

## **MCC Presidential Visit (7/7/21): Media Coverage**

### **Print**

**President Biden travels to Crystal Lake on Wednesday in first Illinois presidential visit, Chicago Sun-Times, 7/3/21**

<https://chicago.suntimes.com/politics/2021/7/3/22562494/president-joe-biden-travels-to-crystal-lake-on-wednesday-in-first-illinois-presidential-visit>

WASHINGTON – President Joe Biden will make his first presidential visit to Illinois on Wednesday when he travels to Crystal Lake — a northwest suburb in McHenry County that former President Donald Trump won in 2020.

The White House announced the visit Saturday night.

Sources told the Chicago Sun-Times that Biden, unless plans change, will appear at the McHenry County College in Crystal Lake. Biden will be at the community college to promote his American Families Plan — a package of proposals dealing with, among other items, child poverty and making college more affordable.

While McHenry County voters preferred Trump, Crystal Lake is represented in Congress by Democratic Reps. Lauren Underwood and Sean Casten and they are expected — along with other Illinois Democrats — to be at the event.

In April, First Lady Jill Biden, who teaches at a community college in northern Virginia, made her first visit to Illinois, appearing at Sauk Valley Community College in Dixon.

**President Biden to visit Crystal Lake on Wednesday, MyStateline.com, 7/4/21**

<https://www.mystateline.com/news/president-biden-to-visit-crystal-lake-on-wednesday/>

CRYSTAL LAKE, Ill. (WTVO) — On Wednesday, July 7th, President Joe Biden is expected to visit Crystal Lake, in McHenry County.

President Biden has been on the road, trying to sell voters on the economic benefits of the \$973 billion infrastructure package.

The president was in La Crosse, Wisconsin last week, hoping to boost the bipartisan agreement that is held together in large part by the promise of millions of new jobs.

“This infrastructure bill signals to the world that we can function, we can deliver,” Biden said. “We can do significant things, show that America is back.”

‘We’re not just tinkering around the edges’: Biden taking infrastructure deal on the road

In April, First Lady Dr. Jill Biden visited Sauk Valley Community College in Dixon.

White House officials issued an internal memo that highlights how the largest investment in transportation, water systems and services in nearly a century would boost growth. The memo notes

that the total package is four times the size of the infrastructure investment made a dozen years ago in response to the Great Recession and the biggest since Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal in the 1930s.

We'll have more details on the presidential visit as they become available.

### **Suburban Democrats, MCC quiet about details of Biden's upcoming visit, Chicago Daily Herald, 7/5/21**

<https://www.dailyherald.com/news/20210705/suburban-democrats-mcc-quiet-about-details-of-bidens-upcoming-visit>

Suburban Democratic leaders remain mum about the details of President Joe Biden's planned visit Wednesday to McHenry County College in Crystal Lake.

"The event is not a political event," Kristina Zahorik, chair of the Democratic Party of McHenry County, said in a written statement about Biden's visit. "We are excited, however, that the president is highlighting our great community college and thank him and our Illinois Democratic delegation for supporting building back better with investments in the American Rescue Plan, the American Infrastructure Plan, and the American Family Plan."

Jordan Abudayyeh, Gov. J.B. Pritzker's press secretary, confirmed Monday the governor will join Biden during his visit, though she could not share details.

Stevenson High School alumnus Matt Hill, Biden's senior associate communications director, first announced the president's upcoming visit to Crystal Lake in a tweet Saturday evening. The White House officially has not announced the location of the visit or what topics Biden will discuss.

In a tweet Monday morning, Hill wrote the president will "highlight the benefits the American Families Plan will deliver to working families across the country."

McHenry County College spokeswoman Christina Haggerty could not confirm Monday whether Biden will be making a stop there.

Biden has been touring Midwestern states in the past week to get public support for his bipartisan, \$973 billion infrastructure package and policies geared toward families and education, The Associated Press reported.

Nearly 50% of ballots cast in last November's presidential election in heavily Republican McHenry County favored former President Donald Trump. It's the only collar county that didn't vote for Biden.

U.S. Rep. Lauren Underwood, who represents the 14th Congressional District, hinted in a recent interview with WGN Channel 9 that Biden's visit would be "special."

State and Congressional offices were closed Monday in observance of the Fourth of July holiday.

### **Biden to talk policy, play some politics during Crystal Lake stop, Daily Herald, 7/6/21**

<https://www.dailyherald.com/news/20210706/biden-to-talk-policy-play-some-politics-during-crystal-lake-stop>

The only collar county where the majority voted Republican in the 2020 presidential election was McHenry and that's where Democratic President Joe Biden is headed Wednesday on his first official visit to Illinois since his inauguration.

"It doesn't surprise me at all he would go to McHenry County," said Democratic state Sen. Melinda Bush of Grayslake. "This is about Joe Biden getting out there talking about his vision for what's important and talking to the American people."

But at the same time, McHenry County is a shrewd location to pick with the midterm elections nearing, said political scientist Ken Redfield.

"It makes perfect good sense to be there talking about infrastructure, and bipartisan sorts of things that are good for swing voters within those areas," said Redfield, emeritus professor of political studies at the University of Illinois at Springfield. "It's politically strategic."

Biden garnered 47.7% of the vote in 2020 in McHenry and former President Donald Trump received 50.2%.

Biden is scheduled to speak at McHenry County College in Crystal Lake and possibly indulge his taste for ice cream at a local haunt, one memo circulated among state Democrats suggested.

"We are thrilled that the President of the United States has chosen to visit our wonderful institution," said MCC President Clint Gabbard. "This is a great honor for MCC, and we are happy to provide a setting for the President's first Illinois visit that will reflect our mission of student success."

The president will discuss his American Families Plan, which includes checks of up to \$300 for eligible families starting this month, and will be selling a bipartisan \$973 billion deal on infrastructure.

"I'm excited about his coming, I know he wanted to go to one of the collar counties to visit suburban communities so I'm glad that he'll do that," Gov. J.B. Pritzker said Tuesday at an event in Downers Grove.

Assuming the infrastructure plan squeaks through Congress, it will dovetail with Illinois' six-year capital plan passed in 2019, Pritzker said.

"When the federal infrastructure bill passes, it means we'll be shovel-ready with our matching funds," Pritzker said.

Republican state Sen. Craig Wilcox of McHenry is attending the event. "It certainly is momentous when a president comes to visit a part of the country that hasn't seen that type of a visit before," said Wilcox, a retired colonel in the Air Force. "For McHenry County, for Crystal Lake, for MCC, it's a great honor to have any president come."

Wilcox said he anticipated Biden would be talking about upcoming legislation, adding, "I look forward to being there and hearing what he has to say. I'm going to be prepared on the topics and formulate some questions."

The trip also will showcase Democratic U.S. Reps. Lauren Underwood of Naperville and Sean Casten of Downers Grove, who represent McHenry County. Both faced high-profile opponents in the 2020 election and that's likely to recur in 2022.

White House press secretary Jen Psaki touted Underwood during a briefing Tuesday that included details about Biden's trip.

"Congresswoman Underwood, many of you may know, is a registered nurse, health policy expert, and committed advocate for expanding access to high quality affordable health care," Psaki said.

Biden is expected to chat with Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot at O'Hare International Airport after Air Force One touches down, the Chicago Sun Times reports, but a presidential appearance in heavily Democratic Chicago "doesn't give same kind of impact" as showing the suburbs some love, Redfield said. "The goal is to shore up support within suburban voters."

Political veteran and former Democratic state Sen. Bill Morris thinks Jill Biden might have played a role in the trip's focus.

"The president's wife is a community college professor, so he has a special place in his heart for community colleges," Morris noted. "Also, it will be the community colleges who lead the way in training many of the individuals who will find work under his massive infrastructure program."

Biden couldn't have picked a better place to talk about the American Families Act, Bush said. "It's really looking at how we bring American families along and leveling the playing field for the middle class."

### **Crystal Lake prepares for President Joe Biden visit, ABC7 News, 7/6/21**

<https://abc7chicago.com/politics/crystal-lake-prepares-for-president-biden-visit-/10865259/>

CRYSTAL LAKE, Ill. (WLS) -- President Joe Biden will visit Crystal Lake Wednesday to pitch his American Families infrastructure plan to a part of Illinois where slight majority voted for Donald Trump in the last election.

The details of the visit remain under wraps, but the community is buzzing with enthusiasm and pride on the eve of their first ever visit by a sitting president.

"It's awesome, absolutely awesome" said Mayor Haig Haleblan.

"The fact that he wanted to come here to Crystal Lake says a lot about who I think Joe Biden is," said resident Michael Zellmann. "He's open and I believe the people are willing to listen."

Government helicopters took off from a field on the grounds of McHenry County College, as crews unloaded equipment into the auditorium in anticipation of the visit. Signs welcoming President Biden can be seen across the downtown area, but his agenda has yet to be revealed except for that one stop.

"I'm very excited about President Biden coming to Illinois. He is expected to talk about the American Families plan," said Governor JB Pritzker.

"We've never had a President come to the college so it's exciting," said Crystal Lake resident Wally Leckner.

"We are confident that the plan will help small businesses in the area, as well as working parents who are also business owners," said Vanessa Baker, small business owner.

Biden will also highlight his plan to make college more affordable and plans to relieve student debt.

"I got some debt. President Joe if you wanna pay that off that would be amazing. Send it my way. I would gladly receive it," said Jordan Tratscher.

The visit is important to McHenry County Democrats, too. While former president Trump won McHenry County, vote tabulations show President Biden won Crystal Lake, and easily.

"When you look at McHenry County we have historically been Republican, and Crystal Lake is an amazing community and we are incredibly open to hearing what any politicians has to say especially our president," Zellmann said.

Republican leaders however said they believe the president should visit Chicago and meet with Mayor Lightfoot about addressing the issues of crime and violence.

"There is a crisis going on in that city and it would be a dereliction of duty for him to fly over Chicago," said RNC spokesperson Paris Dennard.

Mayor Lightfoot confirmed meeting with President Biden is part of his agenda. She said common-sense gun control laws will be her first priority their talks.

Some in Crystal Lake's downtown hope the president swings by the Kaleidascoops Ice Cream shop. The owner of the clothes gallery next door is ready.

"When you're out of town how fun is it to bring something home for your wife?" said Sherree Rothstein.

### **Marine Helicopter Squadron touches down ahead of President Biden's arrival in Crystal Lake, Lake and McHenry County Scanner, 7/6/21**

<https://www.lakemchenryscanner.com/2021/07/06/marine-helicopter-squadron-touches-down-ahead-of-president-bidens-arrival-in-crystal-lake/>

The Marine Helicopter Squadron One, consisting of five marine helicopters, landed at the McHenry County College Tuesday ahead of President Joe Biden's visit on Wednesday.

The five helicopters landed on the grass at the McHenry County College in Crystal Lake around 1:30 p.m. Tuesday.

Biden will be coming to Crystal Lake on Wednesday as he tours the Midwest to promote his American Families Plan.

The American Families Plan will provide two years of free community college, provide direct support to children and families, extend tax cuts for families with children and American workers, and assist parents with childcare expenses, according to the White House.

White House Senior Associate Communications Director Matt Hill made the announcement of Biden's trip to Illinois on Twitter Saturday evening.

Hill said that Biden will be traveling to Crystal Lake on Wednesday. It is unclear if Biden will be making any other stops in the area beside the McHenry County College.

Hill said on Tuesday that Biden will tour the college and “see firsthand how the #BuildBackBetter agenda will help students and educators.”

Biden will deliver remarks on how his economic recovery plans will deliver for working families across the country, Hill added.

Illinois Gov. J.B. Pritzker is also expected to attend.

Biden traveled around the Midwest last week to promote his \$973 billion infrastructure deal, which was recently reached with a bipartisan group of senators.

Biden announced on June 25 that he had reached the deal with 11 senators, telling reporters at the White House, “We have a deal. We made serious compromises on both ends.”

CBS News reported that Biden was in La Crosse, Wisconsin on June 29 and in Traverse City, Michigan on Saturday in an effort to get public support for his infrastructure plan.

Members of the president’s administration are also traveling to gather support for the infrastructure plan.

First Lady Jill Biden was in Maine and New Hampshire on Saturday and Vice President Kamala Harris stopped in Las Vegas, Nevada, CBS News reported.

### **THEY'RE LINING UP FOR BIDEN — VIOLENCE ENVELOPS CHICAGO — BIPARTISAN BUST, Politico, 7/6/21**

<https://www.politico.com/newsletters/illinois-playbook/2021/07/06/theyre-lining-up-for-biden-violence-envelops-chicago-bipartisan-bust-493474>

Expect a Democratic extravaganza in Crystal Lake on Wednesday when President Joe Biden comes to town to promote his American Families Plan — a package of legislative proposals that would increase federal spending on child care, paid leave, pre-kindergarten, community college and health care.

Gov. J.B. Pritzker, House Speaker Emanuel “Chris” Welch, and Senate President Don Harmon are all making plans to join Biden at McHenry County College.

The visit will put Biden in Trump(ish) country — McHenry County voters supported Trump 50.2 percent to Biden’s 47.7 percent — but Crystal Lake leans left. It’s represented by Democratic Reps. Lauren Underwood (14th) and Sean Casten (6th), who also are both expected to attend the event.

Underwood and Casten serve in districts once considered GOP strongholds. The Democratic pair have two election victories under their belts but they — and maybe Biden — aren’t taking anything for granted. A visit by the president is always a welcome boost.

Illinois isn’t the first Midwestern state to get attention from Biden. He was in La Crosse, Wis., last week, and visited Traverse City, Mich., over the weekend.

Local Democratic leaders were “mum about the details” of Biden’s visit, reports Daily Herald’s Madhu Krishnamurthy.

"The event is not a political event," Kristina Zahorik, chair of the Democratic Party of McHenry County, said in a statement about Biden's visit. "We are excited, however, that the president is highlighting our great community college and thank him and our Illinois Democratic delegation for supporting building back better with investments in the American Rescue Plan, the American Infrastructure Plan, and the American Family Plan."

Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot won't be attending the suburban gathering, but she is expected to have an audience with Biden. We can guess with our eyes shut what they'll discuss: the problem of gun violence.

Downtown Chicago residents, are planning on the president making a stop in the Loop. Military helicopters have been flying over their high-rise condos, a usual signal that the White House team is practicing for POTUS' arrival.

### **The Spin: President Biden in Illinois tomorrow | Lightfoot plans to press POTUS on gun control | Top cop David Brown hits refrain, blames July 4 violence on courts, Chicago Tribune, 7/6/21**

<https://www.chicagotribune.com/politics/ct-biden-to-visit-illinois-lightfoot-david-brown-crime-spin-20210706-nixqgnscfre2tj4grufdp7x2jq-story.html>

President Joe Biden makes his first official visit to Illinois tomorrow to sell his \$1.8 trillion American Families Plan that calls for universal preschool, free community college, family tax breaks and more. The Democratic-backed package has drawn derision from Republicans who say they are concerned about the price tag and government overreach.

New or increased taxes on the wealthy are what is expected would bankroll the program.

Biden will talk up his proposal at McHenry County College in Crystal Lake; the reliably red Northwest suburb went for President Donald Trump in 2020. Given that Biden is traveling the country to sell the plan, he may be relying on constituents to lean on Republican elected leaders.

The Tribune will be on tarmac watch when Air Force One touches down at O'Hare International Airport. Mayor Lori Lightfoot will be among the prominent Democrats there to meet with the president. On the heels of another violent Fourth of July weekend, Lightfoot told reporters today she'll press Biden and his Justice Department to hit the gas on a recently announced federal and local strike force that would crack down on gun trafficking.

Democratic Gov. J.B. Pritzker said he'll also be with the president tomorrow, and that he expects Biden to trumpet both the American Families Plan and the \$1.2 trillion bipartisan roads and bridges infrastructure plan.

Meantime, state health officials reported no new COVID-19 deaths in Illinois on Monday — the first time that's happened since March 2020. It's possible it's the result of delayed reporting thanks to a three-day holiday weekend. But the cause for optimism remains with yet another restriction lifted: Chicago City Hall is reopening its doors to the public, the mayor announced this afternoon.

President Biden will use McHenry County College as the backdrop to tout his politically divisive American Families Plan.

A closer look at the package shows he's pushing to spend \$109 billion to offer two years of free community college to all Americans, as well as to young immigrants living in the U.S. illegally who were brought to the country as children.

Billed as both a way to help lower and middle income Americans with everything from child care to education, Biden has also pitched this as a way to grease the nation's economic engine. More on the plan [here](#).

Republican lawmakers oppose the plan and some Democrats are grinding their teeth over it because of the cost. But The New York Times reminds that the president "has indicated his willingness to pass the ambitious social spending plan in the Senate with only Democratic votes by using the fast-track budget reconciliation process."

A Democratic president trying to sell the proposal in McHenry County, traditionally Republican territory, might be tough. But White House spokeswoman Jen Psaki told reporters during a news conference that Biden "ran as someone who would represent, not just Democrats, not just Republicans, not just independents, but all people so I would see this as less of a political trip, more of as an opportunity to speak to all Americans."

The president's visit is part of a Midwest tour of sorts.

On Saturday, he traveled to Traverse City, Michigan, to promote the nation's progress on COVID-19, despite the fact that the city fell short of his July Fourth goal to have 70% of the adult population vaccinated. The figure stood at 67%, according to figures from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

And last week he was in Wisconsin to talk about the infrastructure bill.

Biden arrives here on the heels of a long Fourth of July weekend in Chicago that saw at least 108 people shot, 17 fatally. That's the most people shot over a July Fourth holiday weekend in the city since at least 2017, my colleagues Megan Crepeau and Katherine Rosenberg-Douglas report.

During a news conference this afternoon, the mayor said that when she meets with Biden tomorrow she'll press the president to work with Congress to pass "commonsense gun control," something her predecessors Rahm Emanuel and Richard M. Daley also pushed for, my colleague Gregory Pratt notes.

"It makes no sense that we have a no-fly list of people who are too dangerous to get on a plane, but yet they can purchase firearms," she said.

She said she'll also urge Biden to take steps to "hold gun traffickers accountable," including straw purchasers who buy weapons for people who otherwise wouldn't have access to guns, Pratt reports.

Last month, Biden's Justice Department announced it would launch "cross-jurisdictional firearms trafficking strike forces" in five metropolitan areas including Chicago that will crack down on illegal gun sales and illicit trafficking of weapons.

The so-called strike forces would pair federal law enforcement with local police to focus on what Biden said last month was "significant firearms trafficking corridors that fuel violence in New York, Chicago, Los Angeles, the San Francisco Bay Area, and Washington, D.C., as well as in cities and towns along the way."

During today's news conference, the mayor said she'll tell Biden "I want those resources — today."

**President Joe Biden speaks after touring McHenry County College in Crystal Lake, Lake and McHenry County Scanner, 7/7/21**

<https://www.lakemchenryscanner.com/2021/07/07/president-joe-biden-speaks-after-touring-mchenry-county-college-in-crystal-lake/>

President Joe Biden delivered remarks promoting his infrastructure, family, and job plans following a tour of the McHenry County College in Crystal Lake Wednesday afternoon.

Biden arrived early in Crystal Lake from O'Hare International Airport in Chicago around 11:45 a.m. Wednesday.

He appeared at the McHenry County College with Illinois Gov. J.B. Pritzker, Senator Dick Durbin, Senator Tammy Duckworth and Congresswoman Lauren Underwood.

The five of them toured the college and then Biden delivered remarks on stage around 1:45 p.m.

He spoke about the benefits of his Build Back Better agenda, which includes the American Rescue Plan, American Jobs Plan and American Families Plan.

Biden emphasized that his plan starts with education and "any nation that out-educates us is going to out-compete us."

He also said that his plans will provide two years of free community college to every person, address teacher shortages, provide tax cuts for families and expand childcare, among other initiatives.

"Folks, I've laid out a lot of plans here. That's because it's time we have to think bigger, we have to act bolder and we have to build back better," Biden said.

Biden departed Crystal Lake en route to O'Hare in Chicago around 2:30 p.m. where he got on Air Force One and departed for Washington D.C.

Earlier in the day as Biden arrived in Crystal Lake, supporters of former President Donald Trump protested his arrival in McHenry County.

Last week, Biden traveled around the Midwest to promote his \$973 billion infrastructure deal, which was recently reached with a bipartisan group of senators.

The president announced on June 25 that he had reached the deal with 11 senators, telling reporters at the White House, "We have a deal. We made serious compromises on both ends."

CBS News reported that Biden was in La Crosse, Wisconsin on June 29 and in Traverse City, Michigan on Saturday in an effort to get public support for his infrastructure plan.

Members of the president's administration are also traveling to gather support for the infrastructure plan.

**Biden hits Illinois — touts pre-school, Pell Grants, productivity in push for American Families Plan, Chicago Sun-Times, 7/7/21**

<https://chicago.suntimes.com/2021/7/7/22567662/biden-illinois-visit-american-families-lightfoot-pritzker-underwood-preckwinkle-crystal-lake-mchenry>

Vowing “to truly deal everybody in this time,” President Joe Biden on Wednesday used his first visit to Illinois since winning the White House to argue for the need to pass a package of proposals focused on education and child care.

“To truly win the 21st century — and once again lead the world — to truly build an economy from the bottom up and the middle out, to truly deal everybody in this time, we need to invest in our people,” Biden said.

In a visit of a little over three hours, Biden waded into far northwest suburban “Trump Country” — an area won by his Republican predecessor but represented by Democrats in Congress. The president promoted Pell Grants and pre-school, met with local college students, was greeted by friendly Democrats and razzed by Republican demonstrators.

Absent from his public remarks was any mention of the Chicago police officer and two federal agents shot on the Southwest Side hours before he landed at O’Hare Airport.

But in a written statement, White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki said during a meeting on the tarmac with Mayor Lori Lightfoot, “President Biden expressed his personal support for the two ATF officials and the Chicago police officer who were shot earlier today” and “reiterated his commitment to working” with her and others in Chicago to combat gun violence.

