Twitter Thread by Aaron Reichlin-Melnick



Aaron Reichlin-Melnick
@ReichlinMelnick



Sitting down to work for the first day of the Biden presidency is a surreal feeling.

So much happened yesterday. I'm going to collect my threads here on yesterday's big immigration news.

First, we got key details of Biden's big immigration

> There is a LOT to like about this bill. I want to highlight some of the proposed changes beyond just legalization, including:
>
> - Ending the 3 & 10 year bars
> - Curbing the "Muslim ban" authority
> - Preventing "aging out" of children on nonimmigrant visas.https://t.co/jkFBIcNJEb
>
> — Aaron Reichlin-Melnick (@ReichlinMelnick) January 20, 2021

Once Biden had officially taken office, we got the first major action. As part of a standard transition process, the Biden White House froze all regulations which Trump had been trying to finalize at the last hour. I did a thread on what we escaped.

2/11
https://t.co/vOnC6vt7JN

> This is a standard order issued following every transition, but today it feels so important because of how many horrific things were in the pipeline.
>
> Here's a brief thread about some of the terrible anti-immigration regulations that didn't make it across the finish line.
>
> 1/ https://t.co/q0QpfVxPXm
>
> — Aaron Reichlin-Melnick (@ReichlinMelnick) January 20, 2021

Last night we started getting more changes. One of the first was an order telling CBP to stop putting people into the so-called "Migrant Protection Protocols," a cruel program that's left thousands in a dangerous limbo. But there's still more to do!

3/11
https://t.co/3baOWMGAV8

> Incredible.\U0001f38a I am overwhelmed with joy that we are finally seeing the end to one of the most cruel and heartless policies of the last four years\u2014one that caused horrific damage to peoples' lives.
>
> The first part of the promise was kept. Now #LetThemIn!https://t.co/PZGrbvagaa https://t.co/PMeOxrKJvm
>
> — Aaron Reichlin-Melnick (@ReichlinMelnick) January 21, 2021

After that, we began getting the text of immigration executive orders. The first one put onto the White House's website was the order ending the Muslim Ban/Africa Ban and ordering the State Department to come up with a plan for reconsidering denials.

4/11
https://t.co/XlvL6Ky0U5

> \U0001f38aWe have our first immigration EO and it's the order ending the Muslim Ban/Africa Ban!
>
> The Bans "are a stain on our national conscience and are inconsistent with our long history of welcoming people of all faiths and no faith at all."https://t.co/4lh20OCCAY pic.twitter.com/8mW9wuPyzc
>
> — Aaron Reichlin-Melnick (@ReichlinMelnick) January 21, 2021

The next immigration executive order put on the White House's website revoked a Trump executive order from January 26, 2017 which made all undocumented immigrants a priority for deportation and directed a DHS-wide review of immigration enforcement.

5/11
https://t.co/DA0JusmhnK

> \U0001f38aSecond immigration EO! It is short. It establishes that Biden believes that immigration enforcement "requires setting priorities to best serve the national interest."
>
> It then revokes Trump's original EO that made all undocumented immigrants a priority.https://t.co/MvaeqPbiyK pic.twitter.com/dpkVZAKOT2
>
> — Aaron Reichlin-Melnick (@ReichlinMelnick) January 21, 2021

The third immigration executive order released last night revoked Trump's illegal and unconstitutional executive order calling on the Census to exclude undocumented immigrants from the apportionment of House districts.

6/11
https://t.co/vZVG2Gp0IP

> Here's the third EO tonight, revoking Trump's illegal census order. \U0001f38a
>
> "At no point since our Nation\u2019s Founding has a person\u2019s immigration status alone served as a basis for excluding that person from the total population count used in apportionment." https://t.co/pMlkOJ7YrS
>
> — Aaron Reichlin-Melnick (@ReichlinMelnick) January 21, 2021

The fourth immigration executive order released last night ordered the DHS Secretary and the AG to take steps to "protect and fortify" DACA, which is needed to protect the program should a federal judge in Texas strike it down in the next few weeks.

7/11 https://t.co/PgR3fQyFU5

> It's not on the White House website yet but we have the text of the DACA EO! \U0001f38a
>
> "The Secretary of Homeland Security, in consultation with the Attorney General, shall take all actions he deems appropriate, consistent with applicable law, to preserve and fortify DACA."
>
> That's it! https://t.co/dNBSR61Fei
>
> — Aaron Reichlin-Melnick (@ReichlinMelnick) January 21, 2021

The fifth immigration executive order released last night (which I accidentally called the final one) extended "Deferred Enforced Departure" for thousands of Liberians whose status had expired just days earlier under Trump.

8/11
https://t.co/LRBY470Hdc

> And here's the 5th and final immigration EO for the night (I believe)! \U0001f38a
>
> It extends Deferred Enforcement Departure for thousands of Liberians and directs USCIS to process their LRIF applications faster.
>
> I believe Liberian DED actually expired 10 days ago, so this is vital. https://t.co/WGQhluopey
>
> — Aaron Reichlin-Melnick (@ReichlinMelnick) January 21, 2021

The sixth and final immigration executive order signed and released last night ordered a halt to all construction on the border wall within 7 days, followed by a review of all construction contracts and the creation of a plan to redirect wall funds.

9/11
https://t.co/6dBG4oNDuS

> Here's the sixth and (actually final) immigration executive order of the night, stopping new border wall construction! \U0001f38a
>
> - Terminates the National Emergency declaration.

- Orders halt to all construction as quickly as possible (max 7 days).
- Orders review of all contracts. https://t.co/Gi2q3XHv23

— Aaron Reichlin-Melnick (@ReichlinMelnick) January 21, 2021

After all the executive orders, we thought that would be it for the night. But just after 10:30 we finally got the long-promised 100-day deportation moratorium, which is set to go into effect on Friday. I broke it down in this thread.

10/11

https://t.co/hE0OEDCKPz

It seems like we WILL get details about the moratorium tonight. It begins on Friday! \U0001f38a

Few details other than: "For 100 days, starting January 22, 2021, DHS will pause removals for certain noncitizens ordered deported."

"Certain" is not yet defined. https://t.co/QkNG2zm6zT pic.twitter.com/ofzC5cc7ih

— Aaron Reichlin-Melnick (@ReichlinMelnick) January 21, 2021

In total, there were 9 major immigration actions taken yesterday. While some of them will have no immediate effect, they were all a powerful first step towards undoing the damage done by Trump.

We still expect more executive orders next Friday, January 29th. So stay tuned!

/fin