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Mr. Lee's Commentary and Dairy



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Democratic presidential candidate Biden taps Senator Kamala Harris as running mate



FILE PHOTO: U.S. Democratic presidential candidate Sen. Kamala Harris (D-CA) listens to a question from the audience during a forum in Las Vegas, Nevada, U.S. October 2, 2019. REUTERS/Steve Marcus/File Photo

(Reuters) - Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden on Tuesday tapped Senator Kamala Harris of California as his choice for vice president, his campaign told supporters in a text message.

Harris, 55, becomes the first Black woman on a major presidential ticket in U.S. history and providing him with a partner well suited to go on the attack against Republican President Donald Trump.

"I have the great honor to announce that I've picked @KamalaHarris — a fearless fighter for the little guy, and one of the country's finest public servants — as my running mate," Biden said on Twitter.

With social unrest over racial injustice and police brutality against Black Americans rocking the country for months, Biden had been under increasing pressure to select a woman of color as his running mate. She is also the first Asian-American on a major presidential ticket.

RELATED COVERAGE

How Kamala Harris found the political identity that had eluded her

In Harris, a senator from California who made her own run for the White House before ending it and endorsing Biden, he gains a deeply experienced politician already battle-tested by the rigors of the 2020 presidential campaign as they head into the final stretch of the Nov. 3 election.

Harris, who became only the Senate's second Black woman in its history when she was elected in 2016, will be relied on to help drive the African-American vote — the Democratic Party's most loyal constituency. Four years ago, the first dip in Black voter turnout in 20 years contributed to Democrat Hillary Clinton's upset loss to Trump.

Biden, whose foundering campaign was rescued by Black voters in South Carolina's primary in February, needs their strong support against Trump. It will be crucial in battleground states such as Michigan, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin that Trump won by the slimmest margins in 2016 but where opinion polls now show him trailing his Democratic rival.

The Black vote is also central to Biden's hopes of winning Southern states Georgia and Florida that Trump carried four years ago but that opinion polls indicate will be competitive this year.

Biden served as vice president for eight years under President Barack Obama, the first Black U.S. president.

Harris, 55, a former prosecutor and state attorney general in California, is well known for her sometimes aggressive questioning style in the Senate, most notably of Brett Kavanaugh during his 2018 Supreme Court confirmation hearing.

As a presidential candidate, she also took Biden to task in a nationally televised debate over his past stances on mandatory

busing for students as a means to desegregate schools. Some Biden advisers have told Reuters the attacks made them question whether she would be a trusted working partner because of her political ambitions.

While that exchange failed to boost her White House hopes, the Biden campaign will now look for her to train her prosecutorial fire on Trump and Vice President Mike Pence. Harris is scheduled to debate Pence on Oct. 7 in Salt Lake City, Utah.

The choice of a running mate has added significance for Biden, who will turn 78 in November and be the oldest person to become president if he is elected.

Biden's age also has led to broad speculation he will serve only one term, making Harris a potential top contender for the nomination in 2024. Some of his allies were concerned that would make her a bad fit for the No.2 job and questioned her loyalty.

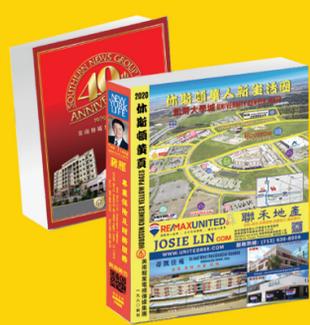
Biden publicly committed to choosing a woman as his No. 2 in a March debate after discussing the matter with his wife Jill and had considered other former presidential rivals such as Senators Amy Klobuchar and Elizabeth Warren. After the protests that erupted over the May 25 killing of George Floyd, a Black man, by a white policeman in Minneapolis, Biden's search focused predominantly on candidates of color.

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WEA LEE'S GLOBAL NOTES

08/11/2020

CORONAVIRUS DIARY

Let Us Be United And Fight The Virus

Dear community brothers and sisters –

In these unprecedented and challenging times, we hope you and your family are healthy and safe. We are all in this together and our hearts go out to all those directly affected by the virus as well as their families, friends and coworkers.