Biden also chatted with Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle on the airport tarmac.

In suburban Crystal Lake, a bevy of Illinois Democrats — including Gov. J.B. Pritzker, U.S. Senators Dick Durbin and Tammy Duckworth and U.S. Rep. Lauren Underwood — were also on hand to greet Biden at McHenry County College, the community college where the president promoted his American Families Plan.

Also turning out were about 100 supporters of former President Donald Trump, gathered along a main road leading to the college to remind the Democrat he was still in “MAGA Country.” The former president carried McHenry County in 2020.

Demonstrators waved flags bearing those words, as well as “Trump Country” and “Make America Proud Again” to cheers and honks from onlookers and passersby.

“Fight for your country!” one woman yelled over cheers from other Trump supporters.

Biden came to the community college to promote part of his “Build Back Better” agenda, which includes increasing Pell Grants, offering free community college for first-time students and workers wanting to earn a degree or other credentials and investments in the Registered Apprenticeship program and other pre-apprenticeship programs.

Biden's proposal also includes ensuring all 3- and 4-year-olds have access to free preschool, an increase in the child tax credit and providing community colleges with funds to support "wraparound supports," such as child care.

Biden also met with students who are in a manufacturing program at the college and others in the college's children's learning center, where he touted the proposed changes the country could make to child care.

"All the data shows — if you're able to take your child to work ... you get increased productivity for the parent. ... It really makes a ... difference in terms of generating economic growth as well," the president said. "It's a win-win."

Getting the package of proposals passed will likely be a challenge.

On Tuesday, Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell said Biden and his fellow Democrats are in for "a hell of a fight" over the passage of the plan.

Biden brushed off a question about the Republican's statement while in the children's learning center, saying the Senate minority leader "loves our programs" and has bragged about them back home in Kentucky.

Biden stumped for the child care and education portions of his proposal, as well as the need to invest in jobs and clean energy, which is addressed through his American Jobs Plan.

Three decades ago, the nation was No. 1 in the world for the share of its GDP that it invested in research and development, but now ranks No. 8, Biden said.

"Folks, Democrats and Republicans agree — we can't afford to lose this race," Biden said.

### **President Biden Visits Crystal Lake: What to Know, NBC Chicago, 7/7/21**

<https://www.nbcchicago.com/news/local/president-bidens-visit-to-crystal-lake-what-to-know/2548202/>

President Joe Biden is expected to visit Illinois for the first time since taking office on Wednesday.

Here's what we know so far about the trip, including where he plans to stop, what he hopes to accomplish and how to watch his visit:

Where is Biden today?

Biden is scheduled to visit Crystal Lake on Wednesday. His arrival, tour and remarks can all be watched live in the video player above.

Biden's schedule today

According to the White House, he will arrive at O'Hare International Airport at around 11:35 a.m., where he will be greeted by Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot, per her public schedule.

At 12 p.m., Biden will leave Chicago for Crystal Lake, arriving to McHenry County College at 12:35 p.m. for a 1:20 p.m. tour to "to see how his Build Back Better agenda will help students and educators," according to the White House.

What time is Biden's speech today?

At around 2:05 p.m., Biden will deliver remarks at McHenry County College to "highlight the benefits" of his agenda, the White House says. Illinois Gov. J.B. Pritzker is expected to join Biden for the visit, according to Pritzker's public schedule.

Biden will then leave Crystal Lake for Chicago at around 3:50 p.m., with an estimated departure time from O'Hare of 4:20 p.m.

Why is Biden coming to Crystal Lake?

According to the White House, Biden's trip aims to highlight the benefits of the American Families Plan.

The American Families Plan focuses primarily on children and education. Biden has also toured the Midwest recently promoting the need for a deal to help the nation's infrastructure.

Wednesday's visit will include a focus on the portions of his agenda that didn't make it into the bipartisan infrastructure deal that Biden signed onto in June, which includes hundreds of billions of dollars of investments in roads and bridges, transit systems and broadband, but constitutes only a fraction of the \$4 trillion in spending Biden has proposed as part of a broader plan to reinvigorate the economy and boost the middle class.

On Wednesday, the Democratic president will highlight the rest, including his plans to invest in child care and workforce development programs and provide two years of free community college, universal prekindergarten and paid family and medical leave. He'll make the case that investments in such programs are needed to maintain America's economic growth and competitiveness globally.

He'll also highlight his proposals to establish a clean energy standard and invest in home care for seniors and affordable housing. And he'll speak about his plans to make permanent the expansion in the child tax credit and expanded health care premium subsidies from the COVID-19 aid bill.

"We have parts of McHenry County that still don't have broadband," said state Rep. Suzanne Ness, a Democrat whose district covers part of Crystal Lake. "I hope that's something he'll mention, as well as investing in education, which I think is really important as well."

Pritzker said he looks forward to talking to Biden about the American Families Plan and noted that the infrastructure plan "will be a big victory for us here in Illinois."

"We passed an infrastructure bill two years ago in Illinois and as a result of that the federal infrastructure bill, when it passes, if it passes, when it passes, means that we will be shovel ready with our matching funds in order to take advantage of the federal dollars that will come from an infrastructure bill," he said Tuesday. "So I'm excited about his coming."

The president has made two other recent visits in the Midwest.

Biden traveled to Traverse City, Michigan Saturday as part of an effort to highlight the nation's progress against COVID-19 and promote the infrastructure plan he negotiated with a group of senators. Last

week, the president toured a La Crosse, Wisconsin, transit facility and delivered remarks on the infrastructure deal.

How do residents feel about the visit?

The announcement of the president's visit came as a welcome surprise, according to Crystal Lake Mayor Haig Haleblan.

"We had no idea that Crystal Lake would be chosen," he said. "We're honored and excited to have him come to our town."

Residents and businesses told NBC 5 the presidential stop in Crystal Lake will help paint the community as a welcoming place.

"Anyone coming to Crystal Lake is always a good thing," said restaurant owner Rachel Skubiszewski. "We're an amazing community here."

According to the Crystal Lake Historical Society, President Biden will be the first sitting president to visit Crystal Lake.

Former President Donald Trump won 50.2% of the vote in McHenry County in the 2020 presidential election.

### **The Hill's Morning Report - Biden renews pleas as US COVID-19 vax rate slows, The Hill, 7/7/21**

<https://thehill.com/homenews/morning-report/561794-the-hills-morning-report>

The president and Vice President Harris will meet with leaders across the administration in the Situation Room at 9:30 a.m. to discuss recent ransomware attacks and the administration's strategy to combat such attacks. Biden will travel to Crystal Lake, Ill., near Chicago to promote his proposed spending for a wide range of programs he calls the American Families Plan (ABC7 Chicago and The Associated Press). He plans to tour McHenry County College there at 1:30 p.m. and speak at 2:05 p.m. Biden returns to the White House this evening.

### **'It's so surreal,' says MCC student who introduced Biden, Daily Herald, 7/8/21**

<https://www.dailyherald.com/news/20210707/its-so-surreal-says-mcc-student-who-introduced-biden>

It was the most memorable one-minute conversation of Edith Sanchez's young life.

The 19-year-old from Harvard not only had the opportunity to meet and introduce President Joe Biden during his visit Wednesday at McHenry County College in Crystal Lake, she also exchanged some words with No. 46.

"It's so surreal," said Sanchez, a student trustee on the MCC board and president of the college's Latinos Unidos club. "It was truly an honor and I feel very privileged to be the one chosen to represent the Latino community."

Edith Sanchez, a student trustee at McHenry County College in Crystal Lake, shares her family's immigrant story before introducing President Joe Biden during his visit to the college Wednesday.

Before introducing Biden for his speech to media, officials and guests, Sanchez shared her family's immigrant story and struggles after her parents arrived here more than 20 years ago from Mexico. Today, her mother works in a factory as a welder and her father owns a landscaping business, she said.

"It really touched my heart when (Biden) said this nation wouldn't be anything without immigrants," Sanchez said of her brief conversation with the president.

"He's a really simple person. He is not judgmental at all. I felt really comfortable around him, and being able to talk to him about how my parents motivated me and inspired me to continue."

Sanchez hopes to show the video of her interaction with Biden to her children someday.

Having completed a year of college at MCC, Sanchez is working toward an associate of arts degree and expects to transfer to a four-year university to study psychology and sociology. She said she dreams of becoming a college adviser.

### **Hundreds of suburban protesters, supporters line up outside MCC for Biden visit, Daily Herald, 7/8/21**

<https://www.dailyherald.com/news/20210707/hundreds-of-suburban-protesters-supporters-line-up-outside-mcc-for-biden-visit>

Hundreds of suburban residents lined parkways and roadways, and filled parking lots of churches, gas stations and businesses along Route 14 and nearby streets in Crystal Lake, hoping to see President Joe Biden during his inaugural presidential visit to Illinois.

Snarling traffic for miles, supporters and detractors gathered in and around the McHenry County College campus to welcome Biden to the suburbs or criticize the president for his policies.

Teachers Lora Sprigings Naughton and Jody Landry, both of Crystal Lake, rode their bicycles to McHenry County College in Crystal Lake Wednesday to see President Joe Biden. "This is historic that a president is coming to Crystal Lake for the first time," Naughton said. "I really want to support a president who is trying to unify the country and do what's best for all citizens, not just some."

Landry, 51, said she was there for her 5-year-old daughter.

"This is hope for me," she said. "(I) want her to have a bright future."

Nearly 700 people dressed in red, white and blue dotted both sides of Route 14, waiting for hours in front of the college Wednesday morning. The large crowd had gathered early to get on campus before the Secret Service and local police cordoned off the area. The crowd made it to a few hundred feet from the school, while many other people lined the streets surrounding the campus.

Many protesters carried "Trump 2020" and "Trump 2024" flags. There was a large sheet banner reading "Make America Proud Again," and others with the words "Secure Our Borders," "Biden Take Off Your Mask," and "Trump Country." Two men with bullhorns led the crowd in chants of "Trump Won" and "Biden Lies."

The crowd started out vocal and loud, but grew quiet into the afternoon. A few Trump supporters picked fights among themselves, while several Biden supporters stood on the fringes watching. Trump supporters far outnumbered those who were there to support Biden.

Fred Bock of Crystal Lake and his sister-in-law Candice Bock, both Trump supporters, raised issues with Biden's \$1.8 trillion American Families Plan proposal, which Biden has been promoting during his tour of Midwestern states. They objected to giving Americans two free years of community college education.

"More like free indoctrination," Fred Bock told the Northwest Herald.

Vietnam War veteran Dick Anderson, 76, of Crystal Lake, said he believes President Joe Biden "is trying to build a bridge between the two parties." Behind him, a group of Trump supporters was protesting outside McHenry County College in Crystal Lake Wednesday during Biden's visit.

Many Trump supporters shared doubts about the 2020 election results and whether it was fair. Some criticized Biden's policies on immigration and toward other countries.

"We need to be one America," said Mike Douglas of Crystal Lake, who supported Trump in 2020.

Douglas said he believes there were "illegal votes" cast in the election through mail-in ballots -- an idea Trump propagated.

"Shut the borders down," Douglas said as a message to Biden. "Let's take care of our own country, let's heal ... let's make our country better again."

A 25-year-old Trump supporter from McHenry County, who chose not to give his name, railed against Biden's policies toward Russia and for "starting another proxy war in Syria and Iraq."

"I don't want war, Trump or not," he added.

"I'm so excited he is here in Crystal Lake," said Betsy Bogacz, 73, of Harvard, waiting outside McHenry County College in Crystal Lake Wednesday afternoon to see President Joe Biden.

Many suburbanites said they were proud to have Biden be the first president to visit McHenry County.

"I'm so excited he is here in Crystal Lake," said Betsy Bogacz, 73, of Harvard, who hoped to see the president but couldn't get close enough.

She lamented not being able to bring along her 97-year-old mother, who is a World War II veteran.

"This is a very important day. It doesn't happen all the time," Bogacz said.

Dave Mazurk, 69, of Crystal Lake, said he wanted to see Marine One land Wednesday at McHenry County College because it's "probably the closest I'll get to seeing a president."

"I'm thrilled," Mazurk said. "I think he's doing great. (Trump) created too much division in this country."

Teenagers Victoria Sadlocha, 15, of Lake in the Hills, and sisters Manjot, 17, and Jasmine Kaur, 19, of Carpentersville, said they don't identify as Democrat or Republican and were there Wednesday at McHenry County College to show solidarity for human rights.

"I just like to see the diversity," Victoria said. "Diversity should not equal chaos."

The trio agreed there's been too much divisiveness in this past year, even within their schools.

"I'm just here for Black Lives Matter, for human rights and equal rights," Manjot added.

**Remarks by President Biden During a Tour of McHenry County College, [www.whitehouse.gov](https://www.whitehouse.gov), 7/7/21**

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/speeches-remarks/2021/07/07/remarks-by-president-biden-during-a-tour-of-mchenry-county-college/>

Q: Mr. President, Mitch McConnell says you're in for a heck of a fight on this one.

THE PRESIDENT: Mitch McConnell loves our programs. Did you see what Mitch McConnell said? He told me he wasn't going to get a single vote in order to allow me to get, with the help of everybody here, that \$1.9 trillion tax cut — I mean, excuse me, program to — for economic growth.

Look it up, man. He's bragging about in Kentucky: "It's a great thing for Kentucky. It's getting \$4 billion to help poor." It's amazing. Check out Mitch McConnell. You can even see it on TV.

Anyway, thanks. Thank you.

**With another trip to a swing district, Biden seeks to shore up his agenda and Democrats, Los Angeles Times, 7/7/21**

<https://www.latimes.com/politics/story/2021-07-07/biden-swing-districts-his-agenda-democrats>

WASHINGTON — President Biden's visit to suburban Chicago on Wednesday was like a number of his recent trips — to a politically competitive district where he could promote both his domestic agenda and his party's prospects in next year's midterm election.

In Crystal Lake, Ill., a conservative enclave in the blue state, Biden toured a lab and day-care facility at McHenry County College and spoke to a couple hundred people about his proposed federal investments in workforce training, community college costs, and preschool and child-care subsidies. He also put in a plug for the area's congresswoman, a top Republican target.

"This woman here, hang on to her," Biden said, looking at his side to Democratic Rep. Lauren Underwood.

This was Biden's third such visit to a House battleground in eight days, as the White House has married the president's summer sales pitch for his infrastructure plans in Congress to Democrats' political spadework ahead of the 2022 election.

He traveled last week to La Crosse, Wis., represented by Rep. Ron Kind, one of just six Democrats to win last fall in congressional districts where former President Trump edged Biden. There he sought to build support for his bipartisan agreement with a group of Republican senators to invest \$1.2 trillion over eight years in traditional infrastructure projects. And Biden spent Saturday celebrating the country's progress against the coronavirus during a visit to a cherry orchard in Antrim County, Mich., in the district

of Rep. Jack Bergman, a Republican whom Democrats would love to unseat after Biden fell just short of winning the area.

Former Rep. Steve Israel (D-N.Y.), who chaired the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee from 2011 to 2015, said Biden's broad appeal makes him a political asset for his party: "When I was chairman, we had some national Democrats we'd send to bright blue districts to rev up the base and others we'd send to purple districts to appeal to moderates. Biden was effective in both."

Biden's appearances in swing districts, in Israel's view, are crucial for Democrats to retain control of Congress — but only if he succeeds in selling his agenda.

"Democrats are going to keep or lose the majority based on their ability to win in about 16 swing districts," Israel said. "If a Democratic agenda is viewed popularly in those districts, they'll hang on to the majority. Having a popular president with popular ideas appearing in those places is a win-win."

Jen Psaki, the White House press secretary, told reporters Wednesday that the president's visit to Underwood's district was "in part because [she] is a registered nurse" and an advocate for the healthcare expansion Biden seeks as part of his second, "human infrastructure" proposal, which Republicans oppose.

In a speech at the college, Biden — "explainer in chief," Psaki dubbed him — said the federal government, by subsidizing two years of both preschool and community college, would help working families and boost the economy in the long run.

"To truly deal everybody in this time, we need to invest in our people," he said, drawing a contrast with the tax cuts under the Trump administration that mostly benefited wealthy households and corporations.

And he was blunt about the benefits of extending a new child tax credit: "You'll get cash."

Biden has emphasized his commitment to bipartisan lawmaking even as he seeks to preserve his party's shaky grip on power. The president and his team figure that Biden, and Democrats more broadly, will benefit politically from both his apparent willingness to work with Republicans — a break from his predecessor's hard-edged partisanship — and his ability to sell a sweeping progressive agenda.

"The things he's talking about are already popular, and they're even more popular when people don't see them as being a 'Democrat' or 'Republican' proposal," said a senior administration official, who spoke on the condition of anonymity.

Publicly, the White House has brushed aside questions about the midterm election, which typically doesn't go well for a president's party. When a reporter asked Tuesday whether gas prices could "become a political issue that could be damaging to the president and his party in the coming election," Psaki scoffed. "In 18 months, 17 months?" she said. "OK."

Yet the White House's early focus on pushing policy in key House districts reflects Democrats' confidence in the popularity of their agenda as well as their trepidation that losing control of Congress would greatly limit their power in the second half of Biden's term.

"Most presidents don't use the odd-numbered year, but Biden has changed the calendar," said Democratic pollster Peter Hart, who shares the concern that Republicans could triumph in 2022.

“Democrats are going to have a very hard time holding the House and Senate, and there’s no time to waste.”

Republican consultant Alex Conant called the 2022 midterm election “a toss-up” and said Biden was smart to make early efforts in competitive districts. “I don’t think anyone can predict what the issues will be next year,” he said. For Democrats, he added, “their best hope of keeping their majorities is by getting started early.”

President Joe Biden speaks with Sen. Rob Portman, R-Ohio, and other bipartisan group of senators, Thursday June 24, 2021, outside the White House in Washington. Biden invited members of the group of 21 Republican and Democratic senators to discuss the infrastructure plan. From left are Portman, Sen. Bill Cassidy, R-La., Sen. Lisa Murkowski, R-Alaska, Biden, Sen. Joe Manchin, D-W.Va., rear, and Sen. Kyrsten Sinema. (AP Photo/Jacquelyn Martin)

Jeremy Rosner, another Democratic pollster, agreed that forecasting the midterm election is harder than normal. He cited unprecedented factors such as the ebbing COVID-19 pandemic and the fallout of the Jan. 6 insurrection, as well as potentially strong economic growth — all of which could disturb the historical trend of presidents seeing their party lose ground in midterm elections.

Rosner said he’s not surprised that the White House is dismissing questions about 2022 politics. “To talk about it would be malpractice,” he said. Yet, he added, “To not think about it would be malpractice.”

Biden’s travel also suggests at least glancing attention to 2024 and his potential reelection bid. Saturday’s trip to Michigan was his third visit to the battleground state since taking office.

**Watch now: Biden, in Illinois, touts families plan, infrastructure deal, The Southern Illinoisan, 7/8/21**

[https://thesouthern.com/news/state-and-regional/govt-and-politics/watch-now-biden-in-illinois-touts-families-plan-infrastructure-deal/article\\_26696954-a359-5d5f-83fd-9e290241f1fe.html](https://thesouthern.com/news/state-and-regional/govt-and-politics/watch-now-biden-in-illinois-touts-families-plan-infrastructure-deal/article_26696954-a359-5d5f-83fd-9e290241f1fe.html)

CRYSTAL LAKE — President Joe Biden pitched his proposed investments in families and education at an Illinois community college on Wednesday, telling residents of the swing district that what's good for families is also good for the economy.

The president set out for the Chicago suburbs to bolster support for both his bipartisan infrastructure deal and a broader package that he expects will be passed with only Democratic votes. His message is one designed to resonate with suburban parents, college graduates and the working poor — a coalition that was key to Biden's election win last year.

“There’s a lot of work ahead of us to finish the job, but we’re going to get it done,” Biden said in a 30-minute speech that he self-deprecatingly suggested was boring but important. “We’re going to reimagine what our economy and our future could be.”

Before the speech, Biden toured a metals lab at the McHenry County College. His message was that any investments in manufacturing, roads and bridges should be paired with funding for child care, health care and education.

The president listed details of the bipartisan infrastructure deal, but the agreement constitutes only part of the \$4 trillion in spending Biden has proposed in a broader plan to reinvigorate the economy and boost the middle class. Republicans have warned that the tax increases on corporations and the wealthy needed to fund Biden's ambitions will hurt the economy.

Among Biden's proposals are two years of free community college, universal prekindergarten and paid family and medical leave. He also seeks to extend the expansion in the child tax credit and the health care premium subsidies from the COVID-19 aid bill.

Democrats plan to include much of this in a bill they hope to pass through a legislative maneuver that would require just a simple majority vote, skirting the 60-vote hurdle in an evenly divided Senate. Biden has said he would prefer that the two bills move through Congress together, and Democrats are hoping to make progress this month on both.

Lt. Gov. Juliana Stratton in a statement released by her office said: "It was exciting to be at President Biden's address today where he laid out a plan that does just that. His plan for universal preschool, free community college, affordable child and elder care will help build back a better nation, and a better Illinois for all residents, but especially for those in under resourced communities."

First lady Jill Biden visited an elementary school in Washington to discuss how the trillions of dollars the president wants Congress to spend on families would pay for more affordable child care, preschool for all 3- and 4-year-olds, larger salaries for teachers and modern school buildings with safe drinking water, along with more teachers of color and more nurses and counselors to help students with their emotional and other needs.

"You and your students will continue to be one of our top priorities, not just in one legislative bill, but in everything we do," she said during a speech to a virtual meeting of the American Federation of Teachers union.

President Biden was greeted by Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot when he landed in Illinois and was met at the community college by Democratic Gov. J.B. Pritzker; Illinois' two Democratic senators, Dick Durbin and Tammy Duckworth; and Democratic Rep. Lauren Underwood, who represents the district.

