



KAMALA HARRIS

Vice President of the United States

Kamala Harris (Democrat) was sworn in as the 49th Vice President of the United States on Jan. 20, 2021. She is the United States' first female Vice President and the highest-ranking female official in U.S. history, as well as the first African American and Asian American Vice President. The role of Vice President also makes her the President of the Senate — which is of unique importance because she has had to make the deciding vote in February and March 2021 legislation that has been equally split 50-50. President Biden was never required to cast a tiebreaking vote during his eight years as Vice President.

Prior to becoming Vice President, Harris served as a U.S. Senator from California from 2017 to 2021. In her role as a Senator, she was an advocate for health care reform, a path to citizenship for undocumented immigrants, a ban on assault weapons, tax reform and the federal legalization of cannabis. In 2018, she gained national recognition as a member of the Senate Judiciary Committee for her pointed questioning of Trump administration officials during Senate hearings, most notably her questioning of Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh. Harris was also successful in passing legislation with Republican co-sponsors, including bills relating to workplace harassment, bail reform and election security.

In 2011, Harris was sworn in as Attorney General of California. She was the first woman, the first African American and the first South Asian American to hold the office in the state's history. As Attorney General, she focused her efforts on a considerable number of issues, including consumer protection, criminal justice reform, privacy rights, public safety, law enforcement, sex crimes and LGBTQ rights. She was elected to a second term.

Harris served as the deputy district attorney from 2004 to 2011, in Alameda County, California, before becoming the managing attorney in the San Francisco District Attorney's Office and then chief of the Division on Children and Families — where she established California's first Bureau of Children's Justice. Harris was the first African American and first woman elected district attorney of San Francisco.

Harris was born on Oct. 20, 1964, in Oakland, California. She earned a bachelor's from Howard University and her J.D. from the Hastings College of the Law.

Vice President Harris is married to Doug Emhoff and has two stepchildren, Cole and Ella Emhoff.

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