It has been six months since the coronavirus attacked our community. We believe that by working together we will help flatten the curve.



As the situation continues to unfold, we are more certain than ever of the ability of the human spirit to overcome adversity. We are confident that in the days to come we will find ourselves stronger, more resilient and more connected as a community.

Many of us came to this great land to build America together, and together we look forward to better days ahead.



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In Executive Actions, Trump Extends Unemployment Benefits, Defers Payroll Taxes

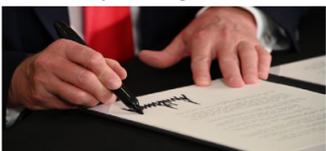


President Trump speaks during a news conference in Bedminster, N.J., on Saturday. (Jim Watson/AFP via Getty Images)

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor

At his Bedminster, N.J., golf resort on Saturday, President Trump signed four executive actions to provide economic relief amid the coronavirus pandemic. The actions amount to a stopgap measure, after failing to secure an agreement with Congress. The three memorandums and one executive order call for extending enhanced unemployment benefits, taking steps to stop evictions, continuing the suspension of student loan repayments, and deferring payroll taxes. Trump promised that funds would be “rapidly distributed” to Americans in need, although it remains unclear whether the president has the authority to do this unilaterally without congressional approval. In any case, legal challenges are expected, which could delay any disbursement of funds. In one memorandum, Trump authorized the federal government to pay \$300 per week for people on unemployment. States would be asked to pay an additional \$100, for a total of \$400 weekly for unemployed workers.

“If they don’t, they don’t. That’s up to them,” Trump said when asked what happens if governors don’t have the funds available. “The states have the money. It’s sitting there.”



President Trump signs executive actions

regarding coronavirus economic relief during a news conference in Bedminster, N.J., on Saturday. A number of lawmakers are criticizing the measures’ substance and constitutionality. (Jim Watson /AFP via Getty Images)

The previous enhanced unemployment benefits, which added \$600 a week to standard state unemployment benefits, expired at the end of July. The text of the memorandum calls for up to \$44 billion of federal funds for the benefits to come from the Department of Homeland Security’s Disaster Relief Fund. The White House said states could use funding from the March coronavirus relief package, the CARES Act, to fund their portion of the benefits.

In an executive order calling to minimize evictions, Trump directed various federal agencies to make funds available for temporary financial assistance to renters and homeowners facing financial hardship caused by COVID-19.

“It’s not their fault that this virus came into our country,” he said of renters and homeowners. “It’s China’s fault.”

That order also directs the Department of Health and Human Services and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to consider whether temporarily halting residential evictions for failure to pay rent “are reasonably necessary to prevent the further spread of COVID-19” from one state to another.



The federal moratorium on evictions expired on July 24, allowing landlords to begin issuing 30-day notices to vacate their properties. It is estimated the temporary ban on evictions covered more than 12 million renters, preventing them from being pushed out of their homes even if they couldn’t pay rent. Trump also extended relief for student loan borrowers. Student loan interest rates were cut to zero earlier this year, and students could suspend payments through September. Trump directed the secretary of education to extend the relief through the end of the year, and said an additional extension is likely. And a fourth action defers payroll tax collection for workers earning less than \$100,000 a year, beginning Sept. 1. “This will mean bigger paychecks for working families, as we race to produce a vaccine and eradicate the China virus once and for all,” Trump told reporters.

Trump said the “payroll tax holiday” would last through the end of the year but could be made permanent if he is reelected. The connection to November’s election wasn’t subtle.

“If I’m victorious on Nov. 3, I plan to forgive these taxes and make permanent cuts to the payroll tax. I’m going to make them all permanent,” Trump said, then turning to job congressional Democrats and his opponent, former Vice President Joe Biden. “So they will have the option of raising everybody’s taxes and taking this away. But if I win, I will extend and terminate. In other words, I will extend it beyond the end of the year and terminate the tax. And so, we’ll see what happens.”

