

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Wednesday, January 20, 2021 5:05 PM

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: ABC Beltway Blueprint: President Biden and Vice President Harris Inauguration, and Biden Issues New Executive Orders



Legislative, Executive, PAC and FEA Committees, Board Members, Chapter Presidents, and ABC Staff,

Please see below for an update on: legislation, elections, and federal, state, and local policies affecting our construction businesses and workforce; ABC's work with Congress and the administration; upcoming webinars; and critical action alerts to capitalize on opportunities to influence our nation's leaders.

The ABC Beltway Blueprint is also meant to be used as a tool for our state and local chapters to share with their members and provide updates on important ABC actions. As always, feel free to reach out with any questions or concerns.

President Biden and Vice President Harris Sworn into Office:

Earlier today, President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris were sworn into office at their inauguration ceremony at the Capitol. The 46th President largely avoided specific policy proposals while he issued a call for unity to the Nation. In [his speech](#), Biden said "let's start afresh, all of us. Let's begin to listen to one another again," adding "Politics doesn't have to be a raging fire, destroying everything in its path."

While former President Trump refused to attend the event, becoming the first president not to attend the swearing in of his successor since 1869, former Presidents Bush and Obama were in attendance as well as Trump's Vice President Mike Pence and Republican congressional leaders Sen. Mitch McConnell and Rep. Kevin McCarthy. A group of House Republican freshman members, led by Rep. Beth Van Duyne (R-Texas), also [wrote a letter](#) to the incoming president today expressing their hope of working together on COVID relief, infrastructure, and restoring the economy. However, it remains to be seen if Republicans and Democrats will be able to overcome significant policy differences on these key issues in the coming months, and the impeachment trial for Trump in the Senate could heighten political tensions in the new presidency.

Also today, giving Democrats functional control of the evenly split Senate, newly elected Democratic U.S. Senators from Georgia, Jon Ossoff and Raphael Warnock were sworn into office along with newly appointed Senator from California Alex Padilla, who takes Vice President Kamala Harris's vacated seat.

Biden Issues First Executive Actions:

Following the inaugural ceremonies for President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris, the President is set to implement several executive actions through executive orders, presidential memos, and agency directives, impacting a range of federal policies including immigration, economic relief, climate change, and the COVID-19 pandemic. These actions also seek to dismantle policies implemented by the Trump Administration over the past four years on these critical issues. A summary of these actions was sent to news organizations this morning and can be viewed [here](#).

Of note, President Biden will sign a Presidential Memorandum to ensure the continuation of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program that provides temporary protection from deportation and

employment eligibility for undocumented immigrants brought to the U.S. as children. The memo will also urge Congress to pass permanent protections and a pathway to citizenship for DACA recipients. Biden will also end the Trump Administration's national emergency declaration that was used to justify allocating certain federal funds for a border wall.

President Biden also alluded to his regulatory agenda in today's actions, issuing a presidential memo to withdraw the Trump Administration's executive orders on the regulatory process and will direct the administration and federal agencies "to immediately review and take appropriate action to address federal regulations and other executive actions taken during the last four years that were harmful to public health, damaging to the environment, unsupported by the best available science, or otherwise not in the national interest", and further stating that "regulations are an important tool for the federal government to address the crises facing the nation."

Important to his efforts to provide 100 million vaccinations in his first 100 days in office, President Biden will sign an Executive Order "creating the position of COVID-19 Response Coordinator, who will report directly to the President and be responsible for coordinating all elements of the COVID-19 response across government, including managing efforts to produce, supply, and distribute personal protective equipment, vaccines, and tests." The President also seeks to provide economic relief for those impacted by the virus through an extension of federal eviction and foreclosure moratoriums and extension of the pause on student loan interest and principal payments.

ABC will continue to provide updates on presidential actions and their impacts on the construction industry moving forward.