Biden won Illinois' 14th Congressional District by about 2 percentage points in 2020, and Underwood won reelection by less than that. Hers is one of the top-targeted seats in the nation and is emblematic of the kind of district Democrats will need to hold onto in the 2022 midterms if they hope to maintain control of the House.

### **President Biden visits Illinois to sell voters on families agenda, Herald & Review, 7/7/21**

[https://herald-review.com/news/state-and-regional/govt-and-politics/president-biden-visits-illinois-to-sell-voters-on-families-agenda/article\\_be5f8189-30e3-5ac3-b621-865d29ce25fe.html](https://herald-review.com/news/state-and-regional/govt-and-politics/president-biden-visits-illinois-to-sell-voters-on-families-agenda/article_be5f8189-30e3-5ac3-b621-865d29ce25fe.html)

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The Biden administration promoted its agenda on multiple fronts Wednesday.

First lady Jill Biden visited an elementary school in Washington to discuss how the trillions of dollars the president wants Congress to spend on families would pay for more affordable child care, preschool for all 3- and 4-year-olds, larger salaries for teachers and modern school buildings with safe drinking water, along with more teachers of color and more nurses and counselors to help students with their emotional and other needs.

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## **Biden visits Illinois college to push investment as tax battle builds, Reuters, 7/7/21**

<https://www.reuters.com/world/us/biden-visits-illinois-college-push-investment-tax-battle-builds-2021-07-07/>

WASHINGTON, July 7 (Reuters) - President Joe Biden will make the case for spending trillions of dollars on U.S. infrastructure, paid for by higher taxes on corporations, at an Illinois community college on Wednesday, as opposition builds from U.S. business groups.

Biden's focus will be on what the White House calls "human infrastructure" that did not make it into a \$1.2 trillion bipartisan deal struck with Republicans.

The policies include tax rebates for parents, free preschool and community college, healthcare and clean energy subsidies as well as paid medical leave, financed by raising corporate taxes on U.S. companies.

Corporations currently supply less than 10% of U.S. tax revenue, down from nearly 40% in the 1940s.

The Biden administration's bedrock economic argument is they and wealthy Americans are not paying their "fair share" to support research, education, infrastructure and workers in the world's largest economy.

The International Monetary Fund projects 2021 U.S. growth at 7.0%, one of the strongest recoveries worldwide from the recession induced by the COVID-19 pandemic, if Biden's plans are enacted.

Biden will speak at McHenry County College in Crystal Lake, Illinois, near Chicago. He will note that Illinois has 2,374 bridges and more than 6,200 miles of highways in need of repair and that one of every 10 people in the state lacks access to high speed internet.

Democrats hope that most of the proposals not in the bipartisan bill will pass under a budget mechanism that would require only a simple majority in the U.S. Congress, bypassing Republicans, who oppose any new corporate taxes.

Republican Senate leader Mitch McConnell on Tuesday vowed a "hell of a fight for what this country ought to look like in the future" over the tax and spending issue. [read more](#)

U.S. business lobbying groups who backed the bipartisan plan are gearing up to fight looming corporate tax hikes, using the same argument they employed in 2017 to secure huge tax cuts from Republicans: higher corporate taxes equal fewer jobs.

"We don't know what's in that package," Rachele Bernstein, chief tax counsel for a retail lobby group, said of the Democrats' bill. "But we don't think it is good to use a corporate tax increase to finance spending."

## **Biden shifts to pitching his American Families Plan, emphasizing Democratic priorities, The Washington Post, 7/7/21**

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2021/07/07/biden-illinois/>

CRYSTAL LAKE, Ill. — President Biden said Wednesday that his focus remains on his administration's expansive efforts to invest in programs that touch many facets of American life, not just the bipartisan infrastructure agreement that has spent weeks in the spotlight.

Biden toured McHenry County College, which has a workforce development plan and on-site child-care facility, two programs that exemplify cornerstones of his American Families Plan. Those initiatives are not part of the infrastructure framework agreement that Biden and a group of Republican and Democratic senators announced last month.

In the opening minutes of his remarks at the community college, which is a 90-minute drive northwest of Chicago, Biden lauded the work of the legislative group that had forged a framework for a compromise on infrastructure. But the president spent the bulk of the half-hour speech stressing that much more needs to be done.

"I'm here to make the case for the second critical part of my domestic agenda," Biden told the crowd. "It's a combination of parts of my American Jobs Plan that were essential and not included in the bipartisan infrastructure plan as well as my American Families Plan."

The speech was a balancing act for Biden, who campaigned for president on a promise to unite the country following Donald Trump's hyperpartisan tenure. But some in the Democratic Party have pushed back on Biden's efforts to reach across the aisle, threatening to oppose the infrastructure agreement, saying it cedes too much to Republicans. Their resistance would be a significant threat in a Congress where Democrats hold a thin majority.

White House officials signaled that Biden's trip was an effort to allay concerns that the administration was too focused on the bipartisan agreement instead of the transformational changes he and other Democrats vowed to enact if given control of the White House and Congress.

Last month, Biden and a bipartisan group of legislators announced that they had come to terms with a scaled-back framework for an infrastructure bill that includes hundreds of billions of dollars in investments for roads, bridges, broadband and transit systems. If passed, it would be a significant cross-party achievement to fulfill one of the top goals of Biden's administration. And if the across-the-aisle support holds up, it could pass with a filibuster-proof supermajority.

Since the agreement was announced, the politicians who helped forge it have been on a bipartisan victory lap of sorts. In La Crosse, Wis., last week, Biden said the deal was an example of the unity he promised to bring and a sign that democracies can deliver for their people, despite partisan rancor.

"After months of careful negotiation, of listening, of compromising, together and in good faith moving together, with ups and downs and some blips, a bipartisan group of senators got together, and they forged an agreement to move forward on the key priorities of my American Jobs Plan," Biden said.

In Illinois, Biden and the White House stressed that all that high-minded talk of unity did not mean they were abandoning the ambitious policy goals Biden has proposed.

During a meeting with reporters on the Air Force One ride to Illinois, press secretary Jen Psaki said Biden's focus was on benefits that are on "generational investments in infrastructure ... that aren't included in the bipartisan framework." And after touring the McHenry County College campus, Biden stressed that his sights are still set on the American Families Plan that his administration has proposed,

which he said Wednesday would energize the economy, boost the middle class and make America more competitive on the world stage.

Biden in his speech highlighted a slate of liberal priorities: investments in child care and the workforce; universal prekindergarten and two years of free community college; investments in affordable housing and a “care economy” that would include caring for seniors; and a clean-energy standard that would require power companies to source more electricity from renewable and clean sources.

“It’s about time,” Biden said. “There’s a lot of work ahead of us to finish the job, but we’re going to get it done. We’re going to reimagine what our economy and our future could be, and show the world ... that democracy can deliver for its people.”

But even as he spoke, signs of the tension within his party were apparent.

In a fundraising email sent as Biden traveled to Illinois, Rep. Jamaal Bowman (D-N.Y.) said liberals helped elect Biden on a platform of climate and racial justice, then helped Democrats get control of the Senate. Compromising with Republicans, Bowman said, wasted those efforts.

“Look. If we do not fight for our communities and put them in the center of the work we do — if we continue to prioritize the myth of ‘bipartisanship’ over the people we were elected to fight for and represent in Washington — we will lose elections,” Bowman said in the email. “If we want to maintain control and the opportunity to do great work beyond 2022, Democrats need to deliver in this very moment. ... My priorities are with getting communities like mine back on our feet — not with compromising with Republicans.”

While Democrats hold power in both the House and Senate, this iteration of the legislative branch has some of the thinnest voting margins Capitol Hill has ever seen. The Senate is evenly split between both parties, and Democrats have the edge because of Vice President Harris’s tiebreaking vote. In the House, Democrats effectively have a four-seat margin, which means passing anything on a party-line vote would require virtually all Democrats to agree.

But Biden stressed that in his five months in the White House, he has still been able to get things done, including making strides on the pandemic and presiding over a rebounding economy — using an across-the-aisle reference to make his point.

“The last time [the] economy grew at this rate, Ronald Reagan was telling us there was an American morning,” Biden said. “This is going to be an American century.”

### **On O’Hare tarmac, Biden, Lightfoot huddle on Chicago violence before president’s Crystal Lake speech, Chicago Sun-Times, 7/7/21**

<https://chicago.suntimes.com/columnists/2021/7/7/22567703/ohare-tarmac-biden-lightfoot-huddle-chicago-violence-before-presidents-crystal-lake-speech>

WASHINGTON — Chicago’s unrelenting gun violence — with two ATF agents and a Chicago police officer shot hours before President Joe Biden landed at O’Hare for his first presidential visit to Illinois — underscores the urgent need for his administration to speed up the timetable for help promised last month.

As Air Force One was flying to O'Hare — and knowing Mayor Lori Lightfoot was waiting for Biden on the tarmac — White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki told reporters, “The administration is in touch with the mayor of Chicago about the shootings overnight and offered condolences for the families.”

The Biden presidential visit — he was en route to Crystal Lake to promote his domestic agenda in Trump territory and boost Rep. Lauren Underwood, D-Ill. — forced rivals Lightfoot and Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle to stand feet from each other as they waited for their solo tarmac time with Biden.

After Biden spoke at McHenry County College in Crystal Lake, Psaki said in a statement — using a bit of Washington shorthand to describe the very brief meeting — “During a greet with Mayor Lightfoot on the airport tarmac, President Biden expressed his personal support for the two ATF officials and the Chicago police officer who were shot earlier today.

“He reiterated his commitment to working with the Mayor and leaders in Chicago in the fight against gun violence and conveyed that the Department of Justice would soon be in touch about the strike force announced just a few weeks ago that will be working with cities like Chicago.”

This “soon be in touch.” What is soon? The July 4 holiday weekend was the most violent of the year so far in Chicago, with 104 shot and 19 of them killed.

On June 23, Biden unveiled proposals to curb gun trafficking in Chicago, New York, Los Angeles, the San Francisco Bay area and Washington, D.C.

The promise was for the Justice Department to create “five cross-jurisdictional firearms trafficking strike forces within the next 30 days to help reduce violent crime by addressing illegal gun trafficking in significant firearms trafficking corridors.”

A DOJ spokesperson told me Wednesday the strike forces are still being developed and will launch later this month.

The idea, said the spokesperson, is for the Biden strike forces to be different from Operation Legend, a Trump administration temporary surge of law enforcement officials to Chicago and other cities that ended, according to the spokesperson, in December.

“The strike forces announced on June 23 are a separate effort to stem gun violence,” the DOJ spokesperson said. “They will represent a sustained and focused coordination among federal, state, and local law enforcement partners across jurisdictions in significant firearms trafficking corridors.”

The aim is to “disrupt” the flow of guns before they get to Chicago.

The sooner the better.

#### ON TRUMP TURF, BIDEN SPOTLIGHTS UNDERWOOD, DOMESTIC AGENDA

The White House designed Biden's trip to Crystal Lake — in McHenry County, in one of the redder, Trumpier parts of the very blue state of Illinois — to rally national support for his two massive domestic packages pending before Congress.

“I know it’s a boring speech,” Biden said after his address at McHenry County College. He didn’t need that touch of self-deprecating humor, but there it was. Before he spoke he did a photo line backstage, with a bunch of Democratic elected Illinois officials.

In his speech, Biden talked about the billions of dollars people and local governments already got from COVID-19 stimulus bills — and more to come for child care, education and traditional infrastructure projects like roads and bridges if deals can be made in Congress.

And in Illinois, under a program Biden signed into law, thousands of families with adjusted gross incomes of less than \$150,000 will find on July 15 new money in their bank accounts. “You’ll get cash,” Biden said.

The money will be payment of an enhanced child tax credit of between \$250 and \$300 for each child under the age of 17. The monthly payments will run through December; Biden wants to extend them to 2025.

According to the Illinois Department of Revenue, in McHenry County there are more than 32,000 children under age 17 listed on taxpayer returns with an adjusted gross income of less than \$150,000.

Underwood represents part of Crystal Lake, and Biden’s recent travels have been to congressional districts with vulnerable House members like Underwood. The Democrats control the House with only a four-vote margin.

Biden came to McHenry County to bolster Underwood, with that county, a sort of Trumpian stronghold, Underwood’s political Achilles heel. Illinois Democrats, in the pending remap, may well create a new congressional district that cuts out McHenry County.

Still, the Biden spotlight helps Underwood in fundraising and stature. Said Biden during the college tour, pointing to Underwood, “This woman here, hang on to her.”

**Press Gaggle by Press Secretary Jen Psaki Aboard Air Force One En Route Crystal Lake, IL,**  
[www.whitehouse.gov](https://www.whitehouse.gov), 7/7/21

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/press-briefings/2021/07/07/press-gaggle-by-press-secretary-jen-psaki-aboard-air-force-one-en-route-crystal-lake-il/>

MS. PSAKI: Hi, everyone. Welcome to our trip to Crystal Lake, Illinois. In Crystal Lake, the President will make the case for generational investments in human infrastructure and other critical priorities like clean energy that form his Build Back Better agenda, a combination of the American Families Plan, and policies from the American Jobs Plan that aren’t included in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Framework.

At McHenry County College, which has workforce development programs and a childcare center, the President will underline the specific game-changing impacts of the Buil- — his Build Back Better agenda.

He will argue that to build an economy from the bottom up and the middle out, we need to invest in our people by providing four additional years of public education to every student, increasing Pell Grants and investing in job training.

You'll also hear him talk about the fact that, as a former single father, he will — he will stress that his plan is to help boost childcare affordability by building new childcare centers and ensuring that no middle-class family pays more than 7 percent of their income on high-quality care for children up to age five.

He will also note that the Build Back Better plan will invest in the childcaring workforce, provide parents with an up to \$8,000 tax credit to cover their childcare expenses, institute 12 weeks of paid family and medical leave, and extend [sic] — and extend the expanded Child Tax Credit from the Rescue Plan.

Finally, with over 10 million Americans currently paying over half of what they earn in rent, the President will cover how the Build Back Better agenda includes a historic investment in affordable housing — something I think you all haven't heard him talk about that much yet — to address supply and building or rehabilitating more than 2 million homes.

One other item for all of you: Today we also announced three initiatives as part of the President's forthcoming executive order, fulfilling his campaign promise to promote competition in labor markets in order to raise wages and make it easier for workers to change jobs and to move between states.

First, roughly half of private sector businesses require at least some employees to enter non-compete agreements, affecting over 30 million people. This affects construction workers, hotel workers, many blue-collar jobs, not just high-level executives. He believes that if someone offers you a better job, you should be able to take it. It makes sense.

So, in keeping with his campaign promise, the executive order will call on the FTC to adopt rules that curtail non- compete agreements. His executive order will also call on the Federal Trade Commission to adopt rules that ban unnecessary occupational licensing requirements. Today, almost 30 percent of jobs in the U.S. require a license from attorneys and accountants to interior designers and hairdressers.

While occupational licensing can serve important health and safety concerns, unnecessary or overly burdensome licensing can lock people out of jobs. This hugely affects military families in particular, over one third of whom work in a field requiring a license and who are subject to military-directed moves every year.

Finally, a little update for you on vaccine doses. Today we're announcing we are sharing more doses with Latin America. One million Johnson & Johnson doses will be headed to Bolivia on Thursday. One million doses of Pfizer will be sent to Paraguay.

Sorry, actual last thing: The Department of Education also released today nearly \$6 billion in American Rescue Plan funds to six states and Washington, D.C., to support the safe reopening of K-through-12 schools.

Lots going on. Go ahead.

Q A couple of questions. Off the top, I know the midterms are a while away, but they come quicker than you expect, so can we talk politics a little bit, partly because the President has visited three top targeted congressional districts in the past week. Obviously, today is one of them. So, considering the party in power typically loses seats in a midterm, is part of the strategy right now to mitigate those potential losses? And does the White House see the President's policies as swaying voters in the upcoming midterms?

Well, first, I would say that the President is visiting this district in Illinois today because Congresswoman — in part because Congresswoman Lauren Underwood has — is a registered nurse. She's a champion for healthcare and expanding access to affordable healthcare. And that certainly is part of what's under discussion and what is part of his Build Back Better agenda.

I will say that when the President put together his economic plans — his Build Back Better agenda, the American Rescue Plan, the American Jobs Plan, the American Families Plan — what he had in mind was governing for all Americans — Democrats, Republicans — and making clear that he was going to be the President for everyone, not just the people who voted for him.

And certainly the most effective role he can play as President, as Commander-in-Chief, and certainly as leader of the party, is to go out there and do what he does best, which is to be the “explainer-in-chief” and make — and lay out the specific plans and specific ways his plans, his proposals, and the agenda of the Democratic Party, but also his administration, are going to help people across the country.

Q And then, on these cyberattacks, the RNC was just attacked by a likely Russian actor. And so, considering that reining in these cyberattacks was a central focus of the Putin summit, does the President still believe that that summit was a success considering we've seen two new Russia-linked cyberattacks in the last week?

And then, coming out of this interagency meeting that just happened, can you tell us a little bit more about what went on there and if there were any sort of clear retaliatory actions that the U.S. is considering in response to these attacks?

MS. PSAKI: Sure. First, on the RNC report — because I think some of the reporting got a little ahead of where the administration is and where actual attribution is. I'd also note that the RNC put out a statement conveying this was a third-party vendor and that none of their data was accessed.

So we, of course, are investigating. The FBI, CISA are in touch with the RNC, and when — we will determine attribution and make a decision accordingly.

As it relates to the meeting that the President had earlier today, he met — the President and the Vice President, I should say, met this morning with our national security team as a part of an internal update briefing on our across-whole-of-government effort to address ransomware attacks.

Now, I would remind all of you that ransomware attacks are not new; they long predated this administration. What is new is this level of engagement at the — at a high level — at the highest level, ongoing high-level engagement from our national security officials with the Russian government, and expert-level talks about the cyber and ransomware attacks.

So, in this meeting, they provided an update on their ongoing work: surge capacity, resilience and reporting, addressing payment systems, and our ongoing efforts to combat ransomware.

We don't have anything new to report in terms of attribution, nor do we have anything to preview in terms of operational actions or considerations.

What we do continue — what we did — they did discuss is the fact that the President reserves the right to respond against any ransomware networks and those that harbor them. That continues to be his policy.

Q But what did the President mean today when he said, at departure, that he would “deliver” this message to Putin?

MS. PSAKI: Well, I think the question was — I can’t remember what the context —

Q The question was, “What’s your message to Putin?” And he said, “I’ll deliver it to him.”

MS. PSAKI: I think he wasn’t going to share with all of you what he just discussed in a private briefing. (Inaudible.)

Q Has the RNC asked the administration for assistance at all? Have you been in — has the administration —

MS. PSAKI: The FBI and CISA have been in touch with the RNC, yes.

Q Jen, can I ask for an update on OPEC? Do you have any new details about outreach from the administration — who’s been doing that? Do you still feel encouraged, like you did yesterday, as the talks continue to drag out? And just a general kind of status check on how things are going.

MS. PSAKI: I certainly understand your question. We don’t have any update from yesterday. Just to reiterate: While we’re not a party of OPEC, we are in touch with key participants in these discussions. We’re encouraged that they’re continuing, but we don’t have any update on the status.

Q Still don’t expect the President to get involved directly at any point?

MS. PSAKI: I don’t have any expectation of that at this point, or prediction (inaudible).

Q Can I go back to cyber just for one second?

MS. PSAKI: Sure.

Q You mentioned payment systems, and I know that you’re looking into whether — you know, how to approach this — how ransoms are paid, and whether they should be paid in that entire question. But given the role that cryptocurrencies are playing in that, is that an area that you’re looking into for further investigations?

MS. PSAKI: Yeah, that’s a part of ransom payments. And I should just say that part of this is there’s been ongoing work led by Deputy National Security Advisor Anne Neuberger and others across the government to consider what has long been a range of issues as it relates to ransomware attacks. And certainly cryptocurrency, the role of cryptocurrency, the role of payment systems is a part of that.

Surge capacity — the importance of partnering but also encouraging the private sector to harden their own protections — that’s all part of it. And this was a internal, you know, somewhat standard update, but one with an across-the-government representation.

Q And then one more on that. So, sanctions are one of the tools that you’ve used against Russia. You used them in response to election interference issues. And I’m wondering, if this is something that we see happening with the RNC — another leg of Russia attempting to interfere in the political process here — do you still see sanctions as a viable tool for dealing with that?

MS. PSAKI: Well, first, I would say, on the RNC piece, I think it's really important to asse- — to speak to where we are in this moment, which is the RNC has put out a statement conveying this was a third-party vendor. They've said none of their data was accessed. So it's not that at this point. We're investigating. We'll conclude the investigation and make an assessment.

In terms of operational considerations, obviously it's not in our interest to preview those or preview our punches, as I like to say. The President has a range of options should he determine to take action.

Q On Afghanistan: How is the U.S. going to continue its civilian — its civil and humanitarian support for the country if the Taliban continues its march? Is there a plan to work with the Taliban? Is there — how do you do it?

MS. PSAKI: Well, first, there are ongoing political negotia- —

(Turbulence on the plane.)

Ooh, okay. Oh, okay, let's see how this happens here. Everyone is okay on the plane — happy to report — currently. (Laughter.) Alex has been teaching me. I've flown a little, but everyone seems fine.

Okay. Okay, sorry. To get back to your question: So, there are a number of efforts that will be underway; one are political negotiations. Certainly, the State Department would provide an update of when those will reconvene, but we certainly expect and hope and are supportive of the continuation of those political discussions.

One of the reasons that the President made the decision he did is because he does not feel there's a military solution for a 20-year war. Has — has long felt there was not a military solution. Diplomatic negotiations.

Two, as he reiterated when Afghan leaders were here just a couple of weeks ago, we will continue to provide, as you said, humanitarian assistance, security assistance. We intend to continue to have a diplomatic presence on the ground in Kabul, even after we bring the servicemen and women home at the end of August. So, that is a mechanism for that.