Category	Current	Proposed
Income Tax	254.91	6,504.76
Social Security (FICA)	185.32	4,833.10
Medicare	43.34	1,083.55
State Income Tax	136.59	3,465.35
TOTAL	620.16	15,886.76

Both congressional Democrats and Republicans alike opposed this payroll tax proposal when President Trump was trying to get them to include it in the coronavirus relief package. Payroll taxes fund Medicare and Social Security and this deferral won’t do anything to help

the millions of Americans currently unemployed. Trump is likely doing this through the same mechanism that allowed taxpayers to put off filing their taxes until July 15 this year, says Andrew Rudalevige, a professor at Bowdoin College who specializes in presidential executive actions.

“The Treasury Secretary is authorized to delay the deadline for any action required under tax law up to one year,” said Rudalevige, in case of a federally declared disaster, and all states are currently operating under one due to the pandemic. “So payroll tax payments could under this provision be delayed. But, not forgiven — those taxes are still owed.”

There are already significant concerns about the long-term solvency of the popular social safety net programs. Reducing payroll taxes would hasten those problems. Trump’s actions come after weeks of talks between Republicans and Democrats on Capitol Hill over the next round coronavirus relief. As of Saturday, they were still far from reaching agreement.

Related Democrats Slam Trump’s Executive Actions, Criticizing Both Substance And Legality

Democrats on Sunday slammed President Trump’s executive actions aimed at providing economic relief during the coronavirus pandemic, saying the measures are both ineffective and unconstitutional. Trump signed three memoranda and one executive order at his Bedminster, N.J., golf resort on Saturday amid stalled negotiations with Congress over a new COVID-19 relief package. The measures would extend federal unemployment benefits, continue the suspension of student loan repayment, defer payroll tax collection for many workers, and task federal officials with reviewing “resources that may be used to prevent evictions and foreclosures.” Some lawmakers and experts are voicing concerns about the president’s moves to control federal spending, which is a power reserved for Congress. Andrew Rudalevige, chair of the Department of Government and Legal Studies at Bowdoin College, told NPR on Saturday that the unemployment benefits measure is particularly controversial because it is “really using appropriated funds by Congress in ways that Congress might not have



intended.”

“The president can defer the payroll tax, but he can’t forgive it,” Rudalevige said. “He talked about terminating the tax [if he wins reelection], but that would certainly require a law to do that. So I think you will see pushback here.”

“Our Constitution doesn’t authorize the president to act as king whenever Congress doesn’t legislate,” said Libertarian-leaning Michigan Congressman Justin Amash, who left the Republican Party last year to become an independent.

Republican Sen. Ben Sasse of Nebraska wrote in a statement that Trump does not have the power to “unilaterally rewrite the payroll tax law.”

“The pen-and-phone theory of executive lawmaking is unconstitutional slop,” he said.

But several members of the Trump administration defended the president’s actions on Sunday. White House economic adviser Larry Kudlow responded to Sasse’s comments about the payroll tax deferral on ABC’s This Week. “I appreciate those things, maybe we’re going to go to court on them,” Kudlow said. “We’re going to go ahead with our actions anyway. Our counsel’s office, the Treasury Department believes it has the authority to temporarily suspend tax collections, so we’re banking on that.”



Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin

Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said all of the actions cleared the administration’s Office of Legal Counsel. He warned against potential challengers. In an appearance on CNN’s *State of the Union* on Sunday, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., called Trump’s executive actions unconstitutional but sidestepped a question about whether she would sue to block them.

