

The Delray Democrat

It's Not a Failed Presidency It's a Failed Democracy . . . and a Failing Planet¹

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If you get your information from the corporate media, you'll be surprised to learn that Joe Biden's record in office has been one of singular achievements, notwithstanding recent setbacks.

His presidency would be deemed a success even if he hadn't been inaugurated during a once-in-a-century pandemic and the greatest economic meltdown since the Great Depression, and even if he had not been forced to work with razor-thin majorities in Congress.

The media loved him at first, celebrating his accomplishments within his first 100 days, chief among them the enormously successful rollout of the COVID vaccination program, passage of the American Rescue Plan, and the rejoining of the Paris Agreement.

Biden nearly quadrupled the vaccination rate (from 777,000 to 3 million a day) by invoking the Defense Production Act, brokering a deal between Merck & Johnson & Johnson, and setting up federally run vaccination centers across the country.

As a result, in the first 100 days in office, 148 million Americans received at least one dose of a COVID vaccine and 106 million were fully vaccinated; and 83% of Americans over 65 received at least one dose, with 70% being fully vaccinated.

The \$1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan not only provided stimulus payments to all Americans earning under \$200,000 and extended unemployment benefits, but also restructured and expanded the child care credit in order to cut child poverty in half. By increasing subsidies for the Affordable Care Act, it helped provide insurance for a record 31 million Americans.

In addition to returning the United States to the Paris Agreement, Biden used his executive powers to revoke the permit for the Keystone XL pipeline, block drilling at Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, and stop issuing new leases for oil and gas exploration on public land. By executive action, he also expanded food assistance, extended the federal moratorium on evictions, and continued the suspension of federal student loan payments and interest charges.

Those are just the highlights. And last but not least, there was a collective sigh as a sense of normality settled over the nation after four years of chaos, cruelty, and incompetence.

Biden Hasn't Failed; Our Democracy Has

From the moment Biden was inaugurated, we knew Joe Manchin would be a problem; what we didn't know was that Krysten Sinema's narcissism would be eclipsed only by Trump's. Together

¹ [The Delray Democrat](#), November 2021, p. 1.

they have thwarted the clear will of the American people, 61% of whom support passage of the American Families Plan at its originally budgeted cost of \$3.5 trillion:

\$3.5 trillion American Families Plan		
	For	Against
Total	61%	30%
Democrat	89%	6%
Independent	60%	28%
Republican	30%	58%

[Source](#): Navigator.

Manchin insisted on cutting provisions designed to combat climate change, the preeminent threat to our civilization and planet. Sinema refused to support raising taxes to pay for the bill even though, once again, the overwhelming majority of Americans are in favor of raising taxes on the wealthy and corporations:

Measure	For	Against
Increase capital gains on wealthy	72%	20%
Limit deductions for wealthy business owners	71%	21%
Raise income tax on top 2%	71%	23%
Increase IRS funding to catch tax cheats	68%	24%
Raise taxes on large corporations	65%	28%

[Source](#): Vox/Data for Progress

Moreover, the [voters of West Virginia](#) also support enactment of the American Families plan by a 54-41 margin. But Manchin is far from alone in believing that his constituents are the corporations and wealthy donors who contribute to his campaign and *not* the people who actually live in his state.

House Democrats Kurt Schrader, Scott Peters, and Kathleen Rice voted against allowing government to negotiate drug prices even though that is supported by Americans by more than a 5:1 margin. Big Pharm was Peter's biggest and Schrader's second biggest contributor.

Should Government Be Allowed to Negotiate Drug Prices?		
	For	Against
Total	83%	16%
Democrat	92%	6%
Independent	85%	15%
Republican	76%	23%

[Source](#): KFF

Schrader [called](#) for the decoupling of the American Families Plan from the bipartisan infrastructure bill:

Let's pass that infrastructure package right now, and don't get your hopes up that we're going to spend trillions more of our kids' and grandkids' money that we don't really have at this point.

I imagine his kids and grandkids would remember him more fondly if he showed some concern about leaving them a dying planet.

Joe Biden has been doing a superb job in trying circumstances but it's times like these that one misses LBJ. He would have taken Joe Manchin into his office and told him to vote for his bill or West Virginia wouldn't get another dime from the federal government while he was president. He would have eaten and spit out Schrader and Sinema: "listen up, you little shits, get with the plan or find another job."

Our Failing Planet

The American Families Plan is our democracy's and our planet's last chance. Pass it and Democrats will be seen to have listened to, and acted on behalf of, the American people, and we will hold Congress next year. Fail to pass it and we will cede control of Congress in 2022 and the White House in 2024. And that is game over for our democracy and planet.