I would say, three, obviously, as you know, we're going to continue to work with partners in the region to plan for our own CT preparations.

Q On vaccination: Yesterday, you talked about door knocking, which is a pretty standard thing, and it was picked up in the far-right sphere as, you know, "the government is going to come to your door and make you get a vaccine." I am wondering your reaction to that and what that type of messaging does for the efforts to, you know, convince people who might be hesitant to get vaccinated.

MS. PSAKI: Well, I appreciate the question. Well, let me tell you what this is and what it is not. What this effort is is a continuation of what we have seen as an impactful effort that we've had by local public health officials and volunteers in a range of communities over the last month of action.

We've actually seen an impact — a positive impact of a range of steps we've taken in states like Florida, Mississippi, others where there have been lower vaccination rates. There's been actually an increase by over 4 percent in Florida, over the last month, of adults.

But what we're doing is local officials are going to areas where there are lower vaccination rates and providing information on where people can get access to a vaccine, where they can go, that it's free, that they can take time off of work. It's up to individuals to decide whether they want to get vaccinated or not.

But what we've seen as a barrier all along, for months, has been access and information, and so we're going to continue to deploy the tactic — tactics that we've seen effective over the last few months.

Q And a lot of folks in the public health world have said that while they appreciate the voluntary nature, that you guys are — you know, what you just said, that it's up to the individual to get vaccinated — they also think that the only way to get to, sort of, much larger numbers of vaccinated people is if there are mandates — whether those be mandates by private companies for their employees or universities or public schools or states that mandate for different kinds of, you know, healthcare workers or others.

Yesterday, when I asked you the question, you said you had no interest in the government — that the administration has no interest in encouraging that. I mean, is that really the position of the federal government, is that you do not want to encourage the kind of mandates that public health officials say would work?

MS. PSAKI: Well, I think, for clarity, that's not currently the role of the federal government. And our role is to provide supply, provide information, provide public health experts. As — to your point, there are a number of private sector entities, universities, institutions that are starting to mandate, and that's an innovative step that they will take and they should take. That's not — and we're not taking issue with that.

Q But public health officials say that you guys are in a — and the President of the United States, with his bully pulpit and, you know, obviously taking not the kind of hands-off approach that Donald Trump took to federal (inaudible) —

MS. PSAKI: I would say first —

Q — they want you to — they want you to be part of pushing these institutions to do that.

MS. PSAKI: But, Mike, I think the important thing to remind everyone of is that, one, we have reduced the rate of COVID by 90 percent. We've reduced the death rate by 90 percent. Almost 70 percent of the adult population is vaccinated, and we're continuing to press further.

There are institutions, there are private sector entities that will take this step. We're not standing in their way. Those are innovative steps. Go forward and take steps that you feel are appropriate. We're just talking about what the steps are, what the role is of the federal government.

Q You had said to me that you're sort of trapped between —

Q (Inaudible) on the violence in Chicago?

MS. PSAKI: Yeah.

Q The administration is sort of trapped between the people who are saying, “You need to do more; you need to mandate or you’re just not going to reach people,” and the people who are saying, “Oh, my God. The government is going to mandate this.” It seems like you’re kind of stuck in the middle.

MS. PSAKI: Sure. But I think what we continue to remember is what constructive role we can play as the federal government, and that includes continuing to use resources to get out into communities; to empower public health officials; to get accurate information out; to ensure people understand, as the CDC put out information earlier today or overnight, that 50 percent of the indivi- — of the cases are now, as a result of the Delta variant, higher in areas where there are lower vaccination rates.

That is the role where we’re going to spend our energy and our resources.

Q Can we get the White House reaction to the violence in Chicago — those three officers shot overnight, one of whom was an ATF agent? There’s an alderman in Chicago who is asking that the President come in the wake of what happened. He says, quote, “Our communities and police officers are under siege.” What’s the President’s message as we’re about to land there and he’s about to meet with the mayor of that city?

MS. PSAKI: Sure. Well, let me first say that we are closely monitoring the situation in coordination with the Department of Justice and ATF. We stand ready to provide any assistance needed. Our thoughts go out to the two ATF agents and the Chicago Police Department officer who were wounded, as well as their families and fellow agents and officers.

As the President has said many times, every time a law enforcement officer pins on their shield and walks out the door, they’re carrying a sacred responsibility.

I will note that, in terms of the efforts the President has underway to address the rise in violence we’ve seen over the last 18 months, including in Chicago, there are a number of steps that impact Chicago directly and specifically, including — his Rescue Plan is giving cities like Chicago — alone is getting almost \$1.9 billion through the Rescue Plan. Cook County is getting over \$1 billion. And the state government of Illinois is receiving an additional \$8.13 billion.

As a part of our gun crime reduction strategy, Chicago is also taking part in a community violence intervention collaborative with 15 jurisdictions nationwide to help them invest in proven evidence-based, community-based strategies.

And Chicago is also one of the five cities we announced recently that’s going to be — we’re going to be working with — the Department of Justice is going to be working with in launching a gun trafficking strike force — there’s four other cities, I should say, nationwide — to help interrupt gun trafficking corridors that send crime into Chicago from across the city and state lines.

Q Will he visit?

MS. PSAKI: Will he visit — our plans today have not changed in terms of our travel plans.

Q Has the President spoken to Governor Pritzker or Mayor Lightfoot this week, following the extremely violent weekends? Has he —

MS. PSAKI: He’s going to see both of them today.

Q Jen, on the bipartisan infrastructure plan —

MS. PSAKI: Yeah.

Q — we still haven't seen congressional scoring or legislative language, especially on the payfors. Is that a signal that, you know, they're still in that, kind of, "coffee, late-night" area that you discussed before? Or might we a- — the alternate solution is that there's been a problem with the scoring and it doesn't quite add up? Is there a possibility that the payfors change in any way at this point?

MS. PSAKI: I think the order of events here, as I think you're alluding to, is they need to write the legislation first, which they're working on over the coming days.

Q One on Haiti. I believe that you sent out a tweet — and I don't know what's happened in the past hour and a half, but I believe the U.S. Embassy in Haiti has not tweeted any form of tweet about what happened, and a lot of the Western embassies have. So I'm just checking to see if there's any sort of, like, friction or —

MS. PSAKI: Well, we put out a statement from the President.

Q Do you think the U.S. Embassy in Haiti should be putting out —

MS. PSAKI: I would ask the State Department that question. I don't — I don't think there's an issue. We put out a statement from the President on it.

Q We're about to land.

MS. PSAKI: Yeah.

Q Has the U.S. been asked to help in Haiti? I mean, I know that you guys are providing whatever —

MS. PSAKI: We stand prepared to assist. We're certainly in touch, but obviously this is — this is still developing, and so we'll assess what their needs are. And we're ready to provide needs — you know, respond to the needs they ask for.

Q Thanks, Jen.

Q Thank you.

**President Joe Biden Visits Illinois to sell voters on families agenda, State Journal-Register, 7/7/21**

<https://www.sj-r.com/story/news/politics/government/2021/07/07/joe-biden-in-illinois-president-visits-mchenry-county-college/7887829002/>

CRYSTAL LAKE — President Joe Biden pitched his proposed investments in families and education at an Illinois community college on Wednesday, telling residents of the swing district that what's good for families is also good for the economy.

The president set out for the Chicago suburbs to bolster support for both his bipartisan infrastructure deal and a broader package that he expects will be passed with only Democratic votes. His message is

one designed to resonate with suburban parents, college graduates and the working poor — a coalition that was key to Biden's election win last year.

“There’s a lot of work ahead of us to finish the job, but we’re going to get it done,” Biden said in a 30-minute speech that he self-deprecatingly suggested was boring but important. “We’re going to reimagine what our economy and our future could be.”

Before the speech, Biden toured a metals lab at the McHenry County College. His message was that any investments in manufacturing, roads and bridges should be paired with funding for child care, health care and education.

The president listed details of the bipartisan infrastructure deal, but the agreement constitutes only part of the \$4 trillion in spending Biden has proposed in a broader plan to reinvigorate the economy and boost the middle class. Republicans have warned that the tax increases on corporations and the wealthy needed to fund Biden's ambitions will hurt the economy.

Among Biden's proposals are two years of free community college, universal prekindergarten and paid family and medical leave. He also seeks to extend the expansion in the child tax credit and the health care premium subsidies from the COVID-19 aid bill.

Democrats plan to include much of this in a bill they hope to pass through a legislative maneuver that would require just a simple majority vote, skirting the 60-vote hurdle in an evenly divided Senate. Biden has said he would prefer that the two bills move through Congress together, and Democrats are hoping to make progress this month on both.

The Biden administration promoted its agenda on multiple fronts Wednesday.

First lady Jill Biden visited an elementary school in Washington to discuss how the trillions of dollars the president wants Congress to spend on families would pay for more affordable child care, preschool for all 3- and 4-year-olds, larger salaries for teachers and modern school buildings with safe drinking water, along with more teachers of color and more nurses and counselors to help students with their emotional and other needs.

“You and your students will continue to be one of our top priorities, not just in one legislative bill, but in everything we do,” she said during a speech to a virtual meeting of the American Federation of Teachers union.

President Biden was greeted by Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot when he landed in Illinois and was met at the community college by Democratic Gov. JB Pritzker; Illinois' two Democratic senators, Dick Durbin and Tammy Duckworth; and Democratic Rep. Lauren Underwood, who represents the district.

Biden won Illinois’ 14th Congressional District by about 2 percentage points in 2020, and Underwood won reelection by less than that. Hers is one of the top-targeted seats in the nation and is emblematic of the kind of district Democrats will need to hold onto in the 2022 midterms if they hope to maintain control of the House.

**Watch Now: Biden delivers speech from Crystal Lake, Illinois, MDJOnline, 7/7/21**

[https://www.mdjonline.com/neighbor\\_newspapers/extra/news/watch-now-biden-delivers-speech-from-crystal-lake-illinois/article\\_6f31f9a7-e1c9-582b-8ca7-826625d68795.html#1](https://www.mdjonline.com/neighbor_newspapers/extra/news/watch-now-biden-delivers-speech-from-crystal-lake-illinois/article_6f31f9a7-e1c9-582b-8ca7-826625d68795.html#1)

CRYSTAL LAKE — President Joe Biden is delivering a speech at McHenry County College, a community college in Crystal Lake with a workforce development program and a child care center.

The White House describes the speech as "highlighting the benefits that his 'Build Back Better' agenda will deliver for working families across the country."

Earlier, the president landed at O'Hare International Airport. He was greeted by Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot when he landed in Illinois and was met at the community college by Gov. J.B. Pritzker; Illinois' two Democratic senators, Dick Durbin and Tammy Duckworth; and Democratic Rep. Lauren Underwood, who represents the district.

**The Spin: Biden in Chicago region to talk up economic programs as city sees another burst of violence | Duckworth endorses Anna Valencia in SOS race | Ald. Cardenas eyes run for tax appeals board, Chicago Tribune, 7/7/21**

<https://www.chicagotribune.com/politics/ct-biden-in-illinois-duckworth-valencia-cardenas-board-of-review-spin-20210707-6dkrazigjib2bkbl46aurvacfm-story.html>

Even before President Joe Biden arrived at O'Hare International Airport over the noon hour, his administration was in touch with Mayor Lori Lightfoot in the wake of an early morning shooting that wounded a Chicago police officer and two federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives agents, the administration said.

Biden offered condolences to the families and colleagues of the injured officers, who were working on an undercover operation on the Far South Side when at least one gunman opened fire on the vehicle they were traveling in.

When Air Force One touched down, Mayor Lightfoot and Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle were there to greet the president, who was marking his first official visit to Illinois since his November election. Beamed by local television stations, Biden could be seen speaking briefly with two of the state's top Democrats, at one point hugging Preckwinkle and, separately, sharing a prolonged handshake with Lightfoot.

Later in the day, White House press secretary Jen Psaki issued a statement saying the president and Lightfoot discussed the early morning shooting that left the agents and police officer wounded, and said Biden vowed to work with the city to fight gun violence.

After the brief tarmac greeting, the president was ferried via Marine One to McHenry County College in Crystal Lake, where he got down to the business of the day, touting his American Families Plan.

As the Tribune's Bill Ruthhart reports, it's just the latest stop to swing regions of the country to promote his plans for a strong economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. Biden carried Crystal Lake in the 2020 presidential election but lost greater McHenry County to then-President Donald Trump.

Meantime, Democratic U.S. Sen. Tammy Duckworth is jumping into intraparty campaign politics. She announced this week that she's endorsing Chicago City Clerk Anna Valencia over the three other Dems making a run for Illinois secretary of state.

And Southwest Side Ald. George Cardenas says he'll run for a seat on the Cook County Board of Review, a low-profile elected post but one that would place him on a panel that wields power over property tax appeals in the county. Cardenas, who resides in McKinley Park, tells my colleague John Byrne he's running to help working-class Chicagoans understand the Board of Review, and help them figure out how to appeal their soaring property taxes.

Welcome to The Spin.

En route from Washington to Chicago today, Biden's press secretary Jen Psaki said the White House is "closely monitoring the situation" involving the shooting of a Chicago police officer and two ATF agents before 6 a.m. today. At least one gunman in a passing car fired on the vehicle the officers were traveling in.

Psaki said the White House had been in touch with Lightfoot about the case then pivoted to talking about the Biden administration's efforts to tamp down a surge in crime, according to a pool report.

Last month, Biden's Justice Department announced the launch of five cross-jurisdictional firearms trafficking strike forces, including one in Chicago. Local U.S. attorneys would lead the effort, with the ATF playing a leading role in the effort along with state and local law enforcement.

The aim is to reduce violent crime by putting the brakes on illegal gun trafficking in major firearms trafficking corridors.

On the heels of a violent Fourth of July weekend in Chicago, the mayor told reporters yesterday she wanted resources associated with that task force "today," and called on the Justice Department to move "as fast as possible."

Biden talks up American Families Plan

Ruthhart reminds that the purpose of Biden's trip, however, was not to discuss gun violence — and he didn't raise it in his speech in Crystal Lake. Instead it was to tout his "American Families Plan," which has Democratic support but has drawn backlash from Republicans.

"The president appeared before a gathering of a few hundred people in the gymnasium at McHenry County College where he made the case to ease the financial burden on working- and middle-class families," Ruthhart writes.

Biden said in his speech: "What we're here to talk about today is human infrastructure. To truly win the 21st century economy and once again lead the world, to truly build an economy from the bottom-up and the middle-out, to truly deal everyone in this time, we need to invest in our people."

"The stop is the latest by Biden to swing regions of the country to highlight his efforts to drive a strong recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, which he has dubbed his Build Back Better agenda," Ruthhart writes. Read the full story here.

President's visit was what you might expect: A Democratic lovefest

The goal of Biden's trip was at least in part to sell his so-called human infrastructure plan, or American Families Plan, which would create free community college, extend the child tax credit and achieve universal pre-K education. Republicans are balking over the price tag amid concerns it would be bankrolled with tax hikes on the wealthy.

But, as expected, Biden's visit to Illinois was also a veritable Democratic lovefest. After Preckwinkle and Lightfoot greeted the president on the tarmac at O'Hare, members of the congressional delegation, state legislative leaders and others were on hand at McHenry County College.

Before speaking, Biden met with Gov. J.B. Pritzker; U.S. Sens. Dick Durbin and Tammy Duckworth; U.S. Rep. Lauren Underwood; and Clint Gabbard, the president of McHenry County College. Also greeting Biden backstage: U.S. Reps. Sean Casten, Robin Kelly, Raja Krishnamoorthi; Lt. Gov. Juliana Stratton and House Speaker Emanuel "Chris" Welch, among others.

At the start of his address on the American Families Plan, the president asked Gov. Pritzker to stand and be recognized, said Sen. Duckworth — a finalist to be his running mate — is someone you want in the "foxhole with you when you're in trouble" and described Sen. Durbin as a "guy I rely on more than anyone else in the United States Senate."

He repeatedly sang the praises of Underwood, whose district includes Crystal Lake, during his visit, saying at one point: "This woman here? Hang on to her, man, she knows what she's doing."

Underwood's election to a second term last year was a squeaker; she hung on to defeat former state Sen. Jim Oberweis, winning 50.6% of the vote to his 49.3%. Looking to next year's midterms, which are often tough on the party of the sitting president, Democrats hold a slim nine-seat majority in the House.

It's worth noting, too, that state Sen. Craig Wilcox, a Republican from McHenry, also was on hand for the president's first official visit to Illinois since his election.

But as Ruthhart reported, other Republicans dubbed Biden's trip the "more government, more spending tour."

"No punch slogan can overshadow the disaster that is the Biden-Harris Administration's plan for America," said Priscilla Ivasco, a spokeswoman for the National Republican Senatorial Committee. "Democrats want more government control no matter how much they have to spend to get there, and their economic policies are leaving American taxpayers with a burdensome tab to pay."

### **Biden: What's good for families can also be good for economy, 69News – WFMZ TV, 7/7/21**

[https://www.wfmz.com/news/in-illinois-biden-to-push-money-for-families-and-child-care/article\\_4de9f1b5-38ac-59c6-ab16-424c13d2bfc0.html](https://www.wfmz.com/news/in-illinois-biden-to-push-money-for-families-and-child-care/article_4de9f1b5-38ac-59c6-ab16-424c13d2bfc0.html)

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The president listed details of the bipartisan infrastructure deal, but the agreement constitutes only part of the \$4 trillion in spending Biden has proposed in a broader plan to reinvigorate the economy and boost the middle class. Republicans have warned that the tax increases on corporations and the wealthy needed to fund Biden's ambitions will hurt the economy.

Among Biden's proposals are two years of free community college, universal prekindergarten and paid family and medical leave. He also seeks to extend the expansion in the child tax credit and the health care premium subsidies from the COVID-19 aid bill.

Democrats plan to include much of this in a bill they hope to pass through a legislative maneuver that would require just a simple majority vote, skirting the 60-vote hurdle in an evenly divided Senate. Biden has said he would prefer that the two bills move through Congress together, and Democrats are hoping to make progress this month on both.

The Biden administration promoted its agenda on multiple fronts Wednesday.

First lady Jill Biden visited an elementary school in Washington to discuss how the trillions of dollars the president wants Congress to spend on families would pay for more affordable child care, preschool for all 3- and 4-year-olds, larger salaries for teachers and modern school buildings with safe drinking water, along with more teachers of color and more nurses and counselors to help students with their emotional and other needs.

“You and your students will continue to be one of our top priorities, not just in one legislative bill, but in everything we do,” she said during a speech to a virtual meeting of the American Federation of Teachers union.

President Biden was greeted by Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot when he landed in Illinois and was met at the community college by Democratic Gov. J.B. Pritzker; Illinois' two Democratic senators, Dick Durbin and Tammy Duckworth; and Democratic Rep. Lauren Underwood, who represents the district.

Biden won Illinois’ 14th Congressional District by about 2 percentage points in 2020, and Underwood won reelection by less than that. Hers is one of the top-targeted seats in the nation and is emblematic of the kind of district Democrats will need to hold onto in the 2022 midterms if they hope to maintain control of the House.

**Joe Biden takes a swipe at Ron Johnson's comments on climate change, Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, 7/7/21**

<https://www.jsonline.com/story/news/politics/2021/07/07/joe-biden-takes-swipe-ron-johnsons-comments-climate-change/7895451002/>

President Joe Biden used Republican U.S. Sen. Ron Johnson as a political foil Wednesday.

During an appearance at McHenry County College in Crystal Lake, Illinois, Biden took a swipe at Johnson's recent comments downplaying climate change.

Biden told the audience that from 2010 to 2020 Illinois experienced "49 extreme weather events."

"Although I heard today from a senator north of here, that Republican Senator, there is no global warming," Biden said. "No such thing."

Biden was referring to comments Johnson made in early June during the Republican Women of Greater Wisconsin Luncheon at Alioto's in Wauwatosa.

As first reported by CNN's KFile, Johnson told the audience, "I don't know about you guys, but I think climate change is — as Lord Monckton said — bullshit."

Johnson mouthed the expletive that referred to Lord Christopher Monckton, a British peer who denies climate change.

"By the way, it is," Johnson added.

In a statement sent to the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel and other media outlets, Johnson said: "My statements are consistent. I am not a climate change denier, but I also am not a climate change alarmist. Climate is not static. It has always changed and always will change.

"I do not share Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez's view that the 'world is going to end in 12 years if we don't address climate change.' Or President Biden saying the 'greatest threat' to U.S. security is climate change. I consider those to be extreme positions — to say the least. At some point, all the Malthusian predictions that have not come true should begin reducing the credibility of the scaremongers. But that would take honest reporting by mainstream media, so I'm not holding my breath."

**Biden pushes money for families and child care, ABC10 News–Washington D.C, 7/7/21**

<https://www.news10.com/washington/washington-dc/biden-to-push-money-for-families-and-child-care/>

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Joe Biden turned his focus to pitching his proposed investments in families and education, using a visit to a community college in a key Illinois swing district to highlight how his spending on so-called human infrastructure would boost the economy.

The president on Wednesday visited McHenry County College in Crystal Lake, a community college with a workforce development program and a child care center. He promoted his vision to invest in child care, health care, education and other important aspects of everyday life for Americans.

The visit marks a fresh focus on the portions of Biden's economic agenda that didn't make it into the bipartisan infrastructure deal that the president signed onto in June. That package includes hundreds of billions of dollars of investments in roads and bridges, transit systems and broadband, but it constitutes only a fraction of the \$4 trillion in spending Biden has proposed as part of a broader plan to reinvigorate the economy and boost the middle class.

"We need to invest in our people," Biden said. "We have to think bigger, act bolder, and build back better."

On Wednesday, the Democratic president highlighted his plans to invest in child care and workforce development programs and provide two years of free community college, universal prekindergarten and paid family and medical leave. He made the case that investments in such programs are needed to maintain America's economic growth and competitiveness globally.