“My constitutional advisers tell me they’re absurdly unconstitutional, and that’s a parallel thing,” Pelosi said. “Right now the focus, the priority, has to be on ... meeting the needs of the American people.” (Courtesy <https://www.npr.org/>)

Editor's Choice



A member of Lebanese riot police fires a weapon during anti-government protests following last week's massive explosion in Beirut, Lebanon. REUTERS/Thaier Al-Sudani



U.S. President Donald Trump talks with a secret service agent before leaving a coronavirus pandemic briefing at the White House in Washington. REUTERS/Kevin Lamarque



Fire fighters look for survivors at the scene of an explosion in a residential area of Baltimore, Maryland. REUTERS/Carlos Barria



A general view shows the bulk carrier ship MV Wakashio, belonging to a Japanese company but Panamanian-flagged, that ran aground on a reef, at Riviere des Creoles, Mauritius. REUTERS/Dev Ramkhelawon/L'Express Maurice



People enjoy the hot weather amid summer-themed sculptures in London, Britain. REUTERS/Toby Melville



Locals harvest their potatoes as Mount Sinabung spews volcanic ash in Karo, North Sumatra province, Indonesia. Antara Foto/Sastrawan Ginting/ via REUTERS



The view from inside an unfinished cross-border tunnel found by Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers in the sandy Sonoran desert terrain in San Luis, Arizona. REUTERS/Mike Blake



Debris are seen in the port area after a blast in Beirut, Lebanon. REUTERS/Hannah McKay

TikTok To Sue Trump Administration Over Ban

TikTok is planning to sue the Trump administration, challenging the president's executive order banning the service from the United States.

has also been used to antagonize the president, including when thousands of teens reserved tickets to the president's rally in Tulsa, Okla., with no intention of going...



The TikTok app was used to antagonize the president, including when thousands of teens reserved tickets to the president's rally in Tulsa, Okla., with no intention of going.

"It's based on pure speculation and conjecture," the source said. "The order has no findings of fact, just reiterates rhetoric about China that has been kicking around."

The White House declined to comment on the expected litigation but defended the president's executive order. "The Administration is committed to protecting the American people from all cyber related threats to critical infrastructure, public health and safety, and our economic and national security," according to White House spokesman Judd Deere.

What the Thursday night executive order does

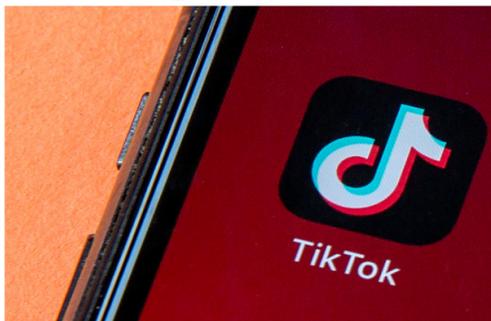
Under the president's Thursday night executive order, "any transaction" between a U.S. citizen and TikTok's Beijing-based parent company, ByteDance, will be outlawed in 45 days for national security reasons.

It is popular among teenagers and 20-somethings in the U.S., where more than 100 million users have downloaded the app. They use it to share dances and comedy skits in 60-second video bites, which often go viral.

If the presidential ban goes into effect, the app may no longer be able to send software updates, rendering TikTok unmanageable on smartphones and eventually nonfunctional.

The president's executive order stands to cut off American advertisers on its app and force Apple and Google to remove it from mobile app stores.

Typically, if the federal government launches an investigation, it will inform the company with a subpoena or some other kind of notice demanding a response to allegations of misconduct or malfeasance.



President Trump's executive order prohibits transactions between U.S. citizens and TikTok's parent company starting in 45 days. (Mark Schiefelbein/AP)

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor

executive order. TikTok lawyers view that as shortcutting standard procedure.

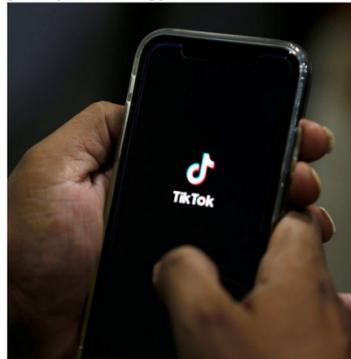


Trump Signs Executive Order That Will Effectively Ban Use Of TikTok In The U.S.

As such, the president's move took many inside TikTok aback. Officials at TikTok acknowledged as much in its response to the order. "We are shocked by the recent Executive Order, which was issued without any due process," TikTok said in a statement.

Breaking the TikTok ban carries a

when presented with an "unusual and extraordinary threat," such as a risk to national security. There are exceptions to that power that lawyers for TikTok will likely underscore in their litigation.



