

# Joe Biden in Westby, Wisconsin | September 4, 2024

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## Speakers:

Joe Biden - 100.0%

## Notes:

Summary by ChatGPT

- Response to Gun Violence: President Biden addressed the recent school shooting in Winder County, Georgia, calling for stronger gun control measures such as banning assault weapons and enforcing universal background checks.

- Investments in Rural America: He highlighted significant investments in clean energy and infrastructure in rural areas, including \$7.3 billion for rural electric cooperatives to support the transition to clean, affordable energy and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

- Economic Growth and Job Creation: Biden discussed the impact of his administration's investments on job creation and economic growth in Wisconsin and rural America,

including new clean energy projects and infrastructure improvements.

- Comparisons with Previous Administration: He contrasted his administration's achievements with those of the previous administration, emphasizing the difference in economic and fiscal policies, including his commitment to not raising taxes on those making under \$400,000.

- Future Vision and Optimism: Biden expressed optimism about America's future, emphasizing the importance of unity and collaboration in overcoming challenges and ensuring progress for all Americans.

## **Joe Biden**

**00:00:00**

Hello, Wisconsin.

## **Joe Biden**

**00:00:04**

First time I was here is about 180 years ago with William Proxmire when I was a 31 year old senator. I'm only 40 now, but, you know, uh, please have a seat, if you have one. It's great to be back. Before I begin, with your permission, I'd like to say a few words about the school shooting yesterday in Winder County, Georgia. You know, uh, my wife Jill and I are mourning those four gunned down two students and two teachers, a wounded and hospitalized nine others.

## **Joe Biden**

**00:00:35**

I'm sure you all as well, you know, students, uh, just young teenagers. Educators just doing their jobs. A community like so many around the country, just getting back to school and a, uh, joyous and exciting time. Absolutely shattered. Shattered.

## **Joe Biden**

**00:00:54**

I directed my team to immediately ensure that we're doing everything we can to provide support. The Department of Justice and the FBI are working closely with the state and local law enforcement investigating this. We have a lot of information. Not all of it. We're grateful the school personnel and first responders who proved and prevented more people from being killed or injured and brought the suspect to custody.

## **Joe Biden**

**00:01:19**

But as a nation, we cannot continue to accept the carnage of gun violence. I'm a gun owner. I believe strongly in the amendment. But we need more thought, more than thoughts and prayers. Some of my republican friends in Congress just finally have to say,

enough is enough.

**Joe Biden**

**00:01:38**

We have to do something together. Let's ban assault weapons. My dad is a hunter. I don't know. A whole hell of a lot of deer wearing kevlar vests.

**Joe Biden**

**00:01:49**

I'm serious about this. High capacity magazines. Once again, what do we need them for in terms of domestic use? There are too many people who are able to access guns that shouldn't be able to. So let's require safe storage of firearms.

**Joe Biden**

**00:02:03**

I know I have mine locked up, but how could you have an assault rifle, a weapon, in a house not locked up? And no one. Your kid knows where it is. Got to hold parents accountable if they let their child have access to these guns. Let's enact universal background checks and then immunity for gun manufacturers.

**Joe Biden**

**00:02:26**

I realize I'm in a rural area, like the rural parts of my state, where guns. We all have them. And it's not popular to talk about it, but the truth is, there's a difference between rational and irrational. Imagine, you know, the only outfit in the world that, uh, we can't sue, and by law, passed by law, are gun manufacturers. How about if that was the case of big tobacco?

**Joe Biden**

**00:02:48**

What do you think would happen if we're not able to ab sue tobacco. How many more people would be dead now? But for the ability to change the law, folks? Common sense measures supported by responsible gun owners. You know, it won't bring back those children.

**Joe Biden**

**00:03:05**

But thousands, uh, of children have been gunned down across. You know, more children are killed or die from a gunshot wound than any other reason in the entire United States. Every disease, every accident, everything. More die as a consequence of a bullet in the United States of America. But they'll help save lives if we do the things we're talking about and prevent communities from being ripped apart again.

**Joe Biden**

**00:03:31**

We can do if we do it together. And I really think we can. So I just wanted to say that

before we began and now to our event today. Thank you, Darren, for that introduction and for sharing your story as a family farmer. And thank you to one of America's best.

**Joe Biden**

**00:03:52**

I say one of the three best governors in the entire United States of America. Where is it? There he is.

**Joe Biden**

**00:04:04**

Tony, you're the best, pal. When I think of Tony Evers, uh, I mean this sincerely, one word comes to mind. Integrity. Integrity.