"There's a lot of work ahead of us to finish the job, but we're going to get it done," Biden said in a 30-minute speech that he self-deprecatingly suggested was boring but important. "We're going to reimagine what our economy and our future could be."

Biden also highlighted his proposals to establish a clean energy standard and invest in home care for seniors and affordable housing. He spoke about his plans to make permanent the expansion in the child tax credit and expanded health care premium subsidies from the COVID-19 aid bill.

Democrats plan to include much of the rest in a bill they hope to pass through a legislative maneuver that would require just a simple majority vote, skirting the 60-vote hurdle in an evenly divided Senate.

Child tax credit payments: Relief plan to send checks to parents

"As the president presses for the bipartisan infrastructure framework, he's also pressing ahead on a dual track for the full breadth and scope of the Build Back Better agenda, which includes his critical climate priorities and the American Families Plan," White House press secretary Jen Psaki said Tuesday when previewing his plans.

Psaki noted that congressional Democrats are at work on the latter proposal now and that she expected "a lot of behind-the-scenes bill writing, negotiations, discussions on Capitol Hill" as the details are hammered out. Biden has said he would prefer that the two bills move through Congress together, and Democrats are hoping to make progress this month on both.

Biden will be greeted by Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot and Illinois Gov. J.B. Pritzker when he lands in Illinois, and Psaki said he's "eager" to see Democratic Rep. Lauren Underwood, who represents the district.

Biden won Illinois' 14th Congressional District by about 2 percentage points in 2020, and Underwood won reelection by less than that. Hers is one of the top-targeted seats in the nation and is emblematic of the kind of district Democrats will need to hold onto in the 2022 midterms if they hope to maintain control of the House.

**Biden greeted by protesters, urges Americans to 'think bigger, act bolder', Woodstock Independent, 7/7/21**

<https://www.thewoodstockindependent.com/2021/07/biden-greeted-by-protesters-urges-americans-to-think-bigger-act-bolder/>

(Article Restricted to Subscribers Only)

## **Biden misquotes Reagan's 'Morning in America' ad while plugging infrastructure package, Fox News, 7/7/21**

<https://news.yahoo.com/biden-misquotes-reagan-apos-apos-222432363.html>

President Biden misquoted one of former President Ronald Reagan's most famous campaign ads during a Wednesday speech while promoting the potential economic benefits of his two-pronged spending plan on infrastructure and related projects.

The quote revision, swapping out "Morning in America" for "an American Morning," set up a Biden suggestion that he was more ambitious than the conservative hero because he is talking about a century instead of a mere morning.

Reagan's economy-focused television ads during his 1984 re-election bid opened with the phrase "It's morning again in America" while touting signs of economic improvement during his first term in office.

"The last time energy and the economy grew at this rate was in 1984 when Ronald Reagan was telling us it's an American morning," Biden said during the speech. "This is going to be an American century."

Biden's speech at McHenry County College in Crystal Lake, Illinois, was his latest effort to tout his infrastructure push as a generational overhaul of the U.S. economy. He argued passage of his "American Jobs Plan" and "American Families Plan" would build on rapid job growth and an economic resurgence that has occurred since he became president in January.

The president cited the Congressional Budget Office's recent move to double its economic growth forecast for fiscal 2021 as proof his policies to date have been effective. He made a similar reference to Reagan last week when the monthly jobs report revealed the U.S. economy added 850,000 jobs in June.

The president made his latest pitch for Congress to pass comprehensive infrastructure-related spending packages weeks after a bipartisan group of senators reached an agreement on the framework of initial legislation. The joint plan is centered on physical infrastructure projects and includes \$579 billion in new spending.

Biden argued that lawmakers should approve his proposals beyond physical infrastructure spending that were left out of the bipartisan agreement.

Prominent measures in the two-pronged proposal include an additional four years of federally funded public education, improved care for children as well as elderly and disabled Americans, investments in clean water infrastructure and projects focused on addressing climate change.

The president said his plans would create "millions of good-paying jobs."

"We're going to making the case to the American people until the job is done, until we bring this bipartisan deal home, until we meet the needs of families today and the economy tomorrow," Biden said.

### **Where's Joe, Politico, 7/7/21**

<https://www.politico.com/newsletters/west-wing-playbook/2021/07/07/gene-sperling-is-that-guy-in-the-white-house-493498>

The president participated in a meeting with administration officials in the Situation Room, discussing a response to recent ransomware attacks.

Biden then traveled to Crystal Lake, Ill., where he toured McHenry County College and delivered remarks about his "Build Back Better" agenda.

### **Afternoon Edition: July 7, 2021, Chicago Sun-Times, 7/7/21**

<https://chicago.suntimes.com/afternoon-edition-newsletter/2021/7/7/22567270/afternoon-edition-july-7-2021>

Good afternoon. Here's the latest news you need to know in Chicago. It's about a 5-minute read that will brief you on today's biggest stories.

Today will be mostly cloudy with scattered thunderstorms and a high near 86 degrees. Tonight, expect more scattered thunderstorms and the temperature to drop to a low around 64. Tomorrow will be mostly cloudy with a high near 73.

More news you need

President Biden landed at O'Hare late this morning and met with Mayor Lightfoot and Cook County Board President Preckwinkle on the tarmac. Both had brief one-on-ones with the president before he took off for McHenry Community College in Crystal Lake, where he spoke this afternoon.

### **Joe Biden Promotes Four More Years of Free Government Education as Teachers Union Pushes Critical Race Theory, Breitbart, 7/7/21**

<https://www.breitbart.com/education/2021/07/07/joe-biden-promotes-four-more-years-of-free-government-education-as-teachers-union-pushes-critical-race-theory/>

"The fact of the matter is, we believe we should have a minimum of 14 years of education," Biden said in Illinois at the McHenry County College in Crystal Lake to promote his trojan horse infrastructure proposal.

"I want to guarantee an additional four years of public education for every person in America, starting with providing two years of universal, high quality preschool for three and four-year-olds," Biden stated.

“And then I want to add two years of free community college for everyone,” Biden said. “We can afford it,” he claimed.

Biden’s proposal to increase the length of time children and young adults spend in government schools comes as CRT is causing controversy across the country, with teachers unions promoting the Marxist-based ideology that divides people into the “oppressor” and the oppressed based on race.

Breitbart News reported July 4 that the National Education Association (NEA) has moved to openly promote the teaching of CRT in K-12 schools and to oppose any bans on instruction in both the Marxist ideology and the widely discredited New York Times’ “1619 Project.”

The nation’s largest teachers’ union resolved to “research the organizations attacking educators,” doing what it referred to as “anti-racist work,” as well as to “use the research already done and put together a list of resources and recommendations for state affiliates, locals, and individual educators to utilize when they are attacked.”

NEA also approved New Business Item 39 in which the measure vows to “share and publicize, through existing channels, information already available on critical race theory (CRT) – what it is and what it is not.”

The union’s resolution also intends to have “a team of staffers for members who want to learn more and fight back against anti-CRT rhetoric.”

**UNDERWOOD STATEMENT ON PRESIDENT BIDEN’S VISIT TO MCHENRY COUNTY COLLEGE IN CRYSTAL LAKE, Lauren Underwood – 14<sup>th</sup> District of Illinois, 7/7/21**

<https://underwood.house.gov/media/press-releases/underwood-statement-president-biden-s-visit-mchenry-county-college-crystal-lake>

WEST CHICAGO— Today, Congresswoman Lauren Underwood (IL-14) released the following statement on President Joe Biden’s visit to Illinois’ 14th District. During the visit, Underwood joined President Biden at McHenry County College to discuss the American Families Plan and what it means for Illinois families.

“President Biden’s visit to the 14th District follows a long, hard period for our community—and for the country—as the COVID-19 pandemic has taken its toll. But today as I saw a packed arena full of healthy, smiling faces—I felt relief. I felt joy. I felt so proud of our community. We are back together, and we are coming back stronger than ever before.

“With the leadership of President Biden, Vice President Harris, and my colleagues in Congress, the American Rescue Plan saved our economy and it spared us from even worse hardship. But we have important work ahead: we need the American Jobs Plan and the American Families Plan to create a brighter economic future for all Americans.

“McHenry County College is a place already creating that brighter future for so many families, and I was so proud to welcome President Biden to demonstrate how investing in early education, community college, and apprenticeship programs improves lives for children and their families. I was also glad to

“I will speak with him about how important it is to ensure our families have affordable health care, and that I am committed to working with him to pass legislation to lower health care and prescription drug costs. I will never stop fighting for our children and our communities in Congress.”

### **Biden pitches bipartisan infrastructure deal along with his plan to boost spending on education, child care and health care, The Washington Post, 7/7/21**

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2021/07/07/joe-biden-live-updates/>

President Biden on Wednesday pitched the bipartisan infrastructure deal along with his plan to boost spending on education, child care and health care during a trip to Crystal Lake, Ill., a conservative area in a liberal state. The White House is angling to pass the latter with the support of only Democrats.

In a dig at former president Donald Trump, Biden said, “We’re not going to have 40 weeks of ‘This is infrastructure.’ ”

Before heading to Illinois, the president convened leaders from the State Department, the Justice Department and other agencies to discuss ransomware attacks and the government’s efforts to counter them.

### **Biden Says U.S. Must Invest in Human Infrastructure, Barron’s, 7/8/21**

<https://www.barrons.com/articles/things-to-know-today-51625745040>

President Joe Biden visited McHenry County College in Crystal Lake, Ill., on Wednesday to tout the need for his proposed investments in education, childcare, child tax credits, healthcare, and paid family leave—all programs left out of the bipartisan infrastructure deal he agreed to last month—to reinvigorate the economy.

- The \$1.2 trillion eight-year infrastructure bill, hammered out by a bipartisan group of senators, would fix highways, ensure clean drinking water, make the electric grid more resilient to extreme weather, and provide millions of good-paying jobs, Biden said.
- But investing in human infrastructure is just as important, Biden said, from universal prekindergarten and two years of free community college to increase success in schools and boost lifetime earnings, to raising Pell Grant awards, providing workforce training, and strengthening historically Black colleges and universities and other minority-serving institutions.
- Biden wants to build and upgrade childcare facilities, raise wages for childcare workers, provide 12 weeks of paid family and medical leave, offer free summer meals for children, expand affordable housing and make healthcare more affordable.
- Biden wants to pay for the spending by raising corporate taxes, something Republicans oppose. Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell said Tuesday the GOP would put up a “hell of a fight” against Democrats’ efforts to pass a jobs and family plan along party lines.

What’s Next: Biden said eligible families will start receiving monthly child tax credit checks of \$250 per child up to age 17, and \$300 per child under age 6, from July through December. His Build Back Better plan wants to extend those payments through 2025.

**Biden says ‘we can’t wait any longer to deal with climate crisis’ in infrastructure pitch – as it happened, The Guardian, 7/7/21**

<https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/live/2021/jul/07/joe-biden-ransomware-attack-meeting-russia-latest-updates>

Joe Biden delivered an impassioned pitch for his infrastructure plan in Crystal Lake, Illinois. The president argued the bipartisan infrastructure framework, as well as his American Jobs Plan and American Families Plan, would provide critical investments in early education, affordable childcare options and renewable energy sources. “We can’t wait any longer to deal with the climate crisis,” Biden said. “We see it with our own eyes, and it’s time to act.”

**Biden promotes corporate taxes in Illinois as business opposition mounts, Reuters, 7/7/21**

<https://www.reuters.com/world/us/biden-promotes-corporate-taxes-illinois-business-opposition-mounts-2021-07-07/>

CRYSTAL LAKE, Ill., July 7 (Reuters) - President Joe Biden made the case for spending trillions of dollars on U.S. infrastructure, paid for by higher taxes on corporations, at an Illinois community college on Wednesday, as opposition builds from U.S. business groups.

In a speech Biden focused on what he called "human infrastructure" priorities that did not make it into a \$1.2 trillion bipartisan deal struck with Republicans.

The policies include tax rebates for parents, free preschool and community college, healthcare and clean energy subsidies as well as 12 weeks of paid medical leave, financed by raising corporate taxes on U.S. companies.

Biden said a minimum tax of 15% on companies that manage to avoid paying taxes would raise \$240 billion and could be used to finance his plans, which he acknowledged are "really expensive"

"The fact is that it is paid for," he said. "Everybody has to pay their fair share. I'm not trying to gouge anybody. They've just got to get in the game," he said.

Corporations currently supply less than 10% of U.S. tax revenue, down from nearly 40% in the 1940s.

The Biden administration's bedrock economic argument is neither corporations nor wealthy Americans are paying their "fair share" to support research, education, infrastructure and workers in the world's largest economy.

The International Monetary Fund projects 2021 U.S. growth at 7.0%, one of the strongest recoveries worldwide from the recession induced by the COVID-19 pandemic, if Biden's plans are enacted.

Speaking at McHenry County College in Crystal Lake, Illinois, near Chicago, Biden said Illinois has 2,374 bridges and more than 6,200 miles of highways in need of repair and that one of every 10 people in the state lacks access to high speed internet.

Democrats hope that most of the proposals not in the bipartisan bill will pass under a budget mechanism that would require only a simple majority in the U.S. Congress, bypassing Republicans, who oppose any new corporate taxes.

Republican Senate leader Mitch McConnell on Tuesday vowed a "hell of a fight for what this country ought to look like in the future" over the tax and spending issue. [read more](#)

Biden shrugged off McConnell's comments and said McConnell had talked about how his home state of Kentucky would benefit from infrastructure spending. "He's bragging about it in Kentucky," Biden said.

U.S. business lobbying groups who backed the bipartisan plan are gearing up to fight looming corporate tax hikes, using the same argument they employed in 2017 to secure huge tax cuts from Republicans: higher corporate taxes equal fewer jobs.

"We don't know what's in that package," Rachele Bernstein, chief tax counsel for a retail lobby group, said of the Democrats' bill. "But we don't think it is good to use a corporate tax increase to finance spending."

### **Chicago man charged in shooting of 2 federal agents, officer, The Southern Illinoisan, 7/9/21**

[https://thesouthern.com/news/state-and-regional/crime-and-courts/chicago-man-charged-in-shooting-of-2-federal-agents-officer/article\\_d4ff3796-0126-57cb-a8b2-d3f1d41bf9cb.html](https://thesouthern.com/news/state-and-regional/crime-and-courts/chicago-man-charged-in-shooting-of-2-federal-agents-officer/article_d4ff3796-0126-57cb-a8b2-d3f1d41bf9cb.html)

Photos: President Biden's visit to Crystal Lake

### **The Hill's Morning Report - Biden renews families plan pitch; Senate prepares to bring infrastructure package to floor, The Hill, 7/8/21**

<https://thehill.com/homenews/morning-report/562005-the-hills-morning-report>

President Biden took his show on the road Wednesday to make his latest pitch for the American Families Plan as the Senate continues to haggle over a reconciliation bill that would include many provisions of the proposal and the bipartisan infrastructure package.

With the Senate and House out until next week, Biden took center stage and appeared in suburban Chicago to promote the \$1.8 trillion plan — the genesis of what is expected to be a bill passed later this year via budget reconciliation with only Democratic support (The Hill).

"I'm here to make the case for the second critical part of my domestic agenda," Biden said in a speech to a group of students and teachers at McHenry County College, pressing for investments in "human infrastructure." "To truly deal everyone in this time, we need to invest in our people."

At one point, Biden quipped that his speech was "boring" but "important" (ABC News).

Of course, Biden's proposal is subject to the whims of those on Capitol Hill, where it has hit early pitfalls on both sides of the Democratic Senate. Senate Budget Committee Chairman Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) has

criticized the package as too small, and has instead plotted a blueprint upward of \$6 trillion, while Sen. Joe Manchin (D-W.Va.) has indicated that he will only back a package worth roughly \$2 billion.

The reconciliation bill is expected to be in excess of that price tag and include the families plan as well as provisions of the administration's infrastructure plan that were not included in the \$1.2 trillion bipartisan plan struck in recent weeks.

Biden also used the occasion to tweak Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) for pointing out the local benefits of the \$1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan passed in March that the GOP leader and other Republicans unanimously opposed.

"Mitch McConnell loves our programs," Biden told reporters in Illinois. "You see what Mitch McConnell said? He told me he wasn't going to get a single vote in order to allow me to get, with the help of everybody here, that \$1.9 trillion ... program for economic growth."

"Look it up, man. He's bragging about it in Kentucky," Biden added (The Hill).

The comments also came a day after McConnell vowed that he will wage "a hell of a fight" against the Democratic-only bill, which progressives have maintained must be passed in parallel with the bipartisan infrastructure legislation, though Biden has backed off that thinking (The Hill).

### **ROYAL TREATMENT FOR BIDEN — WHAT'S NEXT FOR STEANS — ANTHONY PORTER HAS DIED, Politico, 7/8/21**

<https://www.politico.com/newsletters/illinois-playbook/2021/07/08/royal-treatment-for-biden-whats-next-for-steans-anthony-porter-has-died-493506>

Happy Thursday, Illinois. With flexible work hours in flux, Thursdays are feeling like Mondays. For some folks, anyway.

#### **TOP TALKER**

Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle thanks President Biden for the White House's vaccination efforts during a quick visit on the O'Hare tarmac July 7, 2021.

Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle hugged President Joe Biden on the tarmac at O'Hare International Airport yesterday in what became a Democratic love fest leading up to his speech in McHenry County.

After stepping off Air Force One, Biden was greeted by Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot. The two stood close in conversation as the mayor updated the president on the shooting yesterday morning of two ATF officials and a police officer. Biden "expressed his personal support" on the issue, according to spokeswoman Jen Psaki. Lightfoot also praised Biden "for listening to the needs of cities" and for the federal government's plans for public safety reform, according to the mayor's spokeswoman. Biden, in turn, said the Justice Department "would soon be in touch" about executing those plans, which include a strike force.

Mayor Lori Lightfoot and President Joe Biden talk about the Justice Department's plans to help Chicago fight crime during a quick discussion on the O'Hare tarmac July 7, 2021.

Mayor Lori Lightfoot and President Joe Biden talk about the Justice Department's plans to help Chicago fight crime during a quick discussion on the O'Hare tarmac July 7, 2021. | AP Photo/Evan Vucci

The president then pivoted to Preckwinkle, she later told Playbook, saying “Everyone knows what big-city mayors do but people don’t know what county leaders do and that it’s really critical.”

Preckwinkle, who admires that Biden worked as a county commissioner before he was elected to the Senate, then thanked the president for federal efforts to ramp up vaccine production and distribution. “I told him that we had six mass vaccination sites as a result of our vaccine allocation and that we couldn’t have done it without the federal government’s help and support,” she said. “I gave the president a big hug and said I’m grateful for him.”

This isn’t England, after all, where hugging royalty isn’t allowed. It’s Illinois. We’re all about the hugs.

Before speaking at McHenry County College, Biden held private meet-and-greets with Gov. J.B. Pritzker; Rep. Robin Kelly, who is also Illinois Democratic Party chair; Rep. Lauren Underwood, who hosted Biden and brought her parents along for the event; Rep. Sean Casten, Rep. Raja Krishnamoorthi, Lt. Gov. Juliana Stratton, House Speaker Emanuel “Chris” Welch, and Senate President Don Harmon.

“I spoke to him about his infrastructure plan and about being the new speaker because he asked me how it was going as speaker,” Welch told Playbook.

All that schmoozing led up to Biden’s speech at the community college in McHenry County — an area that twice voted for Donald Trump but also flipped to congressional seats for Underwood and Casten.

As POLITICO’s Natasha Korecki and Tina Sfondeles explain: Biden tried selling a plan “that would turn off most MAGA supporters,” by including big government, corporate tax hike, more money for climate, and free community college.

— Big applause line from Biden: “Think how life will be when it’s quicker to drive on Randall Road,” he said, referring to the local trouble spot for traffic.

### **Biden Is Focused On Adding This New Feature To The Child Tax Credit - And Its A Gamechanger, Forbes, 7/8/21**

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/megangorman/2021/07/08/biden-is-focused-on-adding-this-new-feature-to-the-child-tax-creditand-its-a-gamechanger/?sh=940d51d670b8>

With a week to go before the new Child Tax Credit being rolls out, President Joe Biden continues to make his vision for America known on a trip to McHenry County College in Illinois on Wednesday, July 7, 2021.

“To truly win the 21st century — and once again lead the world — to truly build an economy from the bottom up and the middle out, to truly deal everybody in this time, we need to invest in our people,” said the President during his remarks.

While the President is focused on promoting the idea of “generational human infrastructure” with a number of programs aimed to help Americans, there are a number of moving pieces to achieve his goal. One key investment he hopes to make includes the rollout of the new Child Tax Credit that is scheduled

to begin paying on July 15, 2021. Biden wants to make clear that this credit is meant to be significant for Americans.

At the event, he emphasized, "It's not a credit against your taxes, you'll get cash. Cash. You get the first half of \$3,600 paid out between July and December, and you get the rest between January and Tax Day."

But that's not all he wants to do. Biden is also focused on going a step further: extending these credits to 2025 for Americans who qualify.

#### How The Credit Works

The Americans Rescue Act expanded the Child Tax Credit significantly. Taxpayers with children ages 5 and under, will receive an credit of \$3,600 per child. For children ages 6 to 17, that credit will be \$3,000. The credit will be made eligible for families whose modified adjusted gross incomes (MAGI) are \$75,000 or less for single filers, \$112,500 for head of household filers and \$150,000 or less for joint filers. These income limits will be subject to phase outs.

But what is unique about this new credit is that the first half of the credit will start paying monthly this July 15th directly into the bank accounts of American families that qualify. This means monthly payments of \$250 or \$300 depending on a child's age. Proponents of the credit are optimistic that it will have a positive impact on both middle- and lower-income families. In fact, researchers at Columbia University's Center on Poverty and Social Policy are estimating that this new credit could cut childhood poverty by 45%.

The Biden Administration backs this philosophy. In its June 21, 2021 statement on the Child Tax Credit, Biden emphasized that "This tax cut will give our nation's hardworking families with children a little more breathing room when it comes to putting food on the table, paying the bills, and making ends meet."

