

First Days as President of the United States

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The most important thing a U.S. citizen can do for the government is be educated about it. While many may know about mask mandates or the Keystone XL pipeline, others may not know what they do or what exactly they mean.

Joe Biden became the 46th president of the United States on January 20, 2021. As every president does, Biden passed and signed orders during his first days in office. It is clear to anyone who watches the news or reads social media posts that some decisions Biden made have been controversial among U.S. citizens.

For example, after former president Donald Trump used his power to approve the construction of the Keystone XL pipeline, Biden did the opposite and shut it down. This cre-

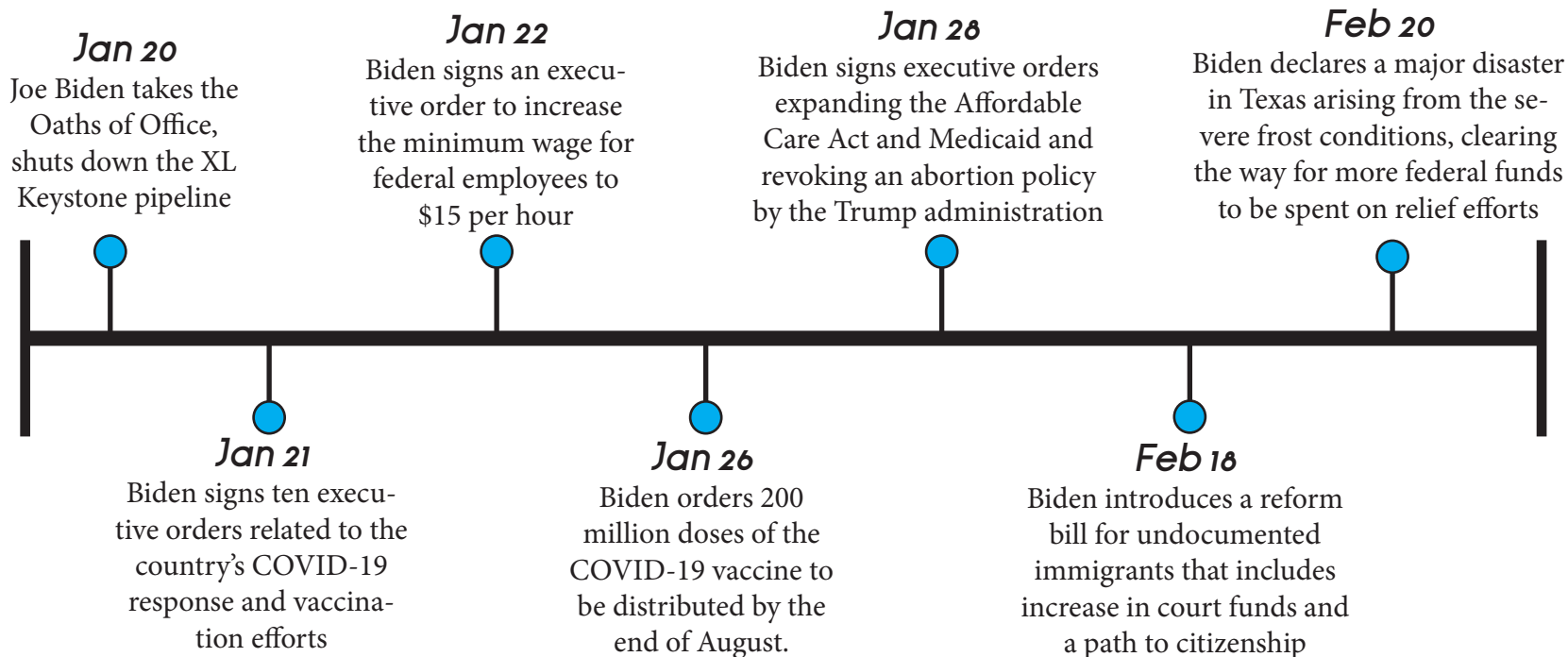
ated controversy as many are upset about the loss of jobs. Biden's reasoning behind shutting the pipeline down includes many things like having it run through Native lands, creating oil spills, and the fact it could endanger many animal species. Plus, the pipeline would only create about 50 permanent jobs, the 2,000 jobs that are being ended were only temporary.

Another thing Biden has done differently than Trump in his first days was repealing Trump's ban from transgender Americans joining the military. In July of 2017, well over a year after starting the process of the ban, Trump tweeted his reasoning behind it. "Our military must be focused on decisive and overwhelming ... victory and cannot be burdened with the tremendous medical costs

and disruption that transgender in the military would entail," Trump tweeted. In difference to Trump's social media posts, Biden has a different stand point. "To transgender and gender-nonconfirming people across America and around the world: from the moment I am sworn in as president, know that my administration will see you, listen to you, and fight for not only your safety but also the dignity and justice you have been denied," Biden tweeted.

Overall, our president and former president are two very different people with different views. It is now America's duty to trust and to hold Joe Biden accountable for his words and actions, despite other president's first days in office.

— Timeline of Joe Biden's Presidency so Far —



Joe Biden's First Day Events:

7



- Ended the U.S. permit to build the Keystone XL pipeline
- Rejoined the 2015 Paris climate agreement
- Repealed Trump's law on banning transgender Americans joining the military
- Applied a mandate to wear masks and social distance on federal government property (compared to Trump's more relaxed approach)

Donald Trump's First Day Events:

- Approved construction of the Keystone XL pipeline
- Banned transgender Americans from joining the military
- Advanced the repeal of the Affordable Care Act
- Signed an executive order that blocked travelers from Iraq, Iran, Syria, Yemen, Sudan, Libya and Somalia in the U.S. for 90 days