**Joe Biden**

**00:04:17**

Sitting next to him is a former governor not far from here, from Iowa, named Tom Vilsack, who's. And his wife Christy. You were there. Yeah. There you are.

**Joe Biden**

**00:04:27**

She's smarter than he is, just like Jill's smarter than I am. But Tom's doing a hell of a job as secretary of agriculture. And thanks to all the local elected labor and community leaders that are here. And a special thanks to Brent Ridge, CEO of Dairyland Power cooperative, for hosting us today.

**Joe Biden**

**00:04:54**

You know, I come from the state of Delaware. Everybody thinks it's an eastern industrial state, our largest industry in Delaware. And I served as senator for 36 years. I know I don't look that old, but I am, for 36 years, is agriculture. It's a \$4 billion enterprise in the Delmarva peninsula, and its co ops made it happen.

**Joe Biden**

**00:05:17**

But millions of Americans are on co ops like yours for electricity every single day. And it matters. In June of 2021, five months after I came to office, I went to nearby La Crosse, Wisconsin. It was the 65th anniversary of President Eisenhower signing a bill that created the interstate highway system. I talked about my vision to do something just as historic, to invest in infrastructure and clean energy and so much more in rural America.

**Joe Biden**

**00:05:44**

To invest in all America and all Americans. To propel us into the future, creating millions, and I mean millions, of good paying jobs and positioning America to win the economic competition of the 21st century. I'm back again today to begin a series of trips and events showing that progress we've made together by our investing in America agenda, an

agenda that has come to fruition over the last decade. Invest in America. Invest in american workers here in Westby.

**Joe Biden**

**00:06:17**

You know, I'm proud to announce that, uh, my investments, that through my investments, the most significant climate change law ever. And by the way, it is a \$369 billion bill. It's called. We should have named it what it was. But at any rate, the Department of Agriculture is able from that legislation to announce \$7.3 billion in grants to 16 electrical co ops nationwide to help rural communities transition to clean, affordable, reliable energy.

**Joe Biden**

**00:06:56**

It's the most significant transformative investment in electricity and electrification and clean energy for rural America since FDR's new deal nearly 90 years ago. And that's not hyper, uh, that's a fact. And it includes Dairyland Power cooperative that will receive \$580 million to develop and purchase solar power, wind power, energy storage, right here in Wisconsin and all across the midwest. And here's why it's a game changer. Before the New Deal, private companies refused to provide affordable electricity to rural communities.

**Joe Biden**

**00:07:31**

As a result, one in ten rural households, only one in ten, had electricity before FDR came to power. So farmers had to organize electric co ops to distribute electricity to their families and their communities. With help from the new deal, there are now more than 800 rural electric co ops to provide electricity for 40 million Americans in 48 states. But key challenges, they've overcome them. But there's still.

**Joe Biden**

**00:08:01**

The co ops are still non profits. They don't have the same resources that private utility companies have to modernize their energy infrastructure. And for decades, they couldn't access tax credits and make clean energy more affordable. That's why Kamala and I ensure that for the first time in american history, that these nonprofit co ops can benefit from clean energy tax credits, just like for profit utilities have for decades.

**Joe Biden**

**00:08:36**

We also created new tools for co ops to refinance prior debts so they can go out there and not be held back from investing in their future. Today's historic announcement of \$7.3 billion for rural electric co ops bills on those steps. It means clean, affordable electricity for over 5 million rural households and businesses across 23 states. It means 20,000 jobs, good paying, high quality jobs, including union jobs. So rural America is empowered to lead our clean energy future.

It means covering the upfront cost of clean energy so rural families can save on their energy bills and get just a little more breathing room at the end of the month. And it means I, rural entrepreneurs and manufacturers who are so fundamental to our economy are powered with reliable, affordable energy, and they can create more job opportunities in their communities. And guess what? It's also good for the environment as well. Because of our historic actions, we're going to reduce by 43 million tons greenhouse gas pollution every single year as a consequence of these investments.

**Joe Biden**

**00:09:58**

That is the equivalent of removing pollution from more than 10 million gas powered vehicles. 10 million. It's going to save \$265 billion in health care costs because of better, cleaner quality of air. If people aren't breathing polluted air and getting sick, that comes from the NIH. It matters, folks.

**Joe Biden**

**00:10:23**

You know it. And, folks, I've kept my commitment to be president for all America and all Americans, including rural America. Your communities are, uh, the backbone, and that's not hypothetical. You're the backbone of this country. You deserve the same resources as folks in our cities and our suburbs.