#### Extending The Credit

While these numbers are optimistic, the challenge has been that this new tax credit is for 2021 only. As a result, it is not clear if there would be sustained results if the credit disappeared after the 2021 tax filing season.

As a result, the President's comments have meaning. He believes this credit should be extended through 2025 for Americans who qualify. He intends to do this through the American Families Plan that the Democrats are trying to get through Congress.

The impact of an extended credit would be significant. For American families who receive the \$3,000 or \$3,600 credit for 5 years, it could change their economic outlook. Lower income Americans will be able to provide a more stable environment for their children consistently. For middle income Americans, this could allow them to save towards college or help pay for childcare.

#### The Challenges Ahead

But in extending the credit, the Biden Administration has a long road ahead. The extension would be part of a \$1.9 trillion plan they are trying to get through Congress. As a result, it might not be an easy path to success.

Further, there are administration challenges to work through. This credit will be administered by the IRS. However, the IRS is currently bogged down with long wait times and unopened mail. The IRS has been successful in rolling out the tool to allow Americans to either sign up for or opt out of the credit.

#### Up To Taxpayers

Ultimately if the tax credit is a success in 2021, it will allow it to be an easier argument to increase it through 2025. For Biden, it appears this will be a significant part of his legacy.

#### **Biden pivots to free community college pitch as infrastructure talks drag on, KOMO News, 7/9/21**

<https://www.komonews.com/news/nation-world/biden-pivots-to-free-community-college-pitch-as-infrastructure-talks-drag-on>

WASHINGTON (SBG) — President Joe Biden is pivoting to discussing a proposal he laid out earlier this year that, if passed through legislation, would provide millions of Americans with two years of community college. That comes as his infrastructure push continues its long slog through Congress.

The president spent the bulk of a speech at a community college in Illinois this week championing the cornerstones of his American Families Plan, which, among other things, provides \$109 billion to make two years of community college free for all students.

"I'm here to make the case for the second critical part of my domestic agenda," Biden told a crowd at McHenry County College in Crystal Lake, Illinois. "It's a combination of parts of my American Jobs Plan that were essential and not included in the bipartisan infrastructure plan as well as my American Families Plan."

The president added to that theme on Thursday in a post on Twitter.

"If you ask the top 1% to pay the same tax rate they paid in 2001, when George W. Bush was President, that would generate \$13 billion a year. That's enough to provide two years of community college free to every student in America," Biden wrote, noting that the U.S. needs a "fairer" tax system.

In addition to free community college, the American Families Plan also calls for a roughly \$85 billion investment in Pell Grants, which dramatically reduces the costs of tuition for low-income students. Roughly 5.5 million students would pay nothing for tuition or fees, according to the White House.

Biden also seeks to address low graduation rates among students who begin their collegiate career at a junior college. The American Families Plan etches out \$62 billion for programs to increase college retention and completion rates at institutions.

Whatever legislation is hammered out in terms of making community college free, it will likely only buttress what several other states are already doing.

About 25 states, including Arkansas, Indiana, Minnesota, and Montana, already provide free community-college programs. The president's renewed push for the American Families Plan comes as Biden and a group of Republicans and Democrats seek a bipartisan agreement on an infrastructure framework, which is now months in the making.

Biden is getting flak from the president's liberal base who worry he might cave on an ambitious climate push in exchange for a bipartisan agreement.

"Look. If we do not fight for our communities and put them in the center of the work we do — if we continue to prioritize the myth of 'bipartisanship' over the people we were elected to fight for and represent in Washington — we will lose elections," Rep. Jamaal Bowman, D-N.Y., said in a fundraising email obtained by The Washington Post.

Some critics believe Biden's pivot to free community college is notable but missing the mark.

"This is targeted toward the wrong problem, that community colleges are already fairly affordable," Preston Cooper, a research fellow at Foundation for Research on Equal Opportunity, told Sinclair Broadcast Group.

The real problem is that community colleges have very low graduation rates, according to Cooper, who focuses mostly on education issues.

Annual tuition at the average is just \$3,770 at the average two-year college, so the problem is not price, Cooper argued in a recent Forbes piece. In fact, Pell Grant programs often cover the full amount of tuition for lower-income students.

Meanwhile, a student who enrolls in community college has just a 40% chance of earning a credential within six years, data show.

Cooper believes a better way forward is to make funding for schools contingent on producing good outcomes, such as focusing degrees on high earnings and reasonable loan-payment rates.

"We should be creating alternative pathways that will work for them, whether that takes the form of apprenticeships, workplace training," Cooper said.

Some Americans are not built to become college students, he added.

"We need to be figuring out the best path into the workforce and the best path into the middle class that's going to work for them," Cooper said.

### **Biden faces high stakes as Congress moves toward key decisions, Los Angeles Times, 7/9/21**

<https://www.latimes.com/politics/newsletter/2021-07-09/biden-faces-high-stakes-as-congress-moves-toward-key-decisions-essential-politics>

WASHINGTON — It's crunch time for President Biden and his congressional allies.

After months of negotiations, debates and cossetting of senatorial egos, the time is fast approaching for votes that will determine the success or failure of Biden's legislative priorities.

Over the next three weeks, the Senate likely will vote on the infrastructure deal that Biden reached last month with a group of Republican and Democratic centrist senators. That will determine whether his main effort at bipartisan policymaking moves forward or collapses.

By early August, both houses likely will vote on a budget resolution, a procedural move that determines the scope of the tax and spending bill that Democrats can advance later in the year using special rules to avoid a Republican filibuster.

That partisan spending bill will serve as the Democrats' main vehicle for putting top priorities into law, including aid to middle- and working-class families, measures to combat climate change, healthcare expansion and, perhaps, a long-sought move to legalize millions of immigrants.

### Big plans, small margins

Democrats are trying to enact very large policies with very small majorities — a 50-50 Senate and a five-vote majority in the House. Unity within the Democratic caucus is the key to getting anything done. That means any individual member has huge leverage.

But the tiny margins also create a lot of pressure to hang together.

The next few weeks will test that. Senate rules allow the Democrats to bypass the possibility of a filibuster and pass a package of taxes and spending measures with 50 votes and a tie-breaker from Vice President Kamala Harris. Doing so requires using special budget rules known as reconciliation, the same process they used earlier this year to pass the \$1.9-trillion COVID relief package and that Republicans used in 2017 to pass their roughly \$1.5-trillion tax cut.

The reconciliation process includes complex rules on what can go into the bill. Leading Democrats hope those rules provide enough leeway to include House-passed measures giving legal status to millions of immigrants currently living in the U.S. without authorization, including young people who came to the country as children, the so-called Dreamers, and close to 1 million long-term farmworkers.

Republicans hope to coax a few Democrats away from supporting any reconciliation bill. That's part of why some of them back the bipartisan infrastructure deal: They hope moderate Democrats can be persuaded to vote for that and no more. Progressive Democrats fear that could happen and worry about a GOP plot to derail reconciliation.

Other Republicans, however, will refuse to vote for the bipartisan deal either because they dislike the higher spending or oppose the effort the bill makes to increase IRS enforcement of existing tax laws in order to bring in more money. At least 10 Republicans will be needed to pass the bipartisan measure through the Senate, not a sure thing.

The big test on Democratic unity will come with votes on a budget resolution, which is the first step in the reconciliation process and determines the size of the eventual package and its outline. Keeping all 50 Democrats on board means writing a plan big enough to satisfy progressives like Budget Committee Chair Sen. Bernie Sanders of Vermont but not so big that it spooks moderates, including Sens. Joe Manchin III of West Virginia, Mark Warner of Virginia, Kyrsten Sinema of Arizona and Jon Tester of Montana.

In the House, which will vote on the budget resolution first — probably in the last two weeks of July — Speaker Nancy Pelosi faces a similarly daunting task of keeping progressives such as Reps. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez of New York and Pramila Jayapal of Washington happy while not losing the votes of more conservative members like Josh Gottheimer of New Jersey and Abigail Spanberger of Virginia.

Sanders last month floated the outline of a \$6-trillion budget resolution that would include a wide range of progressive priorities, including lowering the Medicare eligibility age to 60, expanding Medicare benefits to include dental work, hearing aids and glasses, and spending billions to combat climate change.

The Vermont progressive is a savvy legislator who knows he'll have to jettison a lot of that to get a unanimous Democratic caucus. But deciding what to drop involves a difficult balance of political and fiscal pressures.

Conflicting healthcare plans illustrate some of the problems:

Lowering the Medicare age appeals to a lot of voters, but draws powerful opposition from hospitals and doctor groups. A big increase in the number of patients paying Medicare rates would cut heavily into providers' incomes.

Expanding coverage for dental, hearing and vision benefits doesn't generate as much opposition, but wouldn't satisfy many progressives, who see lowering the eligibility age as a first step toward Medicare for all.

Black Democratic lawmakers from the South have a different priority. Many of them, including Rep. James E. Clyburn of South Carolina, a major Biden ally, want to help low-income people in the 12 red states that have refused to expand Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act.

The refusal to expand has left several million people, mostly in Texas and Florida, many of them Black or Latino, without coverage — too poor to get subsidized coverage under Obamacare, but not poor enough to qualify for Medicaid under their home states' stringent rules.

The White House has its own healthcare priority — extending a provision of the COVID-19 bill that lowers Obamacare premiums for middle-income families. That's cut costs for hundreds of thousands of consumers this year, but it carries a hefty price tag.

Who gets priority: the elderly, low-income Southerners, or middle-income families? Odds are, the reconciliation bill, even at a cost of trillions of dollars over the next decade, won't be able to take care of all three.

Similar tough choices will confront negotiators on climate policy, housing, child care and other programs.

In a speech Wednesday at McHenry County College in Illinois, Biden laid out several priorities: Extending for at least another four years the current expanded Child Tax Credit, which administration officials believe can cut the child poverty rate in half; "two years of universal, high-quality preschool for 3- and 4-year-olds" and two years of free community college; expanded child care; 12 weeks of paid family leave; money for affordable housing; and tax credits to spur production of renewable energy.

Jayapal and other progressives have called for more for climate change. Gottheimer and other Democrats who represent suburban districts in the northeast have insisted the bill expand the amount of state and local taxes people can deduct on their federal income tax, reversing a cap the GOP put in place.

It's all happening at the same time that the administration works to complete the U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan while trying to stave off the rapid collapse of that country's government and tries to figure out how to deter cyberattacks on companies, many of which originate with criminals based in Russia.

Summer often provides high drama on Capitol Hill. Four years ago, Sen. John McCain's thumbs-down killed the effort to repeal Obamacare, blocking President Trump's major legislative goal. Biden won the presidency in part on his promise that he could avoid gridlock. In the next few weeks, the country will find out if he was right.

A wave of baby boomers leaving the labor force

The pandemic caused many baby boomers to retire before they had planned. Don Lee looks at what a wave of early retirements could mean for the economy.

Workers aged 25 to 54 have been moving quickly back into the labor market. Those 55 and older, not so much, Lee reported. Many who left their jobs don't plan to come back. That could reverse a trend of the last two decades in which more older workers delayed retirement. Right now, the slow return is worsening labor shortages in many industries. If the trend persists, it could create additional economic problems.

Biden's strategy

Biden's balancing of bipartisanship and Democrats' demands tests his presidency, Janet Hook and Eli Stokols wrote.

He still faces difficult odds, but he's been drawing praise from progressives who used to disparage him.

"I've not historically been a Biden guy, but I'm astonished about how well he is doing," said former Vermont Gov. Howard Dean, the former party chair. "What we thought were going to be his liabilities have turned into huge assets."

Biden's trip to Illinois this week illustrated his effort to shore up his agenda and Democrats' chances in swing districts, Stokols reported.

### **Joe Biden becomes first sitting president to visit Crystal Lake, AdVantage News, 7/9/21**

[https://www.advantagenews.com/news/local/granite-city-news/joe-biden-becomes-first-sitting-president-to-visit-crystal-lake/article\\_40febd66-e033-11eb-b275-077639bc0563.html](https://www.advantagenews.com/news/local/granite-city-news/joe-biden-becomes-first-sitting-president-to-visit-crystal-lake/article_40febd66-e033-11eb-b275-077639bc0563.html)

President Joe Biden visited McHenry County on Wednesday to talk about the American Rescue Plan Act and his Build Back Better agenda.

Biden spoke in front of a crowd in the McHenry County College gymnasium in Crystal Lake. The county of McHenry was primarily Republican during the 2020 election, with Donald Trump winning 50 percent of the total county vote.

Biden discussed the American Rescue Plan. Biden's first major piece of legislation was designed to help American families and small businesses. The plan provided stimulus checks of \$1,400 for American citizens and sets aside billions of dollars for education and small businesses.

The president addressed critics of his American Rescue Plan who said that the plan could not work.

“When we passed the American Rescue Act there were a lot of naysayers,” Biden said. “The doubters said it would not work. Well, we have created over 3 billion jobs since I've taken office.”

One of the main points of Biden's speech was a plan to rebuild America by investing in the American public, particularly in education.

“To truly win the 21st century and once again lead the world, to truly build the economy from the bottom up we need to invest in our people,” Biden said.

Biden said most American families will not be taxed any extra money in his plan. Republican Illinois Sen. Craig Wilcox disagreed with that statement.

“For the president to say he has it all squared away and that it's all free, I don't think Americans are that naive to believe that their government is going to just hand out stuff for free,” Wilcox said.

Biden proposed higher taxes on the wealthy and corporations to pay for his Build Back Better agenda.

Wilcox said even if it is free, it will have an impact on the economy by driving up inflation.

“That's going to drive inflation,” Wilcox said. “Inflation is the hidden tax on every American; we have seen the price of gas; we have seen the price of lumber and groceries increase and that's already eating into middle-class income.”

Biden became the first sitting president to visit McHenry County. The president ended his Midwest trip in Illinois and is now heading back to Washington, D.C., a White House spokeswoman said

### **Biden: What's good for families can also be good for economy, Ottumwa Courier, 7/7/21**

[https://www.ottumwacourier.com/news/national\\_news/in-illinois-biden-to-push-money-for-families-and-child-care/article\\_94b1ce19-1302-56c3-bfb9-c9e2e3b22cf7.html](https://www.ottumwacourier.com/news/national_news/in-illinois-biden-to-push-money-for-families-and-child-care/article_94b1ce19-1302-56c3-bfb9-c9e2e3b22cf7.html)

CRYSTAL LAKE, Ill. (AP) — President Joe Biden pitched his proposed investments in families and education at an Illinois community college on Wednesday, telling residents of the swing district that what's good for families is also good for the economy.

The president set out for the Chicago suburbs to bolster support for both his bipartisan infrastructure deal and a broader package that he expects will be passed with only Democratic votes. His message is one designed to resonate with suburban parents, college graduates and the working poor — a coalition that was key to Biden's election win last year.

“There's a lot of work ahead of us to finish the job, but we're going to get it done,” Biden said in a 30-minute speech that he self-deprecatingly suggested was boring but important. “We're going to reimagine what our economy and our future could be.”

Before the speech, Biden toured a metals lab at the McHenry County College. His message was that any investments in manufacturing, roads and bridges should be paired with funding for child care, health care and education.

The president listed details of the bipartisan infrastructure deal, but the agreement constitutes only part of the \$4 trillion in spending Biden has proposed in a broader plan to reinvigorate the economy and boost the middle class. Republicans have warned that the tax increases on corporations and the wealthy needed to fund Biden's ambitions will hurt the economy.

Among Biden's proposals are two years of free community college, universal prekindergarten and paid family and medical leave. He also seeks to extend the expansion in the child tax credit and the health care premium subsidies from the COVID-19 aid bill.

Democrats plan to include much of this in a bill they hope to pass through a legislative maneuver that would require just a simple majority vote, skirting the 60-vote hurdle in an evenly divided Senate. Biden has said he would prefer that the two bills move through Congress together, and Democrats are hoping to make progress this month on both.

The Biden administration promoted its agenda on multiple fronts Wednesday.

First lady Jill Biden visited an elementary school in Washington to discuss how the trillions of dollars the president wants Congress to spend on families would pay for more affordable child care, preschool for all 3- and 4-year-olds, larger salaries for teachers and modern school buildings with safe drinking water, along with more teachers of color and more nurses and counselors to help students with their emotional and other needs.

"You and your students will continue to be one of our top priorities, not just in one legislative bill, but in everything we do," she said during a speech to a virtual meeting of the American Federation of Teachers union.

President Biden was greeted by Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot when he landed in Illinois and was met at the community college by Democratic Gov. J.B. Pritzker; Illinois' two Democratic senators, Dick Durbin and Tammy Duckworth; and Democratic Rep. Lauren Underwood, who represents the district.

Biden won Illinois' 14th Congressional District by about 2 percentage points in 2020, and Underwood won reelection by less than that. Hers is one of the top-targeted seats in the nation and is emblematic of the kind of district Democrats will need to hold onto in the 2022 midterms if they hope to maintain control of the House.

### **Voters Chose Boring Over Bombast. They Got Biden's Pentchant for Pontificating., The New York Times, 7/12/21**

<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/07/11/us/politics/biden-speeches.html>

CRYSTAL LAKE, Ill. — Even President Biden thought he had been ponderous.

"I know that's a boring speech," the 46th president said at the end of 31 minutes and 19 seconds filled with statistics (2,374 Illinois bridges), academic studies (on-site child care increases productivity), global gross domestic product comparisons (China used to be No. 9, but is now No. 2) and predictions of 7.4 percent economic growth (though "the O.E.C.D. thinks it could be higher," Mr. Biden noted, referring to the not exactly electrifying Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development).

The president's remarks on Wednesday, delivered to a friendly and respectful crowd of supporters at McHenry County College in this Chicago suburb, even included "reconciliation," which Mr. Biden quickly admitted was a "fancy" Washington word.

As the president travels the country pitching his plan for spending trillions of dollars to reshape the American economy, he is facing a rhetorical reality that has long plagued many of his predecessors: There is a vast difference between explaining and inspiring, and Mr. Biden — who was recently called the "explainer in chief" by his press secretary — often struggles to reach the potential oratorical heights of the office he holds.

Mr. Biden's ambitions are vast and the substance of his presidency has been dramatic at times: an end to the nation's longest war, a historic focus on equity and spending proposals bigger than anything before. He sometimes describes his agenda as a way to prove that the very concept of democracy itself can deliver for the people.

The White House is perfectly fine with Mr. Biden's ability to turn down the political heat in Washington after four years of chaotic governance. But like former Presidents Barack Obama, who once delivered a 17-minute answer to a health care question, and Bill Clinton, who was forced to apologize to a late night comic for a dreadful convention speech, Mr. Biden can sometimes get lost in the minutiae.

To be sure, the details of governing are mind-numbingly tedious. But when the president starts a speech, what can seem like high-stakes drama to those inside the Washington Beltway often feels like the stuff of PBS documentaries to the rest of the country.

"There's a loophole in the system called stepped up basis," Mr. Biden explained in excruciating detail on Wednesday, laying out the case of a wealthy person who owes taxes on the sale of a stock. "If on the way to cash it in I get hit by a truck, God forbid, and died, it was left to my daughter, there would be no tax paid. It's not inheritance tax. It was a tax due 10 seconds earlier!"

If it was hard for the audience to follow — the students and faculty at McHenry sat silently most of the time — the details in Mr. Biden's speeches often trip him up as well, leading to mumbles, stumbles, pauses and real-time corrections as he struggles through the dense material on the teleprompter.

"We closed that loophole, and that saves us \$400 billion a year — not a year — \$400 billion over this period," Mr. Biden said as he fought his way to the end of his lecture on the stepped-up basis loophole.

The president is not always boring. His passion and empathy can show through in his remarks, often punctuated by his trademark whisper for emphasis. And sometimes, the topic is just inherently compelling, as was the case on Thursday when he defended his decision to withdraw troops from Afghanistan, ending America's longest war.

In that speech, Mr. Biden spoke in powerful terms about the war's place in the arc of history, declaring that "the United States cannot afford to remain tethered to policies creating a response to a world as it was 20 years ago."

There were few such moments in Illinois. But the president is not alone in finding it difficult to always deliver inspiring prose.

As The Washington Post reported, Mr. Obama “wandered from topic to topic, including commentary on the deficit, pay-as-you-go rules passed by Congress, Congressional Budget Office reports on Medicare waste, COBRA coverage, the Recovery Act and Federal Medical Assistance Percentages (he referred to this last item by its inside-the-Beltway name, ‘F-Map’).”

The lengthy answer prompted Mr. Obama to apologize to the audience at the end. “Boy, that was a long answer,” he said. “I’m sorry.”

Mr. Clinton was famous for boring speeches, too, delivering an hour-plus State of the Union address in 1994 that was the longest since one by Lyndon B. Johnson. And Mr. Clinton's speech at the 1988 Democratic convention to nominate Michael Dukakis for president was so long and awful — as he later conceded — that Mr. Clinton appeared on “The Tonight Show Starring Johnny Carson” to apologize for it.

“It just didn’t work. I mean, I know, what can I tell you?” Mr. Clinton, then the governor of Arkansas, said after Mr. Carson put an hourglass on the edge of his desk when the young politician started speaking. “My sole goal was achieved,” Mr. Clinton joked. “I wanted so badly to make sure Michael Dukakis was great, and I succeeded beyond my wildest dreams.”

But even compared with previous presidents, Mr. Biden has a long history of being long-winded.

He developed that skill in the Senate, where the idea of a political filibuster is not only a literal legislative tool but a political advantage for those — like Mr. Biden — who were good at talking, and talking, and talking.

In 2006, a New York Times reporter described Mr. Biden’s interrogation of Judge Samuel A. Alito Jr. during his confirmation hearing before the Senate Judiciary Committee to be a Supreme Court justice.

“The highest ratio of words per panelist to words per nominee was that of Senator Joseph R. Biden Jr., Democrat of Delaware, who managed to ask five questions in his 30-minute time allotment,” the reporter wrote.

