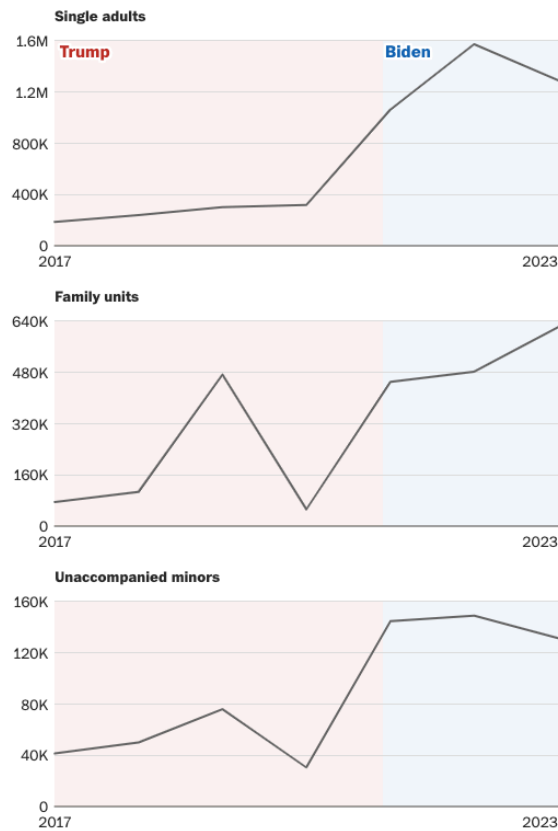
- **In Trump’s Final Year As President, Illegal Crossings Were About 400,000. In Biden’s First Year, Illegal Crossings Increased To About 1.7 Million.** (Nick Miroff, Maria Sacchetti and Sarah Frostenson, “Trump vs. Biden On Immigration: 12 Charts Comparing U.S. Border Security,” [The Washington Post](#), 2/11/24)

## Illegal crossings at the U.S.-Mexico border



**Under Biden, Unaccompanied Children Crossing The Border Is At “Near-Record Numbers” And Families And Single Adults Have Been “Arriving In Historic Numbers As Well.”** “Teens and children crossing without their parents continue to arrive at near-record numbers. Families and single adults have been arriving in historic numbers as well.” (Nick Miroff, Maria Sacchetti and Sarah Frostenson, “Trump vs. Biden On Immigration: 12 Charts Comparing U.S. Border Security,” [The Washington Post](#), 2/11/24)

### Who is crossing the U.S.-Mexico border



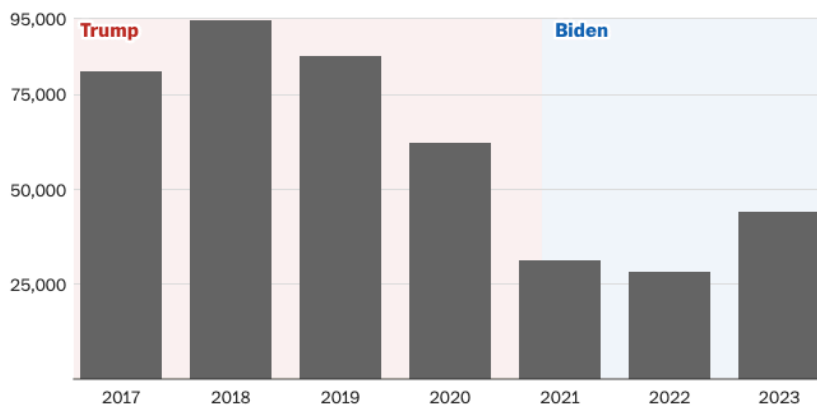
Years shown by fiscal calendar starting on Oct. 1

Source: Office of Homeland Security Statistics

**“Deportations Of Migrants Arrested By ICE Averaged About 80,000 Annually During Trump’s Term. ... Deportations Of Migrants Arrested By ICE Have Fallen To About 35,000 Per Year Since Biden Took Office.”** (Nick Miroff, Maria Sacchetti and Sarah Frostenson, “Trump vs. Biden On Immigration: 12 Charts Comparing U.S. Border Security,” [The Washington Post](#), 2/11/24)

### U.S. interior immigration enforcement

Migrants deported or returned after an ICE arrest by year



Years shown by fiscal calendar starting on Oct. 1

Source: Office of Homeland Security Statistics