**Joe Biden**

**00:10:43**

That's what today's announcement is all about, generating rural power for rural America. But that's not all. Last year, I was next door with your good neighbor, Governor Walts of Minnesota. I think the guy's going places.

**Joe Biden**

**00:11:02**

I talked about. We're making the most fundamental and significant investment ever in rural America, creating new and better markets, new income streams that are generators of rural Americas, that can grow and thrive. For example, we're taking on, um, big corporations and doing everything from increasing competition in the meat markets to boosting domestic fertilizer production. In fact, here in Wisconsin, that makes \$12 million to lower fertilizer costs for farmers across the state, which also creates jobs and grows new businesses. Here in Wisconsin, we also invested \$47 million to lower energy costs, install renewable and energy efficient technologies like solar panels behind me on farms in rural small businesses.

**Joe Biden**

**00:11:54**

Darren just shared how that's cut his family electricity bill in half. We're helping farmers and ranchers and entrepreneurs tackle the climate crisis, climate smart agriculture, such as cover crops, nutrient management, storing carbon, and the soil. These practices reduce

the greenhouse gas emissions and improve our overall health of the soil and the water. They put us on a path to continuing to grow the food, the fuel, the fiber that will power our nation for decades to come. Through our bipartisan infrastructure law.

**Joe Biden**

**00:12:30**

It's a fancy way of saying that. \$366 billion for environment, most significant investment, and America's infrastructure. And what? The infrastructure bill, by the way, the bipartisan bill that was a trillion, \$200 billion. And guess what?

**Joe Biden**

**00:12:48**

We're still lowering the deficit anyway. The most significant investment in American since Eisenhower's interstate highway system. We've invested \$4 billion so far, in 350 projects to modernize Wisconsin transportation just in Wisconsin that's been invested. Infrastructure only three roundabouts on Route 14, US 14, and the new bridge and county highway M. Folks look just like we're making the most significant investment in rural electrification.

**Joe Biden**

**00:13:22**

FDR. We're also making the most significant investment ever in affordable high speed Internet, because affordable high speed Internet is just as essential today as electricity was a century ago in order to be able to do business. Uh, and, uh, when things are shut down, your kid doesn't have to sit outside of McDonald's. Uh, anyway, that's why we've invested \$1.6 billion just in Wisconsin to connect everyone to affordable high speed Internet in Wisconsin.

**Joe Biden**

**00:13:59**

And since I took office, 72,000 more Wisconsin homes and small businesses have access to high speed Internet for the first time ever. We're going to keep it going. We've also invested \$200 million to lay sled pipes across the state so a kid can drink clean water without worrying about brain damage and changing their schools as well.

**Joe Biden**

**00:14:26**

We've launched the Rural Partners network, putting new federal staff on the ground to help communities access federal resources, let them know what they are, where to go, how to get it, because it's complicated. So I want people on site being able to tell people how they qualify, how they apply, how they get it done. And after years of importing 90% of our semiconductor chips, which, I might add, America invented, we invented the computer chip. It's needed for everything for automobile engines to weapons, we passed the chips. And science act has led private companies from around the world to come back.

We used to have 40% of the market not too many years ago, and now we've got down to basically zero. So from countries around, I travel from everywhere, from North Korea anyway, South Korea to across the world, to get these computer chip factories to come. I asked when we convinced one of the companies in South Korea to invest building these chips in America, I said, why would you do it? They're, uh, investing several billion dollars. He said, because you have the finest, you have the most advanced workers in the world, and it's the safest place in the world to invest.

**Joe Biden**

**00:15:41**

Well, our chips and science act has led private companies from around the world to invest hundreds of billions of dollars in new chips and battery factories, and more of them right here in America. With the leadership of your governor, you've already added 200,000 new jobs and attracted over \$5 billion in Wisconsin in private sector investment in clean energy and advanced manufacturing.

**Joe Biden**

**00:16:12**

In fact, this spring, I was with your governor, Racine, where Microsoft announced a \$3 billion investment. \$3 billion investment to build a data center to help operate one of the most powerful artificial intelligence system in the entire world. It's going to create thousands of good paying jobs on site and across the state, creating even more opportunities in rural communities. Let's remember, my predecessor promised you that he would redevelop Foxcom factory and Racine, you been there lately? He didn't do a damn thing.

**Joe Biden**

**00:16:53**

Nothing, folks. All these investments means family farms can stay in the family. Rural entrepreneurs can build their dreams. Their children and grandchildren won't have to leave home to make a living. I don't know how many of you have been confronted growing up where everything's going well, and the son or daughter comes to mom or dad and said, I can't stay.