Mr. Biden, the reporter added, “dived into a soliloquy on Judge Alito’s failure to recuse himself from cases involving the Vanguard mutual fund company, which managed the judge’s investments. After 2 minutes 50 seconds — short for the senator — Mr. Biden did appear to veer toward a question, but abandoned it to cite Judge Alito’s membership in a conservative Princeton alumni group. Mr. Biden discoursed on that for a moment, then interrupted himself with an aside about his son who ‘ended up going to that other university, the University of Pennsylvania.’”

In Washington, criticism most often comes from across the political aisle. But on the subject of Mr. Biden’s penchant for pontificating, even his closest allies have been known to notice.

During one hearing of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee in 2005, Mr. Obama, then a young senator, grew exasperated during a lengthy monologue by Mr. Biden, then the panel’s top Democrat.

“Shoot. Me. Now,” Mr. Obama wrote to an aide as Mr. Biden spoke.

The tendency toward long, detailed speeches did not fade as vice president. And as a candidate for president, Mr. Biden was sometimes criticized for not putting on display the same kind of powerful performances that his rivals did.

Nowhere was that contrast more striking than with former President Donald J. Trump, whose bellicose, rambling, he-could-say-anything speeches were just as long — if not longer — than Mr. Biden's but were rarely boring in the traditional sense. (In 2016, as a candidate, Mr. Trump ejected a MAGA-hat-wearing supporter who had the temerity to stand up during a speech and declare, "This is boring!")

Voters, it seems, decided to choose boring over bombast. And for that, Mr. Biden and his White House advisers make no apology.

In fact, even after acknowledging that his speech on Wednesday had been less than enthralling — even to him — Mr. Biden offered another admonition to the audience in the room, and those watching on television.

It might have been a boring speech, he said, "but it's an important speech."

### **Biden in the suburbs: 'Think how life will be when it's quicker to drive on Randall Road', Chicago Daily Herald, 7/7/21**

<https://www.dailyherald.com/news/20210707/biden-in-the-suburbs-think-how-life-will-be-when-its-quicker-to-drive-on-randall-road>

President Joe Biden promised jobs and better access to education in an appeal that may resonate with suburban swing voters during a historic trip to McHenry County College.

"America is back," Biden said Wednesday, promising to fund transportation through an infrastructure package that faces opposition in Congress.

"Think how life will be when it's quicker to drive on Randall Road," Biden quipped, singling out a local traffic hot spot.

It's the president's first visit to Illinois since his inauguration and he picked a county where a majority backed former President Donald Trump in 2020.

And, outside the college, along Route 14 in Crystal Lake, a large crowd of Trump supporters gathered with flags and banners to rail against Biden.

"I think everything they're (Biden administration) doing is harmful to our nation right now," Crystal Lake resident Fred Bock told the Northwest Herald.

But inside, Biden thanked college President Clint Gabbard for delaying a vacation to host him, and jokingly called himself "Jill Biden's husband," noting his wife is a community college professor.

He pivoted to praise MCC's children's learning center, and pledged to reduce child care costs for middle-class families.

In 1972, Biden became a single father caring for two sons after his wife and daughter died in a car crash.

"Without my family, I couldn't have done it," he said. "But not everyone has that kind of support."

The president also brought the need to address climate change home to the crowd.

"Illinois farmers are dealing with more frequent droughts, and just south of here we had an unprecedented tornado," Biden said referring to the twister that hit the Naperville area June 20.

Biden was introduced by Edith Sanchez, student trustee on the MCC board of trustees.

The middle child of seven grew up in a family that had trouble making ends meet. "I thought my dream of going to college was impossible," Sanchez said. "But with financial support, I can pursue my education. MCC has transformed my life."

Democrats Sarah and Brett Fisher of Crystal Lake brought their children, Charlie, 8, and Annalee, 6.

"We are very big supporters of Biden," Sarah Fisher said before the president's arrival. When they learned Biden was coming to the suburbs, "we thought what a historical, momentous opportunity for our kids to see democracy in action."

McHenry Board Chairman Michael Buehler, a Republican, said it was "exciting" that Biden picked the county. "It makes sense. McHenry County really exemplifies the best of the best Illinois has to offer."

Biden garnered 47.7% of the vote in McHenry County and Trump received 50.2% in 2020.

One reason for Biden's visit is the perceived boost for local congressmen facing challenges in the midterms, including Democratic U.S. Rep. Lauren Underwood of Naperville, whose district includes McHenry County.

"It's politically strategic," said Kent Redfield, emeritus professor of political studies at the University of Illinois at Springfield.

Biden recognized Underwood during his remarks, as well as Gov. J.B. Pritzker and U.S. Sens. Tammy Duckworth and Dick Durbin.

But "this is not a political visit," Underwood said. "It's very much about the president outlining his agenda to help the American people move through this pandemic."

During his remarks, the president touted the infrastructure program and the American Families Plan, which includes checks of up to \$300 for eligible families starting this month.

"That's good for families and is good for the economy and it will create more jobs," said Biden, who repeated the word "jobs" several times during his speech.

U.S. Rep. Sean Casten, a Downers Grove Democrat, acknowledged the infrastructure bill could have a rocky ride in Congress.

But "I'm very optimistic we'll get something done in some form," Casten said. "There's a difference between what's politically possible on a bipartisan basis and what's necessary."

Democratic Sen. Cristina Castro of Elgin said the American Families Plan "will help a lot of the families in my district who are hurting now."

Biden noted one in every 10 Illinoisans lack access to broadband, and that resonated with Buehler.

"A good portion of the county is underserved with high-speed internet," he said. If the state can leverage federal dollars, "we'll get the most bang for our buck."

Other local Republicans weren't impressed.

State Rep. Martin McLaughlin of Barrington Hills, who was not at Wednesday's event, said that "over and over, more empty promises are coming from political elites passing more unrestricted spending programs that barely if ever accomplish what they promise."

Biden said he would pay for the infrastructure plan through closing corporate income tax loopholes.

And, State Sen. Don DeWitte of St. Charles, whose district includes McHenry County, called it "great" that a sitting president would visit. But Biden's proposals "all come at a cost," said DeWitte, who was not at the speech. "Federal dollars are our tax dollars."

**Images: President Joe Biden's visit to McHenry County College in Crystal Lake, Chicago Daily Herald, 7/7/21**

<https://www.dailyherald.com/news/20210707/images-president-joe-bidens-visit-to-mchenry-county-college-in-crystal-lake>

**First-generation Latina college student meets President Biden in Crystal Lake, amid pro-Trump protesters, Chicago Tribune, 7/8/21**

<https://www.chicagotribune.com/news/breaking/ct-biden-visit-student-introduction-profile-20210708-sfkkyhclvgcdhj4zhdtwg2rmq-story.html>

Edith Sanchez first got up in front of a crowd when she was 13. She performed regional Mexican songs at a restaurant for Father's Day. When she finished, her parents were proud, but she also had a new and growing sense of confidence.

Six years and many performances later, this confidence ballooned, and on Wednesday, Sanchez found herself on stage once again, this time to introduce the president of the United States to an audience at her community college in northwest suburban Crystal Lake.

Biden visited Crystal Lake, where Sanchez is a second-year at McHenry County College, to discuss his "Build Back Better" plan, which focuses on education with an emphasis on working families and includes a proposal for two free years of community college. Sanchez had been selected to introduce him in part because of her story, which exemplifies how education helps generations of people, she said.

In her speech introducing the president, Sanchez spoke about how her community college education has "transformed my life."

As a first-generation college student whose parents emigrated from Mexico more than 25 years ago with no formal education, Sanchez has received more than seven scholarships, from her high school, her community and now her college, that allowed her to attend community college. According to McHenry County College spokesperson Christina Haggerty, the college's aim "is to ensure that barriers are

removed for all students to get an education.” The scholarships Sanchez received are also allowing her to now push for a four-year college, which she was previously unable to afford.

Sanchez expressed her support for Biden’s education plan. “With the American (Families) Plan, our students and families will benefit. We need to be educated, we need to be an educated nation and improve each generation.”

Another reason Sanchez was selected to introduce Biden was her position as McHenry County College’s student trustee, an elected role held by a student chosen annually by classmates. Sanchez was encouraged to apply by her instructors and college administrators, including her mentor Sonia Reising, assistant vice president of student affairs.

Reising had met Sanchez even before she started community college when she attended a show that featured Sanchez singing at an elementary school and by that time a fully fledged performer of Mexican songs. When Sanchez came to McHenry County College, Reising became her mentor.

Sanchez is also president of the student organization Latinos Unidos and worked with other members during the pandemic to volunteer at a clinic, providing bilingual assistance to help people during the vaccination process.

As she spoke in the college gymnasium, anti-Biden protesters stood outside, some with signs that read “Secure our borders.” There were also counterprotesters, some holding signs in favor of Biden.

Sanchez was more focused on her speech.

“It was just such an honor to give my speech to the president that I didn’t really notice that people were out there,” she said.

**As a high-ranking Biden aide pushes Congress to raise inheritance taxes, his brother lobbies against it, The Washington Post, 7/9/21**

[https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/biden-ricchetti-lobbying/2021/07/09/d35dce1e-df3d-11eb-b507-697762d090dd\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/biden-ricchetti-lobbying/2021/07/09/d35dce1e-df3d-11eb-b507-697762d090dd_story.html)

The brother and former business partner of a top White House adviser has been hired to lobby Democratic senators to oppose a central plank of President Biden’s legislative agenda that would raise taxes on the inheritors of large estates.

Lobbyist Jeff Ricchetti is helping to lead an effort by a life insurance trade group to preserve the practice of “stepping up” the basis for capital gains taxes when property is inherited. Under the current system, wealthy heirs pay capital gains taxes only on increases in value that occur after they take possession of property. Under the Biden proposal, they would pay capital gains taxes from the time the property was first acquired by the previous owner.

White House senior counselor Steve Ricchetti, Jeff’s brother, has at the same time been working against his efforts by championing Biden’s proposal on Capitol Hill, including a crucial part of the administration’s plan to pay for upcoming spending programs.

The conflicting interests within an influential Democratic family speak to the often insular, and revolving, roles of power players in Washington. As recently as 2008, Steve Ricchetti worked alongside his brother lobbying for the same life insurance trade group on estate tax issues, according to federal filings. A little more than a decade later, he chaired the Biden campaign, where he helped craft the stepped-up-basis proposal.

Biden singled out the provision in a Wednesday speech at McHenry County College in Crystal Lake, Ill., calling it a “loophole” and saying that closing it would generate \$400 billion in government revenue. That would cover the cost of extending the child tax credit under his American Families Plan, Biden said.

He described being a wealthy person who plans to sell appreciated stock but whose heirs, after his sudden death, don’t have to pay capital gains tax.

“If on the way to cash it in, I get hit by a truck, God forbid, and died, and it was left to my daughter, there’d be no tax paid,” Biden said. “It’s not inheritance tax — it was a tax due 10 seconds earlier.”

But to Finseca, the trade group that represents financial planners and life insurance brokers and that has hired Jeff Ricchetti as its lobbyist, the proposed change would add unworkable complexity to the tax code, forcing those who inherit large amounts of property to uncover the original costs of those assets and come up with cash to pay the tax after a death.

Finseca chief executive Marc Cadin said his industry has worked with Jeff Ricchetti on these issues for 20 years and previously worked with his brother as well. He confirmed Jeff Ricchetti’s role in lobbying Democrats in the Senate.

“The Finseca position for 20 years has been for permanent, sustainable estate tax reform that allows our members’ clients to plan with certainty,” Cadin said. Biden’s stepped-up-basis proposal is “just bad policy from our vantage point.”

Both Jeff and Steve Ricchetti say they do not speak to each other about work, and Jeff Ricchetti said in June that he had stopped lobbying Biden’s office directly. A White House official, speaking on the condition of anonymity to discuss internal deliberations, pointed to the inheritance tax situation as evidence that the two operate independently.

Biden has said his own family will not be involved with his administration, but that ban does not apply to his advisers.

Jeff Ricchetti did not respond to several requests for comment on his work.

In response to a request for comment from Steve Ricchetti, White House spokesman Andrew Bates said, “Steve is proud to be fighting for this long-standing goal of the president’s, just as he was proud to advance the proposal during the campaign.”

For Jeff Ricchetti, the rise of Biden and his brother has been good for business: He has signed 12 new clients since the campaign his brother chaired secured the Democratic presidential nomination in 2020, including four clients for whom he lobbied Biden’s office. Jeff Ricchetti reported making \$820,000 from lobbying in the first three months of this year, nearly five times what he earned in the same period a year earlier.

Government watchdogs have raised concerns about the close family relations between two influential people, even if they're working on opposite sides of the same issue.

Danielle Brian, the executive director of the Project on Government Oversight, a watchdog group, said the relationship raised troubling questions.

"You can see why there is a general distrust of the political elite," she said. "This is a perfect example of why a big part of our country does not trust Washington or whose side they are on."

The work for Finseca, for which Jeff Ricchetti billed \$50,000 between January and March, targets a fundamental feature of Biden's plan to pay for expanding the government safety net and climate-related programs. The president has proposed nearly doubling the capital gains rate paid by wealthy investors earning more than \$1 million, as well as limiting how wealthy investors can avoid capital gains taxes when they pass assets down at death.

Tax experts have found that the two proposals have to move together to be effective at raising substantial new revenue. If Congress passed only the increase in the capital gains rate, Biden's plan would lead federal revenue to fall by about \$33 billion over the next 10 years, as the wealthy held on to their assets, according to the Penn Wharton Budget Model, a nonpartisan budget forecaster. Passing both would increase federal tax revenue by more than \$100 billion, Penn Wharton found.

"The core element of Biden's plan turns on taxing capital effectively, and the linchpin of that is collecting a tax on the unrealized gains at death — or they'll escape taxation completely," said Steve Rosenthal, a tax expert at the Tax Policy Center, a nonpartisan think tank. "Billionaires and the superwealthy create dynastic wealth by avoiding selling their stocks until death. If we just raised the capital gains tax rate, the rich would just carry their assets to death and avoid them. But if we're going to tax them at death and induce more sales, that gives Biden much more latitude. It's absolutely crucial to his plan."

Biden's proposal to repeal the current rules faces other political challenges, particularly from farm groups that are increasingly vocal in complaining that the plan could hit agricultural producers. The White House has stressed that the plan includes exemptions for family farms that continue to operate, as well as for people whose assets increase by up to \$1 million for an individual.

Congressional aides view Sens. Mark R. Warner (Va.) and Maggie Hassan (N.H.) as the Democrats on the Senate Finance Committee most likely to oppose Biden's plan. Spokespeople for Hassan did not return requests for comment.

Rachel Cohen, a spokeswoman for Warner, said the senator did not yet have a position on the Biden proposal. Jeff Ricchetti had not lobbied him on the matter, nor had he lobbied any of the senator's aides "as far as I can tell," she wrote in an email.

Jeff Ricchetti brought up the issue of the stepped-up basis with Sen. Ron Wyden (D-Ore.), the chairman of the Finance Committee, according to a Wyden aide.

"The issue was raised with Senator Wyden in his personal capacity, and his position has long been that wealthy heirs should pay tax on their investment gains," said Wyden spokeswoman Ashley Schapitl.

Brian Riedl, a policy expert at the conservative-leaning Manhattan Institute, said Biden's proposal to increase inheritance taxes could hurt U.S. growth and investment by leading investors to pull money out

of the stock market to avoid higher taxes. He also said the plan would expose many assets to taxation that are already hit by the federal estate tax.

“A big challenge for conservatives is the estate tax already captures a lot of capital gains at death for wealthy families, and this could be seen as double taxation,” Riedl said. “Many more critics would be open to repealing step-up basis if it was done while paring back the estate tax. Otherwise, you’re taxing the same lifetime investments at a very high rate.”

Armstrong Robinson, the chief advocacy officer for Finseca, said in a video call with insurance professionals last month that he has been working with Jeff Ricchetti and that the proposal to change how the stepped-up basis works would amount to a fundamental shift in the tax system.

He warned insurance brokers that if the proposal did pass, large estates would need to plan differently for a death, since the tax on capital gains would be charged immediately.

“Whether you sell it or not, you owe the tax at death or at gifting, which would change a ton of the way most of your clients do their work,” Robinson said in the call.

“I don’t think they repeal step up in basis,” he later predicted.

### **What it's like to meet the president, Chicago Daily Herald, 7/8/21**

<https://www.dailyherald.com/news/20210708/what-its-like-to-meet-the-president>

A day after meeting President Joe Biden during his visit to McHenry County College in Crystal Lake, 4-year-old Travis Alexander remained excited about the experience.

"He shook my hand," said Travis, of Crystal Lake.

Biden even posed for a photo with Travis at mom Briana Alexander's request.

"He was super nice," she said of the president. "Travis has nonstop talked about it."

Biden briefly met the Alexanders and other families who've participated in the children's learning center at the college, a day care center for MCC students who also are parents, during his visit to the campus Wednesday.

The president shook hands with parents and kids and chatted with a few. He also spoke of the importance of the campus child-care program, something he repeated during a speech a little while later.

That meant a lot to Tara Dean, a former MCC student from Genoa who brought her daughter, Makayla, to meet the president at the center.

Without the program, Dean said she wouldn't have been able to earn an associate degree last year. She's working toward a bachelor's degree now.

Dean shook Biden's hand, but Makayla was too shy to do so and stood behind her mom.

"It was really cute," Dean said. "He was really good with the kids."

Although no longer an MCC student, Dean was invited by the school for the presidential visit. She had to be tested for COVID-19 and submit to a security review first.

Meeting Biden was worth jumping through those hoops, though.

"It was an amazing opportunity," she said.

Parent and MCC student Grace Schwartzlow of Wonder Lake shared a similar sentiment about the encounter, which she shared with her 3-year-old son, Camdyn.

"Political views aside, the president is the president," Schwartzlow said.

**Biden mocks McConnell for touting benefits of relief bill – despite voting against it, The Independent, 7/9/21**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/us-politics/biden-mcconnell-relief-bill-gop-b1880152.html>

(Article restricted to subscribers only)

**Biden called his own speech boring recently, highlighting his tendency toward ‘explainer in chief.’, The New York Times, 7/12/21**

<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/07/12/us/politics/biden-called-his-own-speech-boring-recently-highlighting-his-tendency-toward-explainer-in-chief.html>

CRYSTAL LAKE, Ill. — Even President Biden thought he had been ponderous.

"I know that's a boring speech," the 46th president said.

He had just finished a 31-minute-and-19-second address, filled with statistics (2,374 Illinois bridges), academic studies (on-site child care increases productivity), global gross domestic product comparisons (China used to be No. 9, but is now No. 2) and predictions of 7.4 percent economic growth (though "the O.E.C.D. thinks it could be higher," Mr. Biden noted, referring to the not exactly electrifying Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.)

The president's remarks on Wednesday, delivered to a friendly and respectful crowd of supporters at McHenry County College in this Chicago suburb, even included a reference to a legislative maneuver known as "reconciliation," which Mr. Biden quickly admitted was a "fancy" Washington word.

As the president travels the country pitching his plan for spending trillions of dollars to reshape the American economy, he is facing a rhetorical reality that has long plagued many of his predecessors: There is a vast difference between explaining and inspiring, and Mr. Biden — who was recently called the "explainer in chief" by his press secretary — often struggles to reach the potential oratorical heights of the office he holds.

The White House is perfectly fine with Mr. Biden's ability to turn down the political heat in Washington after four years of divisive rhetoric and chaotic governance. But like former President Barack Obama,

who once delivered a 17-minute answer to a health care question, and Bill Clinton, who was forced to apologize to a late night comic for a dreadful convention speech, Mr. Biden can sometimes get lost in the minutiae.

To be sure, the president is not always boring. His passion and empathy can show through in his remarks, often punctuated by his trademark whisper for emphasis.

Still, the details of governing can be mind-numbingly tedious, and when the president starts a policy speech, what can seem like high-stakes drama to those inside the Washington Beltway often feels like the stuff of PBS documentaries to the rest of the country.

“There’s a loophole in the system called stepped up basis,” Mr. Biden explained in excruciating detail on Wednesday, laying out the case of a wealthy person who owes taxes on the sale of a stock. “If, on the way to cash it in, I get hit by a truck, God forbid, and died, it was left to my daughter, there would be no tax paid. It’s not inheritance tax. It was a tax due 10 seconds earlier!”

In Washington, criticism most often comes from across the political aisle. But on the subject of Mr. Biden’s penchant for pontificating, even his closest allies have been known to notice.

During one hearing of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee in 2005, Mr. Obama, then a young senator, grew exasperated during a lengthy monologue by Mr. Biden, then the panel’s top Democrat.

“Shoot. Me. Now,” Mr. Obama wrote to an aide as Mr. Biden spoke.

### **McHenry County College: President Biden Visits McHenry County College To Promote American Families Plan, Show Support For Community Colleges, Crystal Lake-Cary Patch, 7/16/21**

<https://patch.com/illinois/argonquin/mchenry-county-college-president-biden-visits-mchenry-county-college-promote>

Press release from the McHenry County College:

The President of the United States visited McHenry County College (MCC) Wednesday to highlight the benefits of the new American Families Plan and show his support for community colleges across the nation.

The Plan, which is designed to deliver support to working families across the country, would provide universal, high quality preschool to all three- and four- year-olds and provide Americans with two years of free community college.

MCC's President, Dr. Clint Gabbard, shared appreciation for President Biden's support of community colleges and the importance that education has for our future economy.

"We're extremely honored that President Biden chose our college for a visit," said Dr. Gabbard. "MCC is at the epicenter of community college innovation, entrepreneurship, and commitment to community transformation through education. We are the only community college in Illinois to show positive enrollment growth in each of the past five years. Our faculty and staff have used the disruption of the pandemic to go through their own disruptive processes—becoming more responsive to students' needs

and making a greater impact in their lives. This is the place where dreams are being actualized, one student at a time."