Class-Action Lawsuit Claims TikTok Steals Kids' Data And Sends It To China

If Congress believes the president has used the emergency economic powers unjustly, lawmakers can overrule the order by passing a resolution that would terminate the order.

passed a bill Thursday banning TikTok on all government-issued devices.

Washington fears China access to American citizens' data

TikTok's terms of service spells out what it captures from users, including location data, browsing history and personal contacts.

The app also informs users that data can be shared with its Chinese parent company, ByteDance. This has stirred fears in Washington that authorities in the Chinese government could potentially gain access to American citizens' data.

Neither the Trump administration nor TikTok critics outside of government have offered evidence that the short-form video app has ever cooperated with Chinese authorities.

Some technology experts say the worries over China are warranted. Former White House official Lindsay Gorman, who is now a fellow with the Alliance for Securing Democracy, told NPR that TikTok's parent company, ByteDance, is ultimately beholden to the Chinese Communist Party.

"The harsh reality of how businesses operate in China means that if the CCP wants that data, it will get it," Gorman said. She added: "Leaving TikTok in Chinese ownership creates an information space vulnerability at a time leading up to an election when political communication is increasingly happening on the platform."

TikTok officials see the executive order as essentially a pressure campaign, a way of forcing an American company to move quickly to acquire the app's U.S. assets.

Microsoft — the American tech giant that owns Xbox, LinkedIn and Skype — is already in talks to buy TikTok, but those discussions are in the early stages. (Courtesy https://www.npr.org/)



休市新聞 Daily News

先前接種過疫苗和無症狀傳播者可能是回答冠狀病毒感染謎團的關鍵



【美南新聞記者泉深報導】隨著美國領導人在努力控制冠狀病毒的傳播，全國乃至全球的研究人員都在努力解決圍繞冠狀病毒感染的謎團。

感染其中的一個奧秘：為什麼冠狀病毒感染的經歷因人而異。一位專家說，答案可能意味著要仔細研究每個人以前使用過的疫苗。

梅奧診所的傳染病專家安德魯·巴德利（Andrew Badley）週一晚上對美國有線電視新聞網（CNN）的安德森·庫珀（Anderson Cooper）表示：“當我們觀察到Covid疾病的情況時，我們發現事先接種過多種疫苗的人，比如接種過肺炎球菌、流感、肝炎和其他疫苗的人似乎患Covid疾病的風險較低。”

這就是免疫學家所談到的免疫訓練：巴德利說，您的免疫系統如何為生有效的抵抗感染的反應。

他說：“一個很好的比喻是將免疫系統視為一種肌肉。”“您越多地鍛煉肌肉，則在需要時會變得越強壯。”

目前尚未有確鑿的證據表明其他疫苗可以增強針對Covid-19的免疫力，但是一些研究人員認為這是可能的。

6月，美國的一個研究小組建議給人們增加麻疹、腮腺炎和



風疹（MMR）疫苗的劑量，以查看它是否有助於預防冠狀病毒感染。上個月，研究人員發現，許多人接種過結核桿菌疫苗的國家冠狀病毒的死亡較低率，這一發現與其他研究相吻合，表明該疫苗可以總體上提高人們的免疫力。但是，另一位專家週一對CNN表示，一旦您被感染，有多少病毒會進入您的體內，也會影響您的經歷。加利福尼亞大學舊金山分校的傳染病專家莫妮卡·甘地（Monica Gandhi）博士一直在與一組研究人員合作，以了解更多的人感染為何極少或沒有症狀。根據美國疾病控制與預防中心



上個月的估計，感染病毒的人中約40%沒有症狀。甘地的團隊發現戴口罩有保護作用。她說：“如果您真的被感染，口罩的確可以減少進入您體內的病毒數量。”“通過減少病毒數量，您可以控制體內的病毒數量，反應平靜，症狀輕微甚至完全沒有症狀。”到目前為止，已經有超過五百萬美國人冠狀病毒檢測呈陽性，並且至少有163,461人死亡。