**Joe Biden**

**00:17:14**

There's not work for me here. I got to leave. That's stopping now, because we're spending opportunities to benefit everyone. Building the future where no one is left behind. Growing an economy from the middle out and the bottom up, not the top down.

**Joe Biden**

**00:17:33**

Because when you do that, everybody does well. Everybody does well. My dad used to have an expression, Joey, a job's a bottle. My dad was a hard working guy. Didn't, uh, go to college.



Well, red guy, because of world war two. Anyway, he worked like hell. He always come home to dinner before he go back and close the shop. And my dad used to say, joey, a job's about a lot more than a paycheck. It's about your dignity.

**Joe Biden**

**00:17:58**

It's about respect. It's about being treated with respect. And it's about knowing you can look your kid in the eye and say, honey, it's going to be okay. You're not going to have to leave home to get a job. That's in stark contrast to my predecessor.

**Joe Biden**

**00:18:13**

When he was in office, he enacted a true trillion dollar tax cut, \$2 trillion tax cut that overwhelmingly benefited the very wealthy, the biggest corporation that drove up federal deficit every single year of his presidency. He left office with the largest annual deficit in american history, \$3 trillion. And by the way, I made a commitment when I got elected and my vice president made a similar commitment. No one making under \$400,000 will see a single penny in their taxes raised. Not a single penny.

**Joe Biden**

**00:18:49**

Neighbor that I come from in Claymont, Delaware, in Scranton, Pennsylvania, they say, well, that's too damn much. But the point is to make sure that we know it's not. Uh, this isn't an attack on the wealthy. He left us with a pandemic raging, an economy reeling, his allies in Congress. With all due respect, I've had this conversation with your senator, Ron Johnson voted against every one of the things I talked about today.

**Joe Biden**

**00:19:12**

Every single thing I talked about in terms of rural economy. He voted against it. Voted against it. It's hard to imagine your Senate voting against interest in a rural state was so large and so consequential as the state of Wisconsin. Meanwhile, your other senator, Tammy Baldwin, has done everything to take care of the state so she can be devoted to you.

**Joe Biden**

**00:19:37**

Vice President Kamala Harris fought like hell for all of you and for the future worthy of your aspirations. Look, just think about how far we've come. We have more to go. We have more to go. Too many people are still in trouble.

**Joe Biden**

**00:19:53**

But nearly four years that we've been president and vice president, we're one of the most extraordinary periods of progress in american history. Covid no longer controls our lives.

We've gone from, uh, an economic crisis to the strongest economy in the world. Let me say it again. We have the strongest economy in the world, and no one challenges that we got more to do.

**Joe Biden**

**00:20:16**

We're seeing something else in thousands of cities and towns across the country and across Wisconsin. We're seeing the great American comeback story. The way I see it, and I talked to the other team, talks about how bad off we are and how America's enjoy the way I see it. Today's announcement is about far more than just giving rural America the power to turn on the lights. It's about giving the power to shape our own future.

**Joe Biden**

**00:20:42**

In fact, Wisconsin has a strong, strong history of neighbor helping neighbor and forming cooperatives, which are literally owned and powered by the people of Wisconsin. Because of you, we're planting seeds today that grow and blossom for generations to come. That's what we're seeing here in Wisconsin, a state with a proud tradition of rural communities leading our nation forward. And again, that's not an exaggeration. You've been a leader in the nation.

**Joe Biden**

**00:21:13**

Let me close with this. As I travel this state and the country, I hope you feel what I feel. Pride. Pride in our hometowns. Pride in making a comeback.

**Joe Biden**

**00:21:25**

Pride in America. Pride in knowing we can get big things done when we work together. Folks, I'm never more optimistic about our nation's future. Just have to remember who the hell we are. We're the United States of America.

**Joe Biden**

**00:21:40**

That's who we are. Not a joke. We're the only nation in the world that's come through every crisis stronger than we went into that crisis because we're a hard working, optimistic people, decent people. We know from experience that there's nothing, nothing beyond our capacity when we work together. And again, that's not an exaggeration.

**Joe Biden**

**00:22:02**

We work together. I remember the days when I first got started, when a lot of republican senators, my close friends, we worked together. We compromised. We didn't talk about things. Uh, we're in a.

It was a dire moment that democracy was at stake. We actually worked together. We fought like hell, but we worked together. We got to return that for our children, because our democracy depends on it. I'm, uh, keeping it too long in the sun, so let me just say, God bless you all, and may God protect our troops.

**Joe Biden**

**00:22:37**

Thank you.