In his remarks, Biden explained the many benefits additional education would create in today's America.

"One of the reasons we're one of the leading countries in the world is because we were the first industrialized nation to allow 12 years of free education back at the turn of the 20th century—but now everybody's caught up. That's why I want to guarantee an additional four years of education for every person in America," Biden said.

The American Families Plan will also focus on making college more affordable for low- and middle-income students by increasing Pell Grant award amounts and will invest in improving teacher training and support.

According to a White House Fact Sheet, over the last 40 years, the United States has seen the most growth in jobs requiring higher levels of job preparation, including education and training. Today, 70 percent of jobs are held by people with more than a high school degree.

"American workers need and deserve additional support to build their skills, increase their earnings, remain competitive, and share in the benefits of the new economy," the Fact Sheet continues.

"President Biden's plan will expand access to affordable postsecondary education, laying the groundwork for innovation and inclusive economic growth for all Americans."

The President visited the college for several hours, touring the metals lab and meeting with students connected to MCC's child care center and manufacturing programs.

Before making his remarks in the Gymnasium, President Biden was introduced by Dr. Gabbard and MCC Student Trustee, Edith Sanchez. Sanchez is a second year student at MCC, president of the Latinos Unidos club, and a first-generation Latina who plans to pursue a career as a college advisor.

"Attending MCC has transformed my life," Sanchez said in her remarks. "I thought my dream of college would be impossible—but with the support I've received through MCC, local scholarships, and federal student aid, I can pursue my education and focus on the importance of learning. In my future career, I want to inspire, encourage, and motivate students by guiding them with my personal experience and provide them with the resources and support they need to pursue a higher education."

Illinois Governor J.B. Pritzker, U.S. Senators Dick Durbin and Tammy Duckworth, U.S. Reps. Lauren Underwood, Sean Casten, Raja Krishnamoorthi, and Rev. Jesse Jackson were also in attendance.

"I was so proud to welcome President Joe Biden to the 14th District and McHenry County College—an institution that is leading the nation through their work to create brighter futures for Illinois families," added Rep. Underwood.

"With the leadership of Dr. Clint Gabbard and so many talented Illinois educators, MCC is demonstrating how investing in early education, community college, and apprenticeship programs improves lives for children and their families."

"President Biden's focus on students and their families is completely in line with our focus here at McHenry County College," added Dr. Gabbard. "We are grateful for the visit, and happy to provide a setting for the President's first visit that will reflect our Mission of student success."

## **IEA members attend President Joe Biden's speech at McHenry County College, Illinois Education Association, 7/16/21**

<https://ieanea.org/2021/07/16/iea-members-attend-president-joe-bidens-speech-at-mchenry-county-college/>

CRYSTAL LAKE – Two IEA members were special guests of President Joe Biden when he made his appearance at McHenry County College last week.

Karen Shuman, president of the McHenry County College Adjunct Faculty Association, and Mike Sayre, a member of the High School District 155 Education Association, were able to meet the President during his visit to Crystal Lake.

Sayre was invited by the President to attend after he wrote a letter to President Biden about how hard it is to find affordable childcare. President Biden addressed Sayre directly during his comments at the college. Shuman was a guest of IEA.

Biden visited the community college to promote his “Build Back Better” plan, which offers free community college for first-time students, increases Pell Grants, builds an apprenticeship program, ensures access to free preschool, builds wraparound supports such as child care at community colleges, as well as other programs Biden has called an investment in the American people.

Sayre, a single father and high school teacher, wrote a three-sentence letter to the President on Sun., July 4, noting how difficult it is to find before-school care for his 9-year-old twins. The White House reached out to him on Monday and asked him to attend President Biden's appearance. Sayre and his twins were able to meet the President and speak with him briefly.

“He told me his story about being a single parent of young kids and said he really wants to help with childcare costs,” Sayre said. “I'm going into my second year of being a single parent and doing this and it occurs to me how much this affects my students – how many don't come to school because they are taking care of their siblings, making lunches, or holding their baby brother during Zoom calls and trying to do Math.”

Sayre said he thinks Biden truly believes in his plan and that he was encouraged about Biden's plan to invest more money in school infrastructure, free community college and more dual credit classes.

“As an educator, I liked what he had to say,” Sayre said. “My kids are only nine now, but they'll be college age one day and to get that springboard into the workforce would be amazing!”

For Shuman, an adjunct faculty member, she was able to make connections with politicians to help them understand some of the unique issues that adjuncts face, as well as meet the President.

“It was such an exciting experience. For me, it was like meeting the ultimate TV or movie star, I'm a political junkie,” Shuman said. “He was very sharp and very kind.”

She said she was touched by the fact that he mentioned years ago, people were blown away by the idea that students would one day have access to 12 years of free public education. Now, it's the norm. So, expanding it to 14 by offering two years of free community college seems the logical next step.

“Civilization and cultures stop when they stop learning. Education is the cornerstone of strong economics, lower poverty, lower additions, lower self-harm, lower emotional distress, and he recognizes that and he highlighted it in his speech and all the contextual things around it – making sure people can get to school, afford child care as they return to school as adults. And, that’s how you build a great society,” Shuman said.

And, a key to that learning are adjunct faculty, who often have to string multiple jobs together to make the bare minimum salary. “Not going to change anything for adjunction faculty in higher education until we can talk to politicians and help them understand. Adjuncts are treated unfairly in the culture of their schools and in the understanding of their community.” Shuman hopes connections made at the event will help their plight.

### **Is America really back where we want it?, Chicago Daily Herald, 7/19/21**

<https://www.dailyherald.com/discuss/20210715/is-america-really-back-where-we-want-it>

When he visited McHenry County College recently, President Joe Biden said "America is back."

Very true, but let's examine what is actually "back": the highest gasoline prices in seven years; a concerted effort to bow to Iran's theocracy and do whatever it takes to appease them; inflation affecting homeowner insurance, electricity and natural gas; and a Clinton-era housing bubble.

In short, a squeeze on the middle class, Obama-era world politics and Jimmy Carter inflation. President Biden, be careful what you wish for when you want this great country to be "back."

Larry Schneider

Lincolnshire

### **Video**

#### **Full Video:**

- CSPAN: <https://www.c-span.org/video/?513220-1/president-biden-speaks-mchenry-county-college-illinois>

#### **Clips:**

##### **7/7/21: NBC5 Chicago**

- <https://www.nbcchicago.com/top-videos-home/biden-tours-a-childhood-development-center-in-crystal-lake/2549455/>

##### **7/7/21: FOX 2 St. Louis**

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qma00n-Dwas>

##### **7/7/21: ABC 17 (WTVD) & FOX 39**

- <https://www.mystateline.com/news/local-news/biden-in-illinois-republicans-hopeful-infrastructure-package-will-lead-to-more-jobs/>
- Biden in Illinois: Republicans 'hopeful' infrastructure package will lead to more jobs

ROCKFORD, Ill. (WTVO) — President Joe Biden visited Illinois for the first time in office on Wednesday, touring the McHenry County College in Crystal Lake to highlight how his spending on so-called human infrastructure would boost the economy.

The Winnebago County Republican Party and Illinois Americans for Prosperity say, while they are hopeful, wasteful spending and job opportunities are a primary concern for them.

"It's hard to get excited about this overall, as a Republican and the chairman of the party, but I'm hopeful something can happen in terms of jobs and we can make something work," said Eli Nicolosi, chairman of the Winnebago County Republican Party.

Biden says the proposed infrastructure package will create millions of new jobs, but not all Republicans are convinced.

"We really should be focusing on schools and training for the trades, things along those lines so that – there are so many jobs out there right now – we just don't have enough qualified people," Nicolosi said.

The potential price tag for the Democrats' plan has Brian Costin, deputy state director for Americans for Prosperity, concerned as well.

"There's too much wasteful reckless spending going on in Washington D.C. His four trillion dollar infrastructure plan is an obscene amount of money," said Costin.

"With only 20% going to jobs, which could actually make money, the other part of it, with the social engineering, is just spending money to have money," Nicolosi said.

Biden says the package will provide historic investments in roads, bridges, clean drinking water, and railways.

Democrats plan to include much of the rest in a bill they hope to pass through a legislative maneuver that would require just a simple majority vote, skirting the 60-vote hurdle in an evenly divided Senate.

### **7/8/21: Fox 55/27 Illinois (WCCU) - Champaign, IL**

- <https://mms.tveyes.com/Transcript.asp?StationID=18180&DateTime=7%2F8%2F2021+7%3A35%3A03+AM&Term=McHenry+County+College&PlayClip=TRUE>
- Transcript: This morning President Biden is making his case for a 2<sup>nd</sup> economic proposal focusing on human infrastructure this time, and he visited McHenry County College in Crystal Lake to explain how his Build Back Better agenda will help students and educators. He toured the Children's Learning Center that cares for the students' children while they're in class. Biden did speak about his own experience as a single parent, saying that it's hard to manage alone, so that's why he is calling on lawmakers to extend the child tax credit that was enhanced with the

American rescue plan (Quote from Biden): “In this proposal guess what—you’re in a situation where if you have a child under the age of 7, you get back \$3,600 in cash. In addition to that, those of you who are in that situation are going to start to see that come in by the end of this month on a monthly basis. It can change the lives of people.” Biden reached a bipartisan deal for infrastructure but several of his priorities were left out. He’s urging congress to pass this 2nd package to get the job done.

### **7/8/21: WJLA 24/7 News - Washington, D.C.—Good Morning Washington @ 8am**

- <https://mms.tveyes.com/Transcript.asp?StationID=7005&DateTime=7%2F8%2F2021+8%3A35%3A48+AM&Term=McHenry+County+College&PlayClip=TRUE>
- Transcript: President Joe Biden is pushing his latest economic proposal, focusing on what he is calling “human infrastructure”. He visited McHenry County College in Chicago just yesterday and he said that his Build Back Better agenda will help students and educators. He is urging lawmakers to extend the child tax credit that was enhanced with the American Rescue Plan. (Quote from Biden): “In this proposal guess what—you’re in a situation where if you have a child under the age of 7, you get back \$3,600 in cash. In addition to that, those of you who are in that situation are going to start to see that come in by the end of this month on a monthly basis. It can change the lives of people.” President Biden reached a bipartisan deal for infrastructure but several of his priorities were left out. He is urging congress to pass the second package to get the job done.

### **7/8/21: Spectrum News Central New York - Syracuse, NY – 9:16 a.m., 10:16 a.m., and 11:18 a.m.**

Spectrum News Central New York - Binghamton, NY 9:16 a.m. and 10:16 a.m., and 11:18 a.m.

- <https://mms.tveyes.com/Transcript.asp?StationID=8140&DateTime=7%2F8%2F2021+9%3A16%3A34+AM&Term=McHenry+County+College&PlayClip=TRUE>
- President Joe Biden is on the road again, talking up the American Families Plan visiting a childcare center at McHenry County College outside Chicago. He told staff and parents he couldn't afford childcare after the death of his first wife, even as a U.S. senator. “My best friend in the world is my sister, she and her husband moved into my house and helped me raise my kids—and my brother—but people can’t make it by themselves.” Biden's plan would offset the cost of childcare with tax breaks and pay for free pre-kindergarten, community college, and paid family leave as well. He's proposing to raise taxes on the wealthy to foot the nearly 2-trillion dollar bill. “Everybody has to pay their fair share. I’m not trying to gouge anybody.” With republicans opposing his plan, Biden will have to enact it with only democratic votes through a process known as reconciliation—but he faces a tricky balancing act. Some progressives are pushing to add more spending to the legislation after Biden was forced to drop priorities like climate change projects from his infrastructure bill to win republican support for it. Sarah Anderson, of the Institute for Policy Studies, a progressive think tank, says Biden may need to pass the American Families Plan first to get progressives to support his infrastructure bill. “I think that would make people very nervous: that they’re not going to get the kind of bold

proposals that they're expecting out of the reconciliation package.” Adding spending to the American Families Plan might anger moderate democrats, but the party’s narrow control of congress means there's almost no room for defections from progressives or moderates— meaning Biden will likely have to make more trips like this to build support for his proposals.

**7/8/21: ABC 7 Eyewitness News (Chicago, IL)**

- <https://mms.tveyes.com/Transcript.asp?StationID=675&DateTime=7%2F8%2F2021+11%3A08%3A10+AM&Term=McHenry+County+College&PlayClip=TRUE>
- Transcript: ...Yesterday he traveled to Crystal Lake in his first trip to Illinois as President. He visited McHenry County College to promote the American Families Plan, which includes providing two years of free community college.

**7/8/21: WICD ABC (Champaign, IL) – Newschannel 20 MIDDAY**

- <https://mms.tveyes.com/Transcript.asp?StationID=3430&DateTime=7%2F8%2F2021+11%3A19%3A01+AM&Term=McHenry+County+College&PlayClip=TRUE>
- Making headlines President Biden is making the case for his 2nd economic proposal focusing on human infrastructure. He visited McHenry County College in Chicago to explain how his Build Back Better agenda will help students and educators. He toured the children’s learning center that cares for students’ children while they’re in class. Biden spoke about his own experience as a single parent saying it's hard to manage alone. That's why he's calling on lawmakers to extend the child tax credit that was enhanced with the American Rescue Plan “In this proposal guess what—you’re in a situation where if you have a child under the age of 7 you get back \$3600 in cash. In addition to that, those of you who are in that situation are going to start to see that come in by the end of this month on a monthly basis. It can change the lives of people.” Biden reached a bipartisan deal for infrastructure but several of his prior priorities were left out. He's urging congress to pass the 2nd package to get the job done.

**7/8/21: Newsmax TV (U.S. Cable) – John Bachman Now**

- <https://mms.tveyes.com/Transcript.asp?StationID=19340&DateTime=7%2F8%2F2021+12%3A02%3A29+PM&Term=McHenry+County+College&PlayClip=TRUE>
- But let's turn our attention now to President Biden's visit to Chicago and his push for human infrastructure and for the progressive left. That, of course, means that socialism is infrastructure in a way. Biden toured a childhood development center and McHenry County College in Crystal Lake, Illinois where he couldn't seem to tell the difference between toddlers and pre-teens, confusing a four year old here for a 12 year old. Also during his infrastructure speech, Biden called for a minimum of 14 years of public education. “That's why I want to guarantee an additional four years of public education for every person in America. Starting with providing two years of universal, high-quality preschool for three- and four- year-olds building on what the governor has been doing here in Illinois.

**7/8/21: WEEK NBC (Peoria, IL) – News 25 at Noon**

- <https://mms.tveyes.com/Transcript.asp?StationID=3790&DateTime=7%2F8%2F2021+12%3A09%3A34+PM&Term=McHenry+County+College&PlayClip=TRUE>

- President Joe Biden made his first official visit as president to the Land of Lincoln on Wednesday while speaking at McHenry County College in Crystal Lake the president said he wants more Americans to have the opportunity to attend College. Biden pitched parts of his 'build back better' agenda Wednesday -- saying that he wants to invest in education and plans to offer two years of free community college and two years of free universal pre-k. "Low income children who participate in preschool are 47 percent more likely to earn an associate's degree or higher and get through school without any difficulty. We have to build on that foundation for future success. And then I want to add two years of free community college for everyone." Additional investments in education in the American Families Plan would reduce student debt for future teachers, double the size of annual federal scholarships for future teachers, and support infrastructure improvements in schools. His plan will also increase the maximum Pell Grant award by approximately \$1400.

#### **7/8/21: Rachel Maddow Show**

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f--z6PIAFRY>

#### **Audio:**

#### **7/7/21: Cities 92.9 (Normal, IL)**

- <https://www.cities929.com/2021/07/07/president-biden-visits-illinois/>
- President Joe Biden spoke at a community college in the Chicago suburbs on Wednesday to bolster support for both his bipartisan infrastructure deal and a broader package that he expects will be passed with only Democratic votes.  
At McHenry County College, which has a workforce development program and a child care center, Biden promoted his vision to invest in child care, health care, education and other important aspects of everyday life for Americans.

#### **7/8/21: WBBM – AM Radio (Chicago, IL) - 7:32 a.m. and 10:33 a.m.**

- <https://mms.tveyes.com/Transcript.asp?StationID=6465&DateTime=7%2F8%2F2021+7%3A32%3A46+AM&Term=McHenry+County+College&PlayClip=TRUE>
- Transcript: ...President Biden visited the far northwest suburbs yesterday afternoon. Some people gathered to make a political point. WBBM political editor Craig Delamore reports that for others, it was more of a personal moment. Most of the people who waited for hours outside McHenry County College in Crystal Lake carried Trump signs and big American flags and there was one banner saying "Make America Proud Again" and a couple of flags for the extremist group, The Proud Boys. Teenager Ella Levin across the roadway sported a Biden-Harris t-shirt, but she was more interested in seeing the president's aircraft touchdown. "Well, it's like a once in a lifetime opportunity to even see President even from 200 feet away, even if it's just for a second like, I don't think a lot of people get opportunity be near any President ever so I think that's why a lot of us came today." Her grandmother Debbie Gallagher felt likewise. "I just

wanted to see the President land, the President of the United States, is a big deal for Crystal Lake. And both said they were sad for the people who shouted vile things at them just because they were there. Craig Delamore, news radio, 105.9 FM.

#### **7/8/21: WGN-AM Radio (Chicago, IL)**

- <https://mms.tveyes.com/Transcript.asp?StationID=6475&DateTime=7%2F8%2F2021+7%3A33%3A41+AM&Term=McHenry+County+College&PlayClip=TRUE>
- The President paid a visit to McHenry County College in Crystal Lake yesterday promoting his infrastructure plan. (Quote from Biden): “To truly win the 21st century and once again lead the World; to truly build the economy from the bottom up and the middle out, to truly deal everybody in this time, we need to invest in our people.” Biden spoke about the benefits of his Build Back Better agenda which includes creating free community college, extending the child tax credit, and achieving universal pre-K education.

#### **7/8/21: WCPT (Chicago, IL)**

- <https://mms.tveyes.com/Transcript.asp?StationID=20835&DateTime=7%2F8%2F2021+2%3A23%3A05+PM&Term=McHenry+County+College&PlayClip=TRUE>
- President Biden of course was here in Illinois yesterday appearing in Crystal Lake at McHenry County College...You know, Joe Biden is taking a victory lap. He wants people to know what he and his administration are accomplishing. He was also drumming up support for his whole Build Back Better program, his infrastructure program. Now, there have been, you might have heard that he has bipartisan support for the infrastructure program. Two things on that: first of all, Republicans know, whether or not Mitch McConnell agrees with this, Republicans know that he's going to benefit the people in their state. I mean, like jobs and paychecks kind of benefit for the people of their state. They also know that because of a policy called a “reconciliation,” that Joe Biden can get this infrastructure bill passed without their help. When you are doing in the senate, when you are doing a budgetary measure, you do not have to use—you're not subject to the filibuster. You can put out your budget, with all the money spent this way and that way and then through a program—a parliamentary program called reconciliation—you can get that budget passed with a simple majority. And why is that important? Because that means that no matter how much republicans want to oppose any budgetary measure, they can't stop it with the numbers we have now. It would be great if we had a few more democrats in the senate, but we don't—we live with what we've got. Unfortunately, the Voting Rights Act—because you may be saying ‘Well if this works for this one, put the Voting Rights Act through’--the Voting Rights Act is not a budgetary bill and this reconciliation only exists for matters that are budgetary.
- <https://mms.tveyes.com/Transcript.asp?StationID=20835&DateTime=7%2F8%2F2021+2%3A45%3A18+PM&Term=McHenry+County+College&PlayClip=TRUE>
- Tony, I don't know if you got to see any of President Biden's appearance in Crystal Lake yesterday at McHenry County College—you know, he was there on the stump to talk about Build Back Better as he does lots of times when he travels around the country—but what I thought was really interesting, you know, there were a lot of places Joe Biden could have gone to in Illinois where there would have been nothing but abject support and hero worship and he decided to take his message in to a place that voted for Trump, not just the first time but also the second time. I thought there was a very interesting choice on his part. Your thoughts? Yeah,

I think it tactically it was it was brilliant. I mean if he changes, you know, 7 or 8% of those folks, he will have done a good thing. I sometimes think people don't know exactly who they're going to vote for until the time they get into the booth—except this last time and it was pretty clear. I mean, it was like, you know, vote for the abyss or vote for hope and the choice was fairly easy. But I think Biden very clearly wants people who might not have voted for him to look him in the face, to see him, to make them realize that despite all, he's also their president.

#### **7/8/21: WSPY News (Kendall County, IL)**

- [https://www.wspynews.com/news/local/head-of-kendall-county-republican-party-reacts-to-president-bidens-visit-to-illinois/article\\_85fe34c0-dfff-11eb-b464-5b22efa39a10.html](https://www.wspynews.com/news/local/head-of-kendall-county-republican-party-reacts-to-president-bidens-visit-to-illinois/article_85fe34c0-dfff-11eb-b464-5b22efa39a10.html)
- **Head of Kendall County Republican Party Reacts to President Biden's Visit to Illinois, WSPY News, 7/8/21**

President Joe Biden was in Crystal Lake Wednesday to promote several of his initiatives. Biden spoke at McHenry County College. Jim Marter is the head of the Kendall County Republican Party and is running for Congress in the Sixteenth District. Marter characterized the visit as pandering.

Marter thinks that many of Biden's proposals will be encourage Americans to not return to work as the pandemic winds down.

Marter is also concerned that the Biden administration's spending is going to lead to more inflation that will drive up the cost of living. Marter thinks that to pay for infrastructure improvements, the government should weed out unnecessary spending.

Marter says the government can't fix anything by simply throwing money at it and that you can't just pass out money for nothing. He says if normal people need to manage their budget and spending, so should the government.

Several Republican organizations demonstrated outside of McHenry County College Wednesday. Media photos showed a number of demonstrators holding Trump flags and signs ahead of President Biden's visit.

WSPY news has reached to the local Democratic Party for comment on the speech.