



[Republican Party Holds Its National Convention and Formally Nominates President Trump for a Second Term](#)

The 2020 Republican National Convention kicked off this week, following last week's Democratic National Convention. Republican officials, members of President Trump's family, and conservative activists are the headline speakers, as the GOP tries to boost the president's re-election chances. The first night of the convention placed a heavy emphasis on the president's self-proclaimed commitment to the rule of law, and painted a dark picture of how a Biden-Harris administration would make America less safe. On Tuesday, the convention took a lighter tone as individual speakers from electorally significant demographics praised President Trump and emphasized how his policies would improve their lifestyles and livelihoods. The convention has drawn criticism over its choice of certain speakers, namely Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, who broke with longstanding diplomatic policy to address the convention from Jerusalem.

On the first night of the convention, Republican speakers included former Ambassador to the UN Nikki Haley, Senator Tim Scott, and Donald Trump Jr. Nikki Haley extolled President Trump's reputation on the world stage, while criticizing the United Nations as being full of "murderers, dictators, and thieves." She also praised the president's stance on North Korea, China, and ISIS, saying Trump had consistently put America first. Furthermore, Haley warned that a future Biden-Harris administration would make America less safe, and easier for its adversaries to take advantage of. Donald Trump Jr. echoed Haley's message of warning about a Biden-Harris administration, while also praising his father for growing the middle class. Trump Jr. singled out China for specific criticism, claiming that Beijing would prefer Biden to win the election because President Trump had taken strong measures to oppose the country. However, a report from the intelligence community contradicts this statement, and reads that China prefers Biden because of Trump's unpredictability, rather than any particular policy he has implemented. Senator Tim Scott's speech concluded Monday night, and paved the way for speakers on Tuesday. Senator Scott spoke of his family's transformation from "cotton to Congress" within one lifetime to illustrate the American Dream and President Trump's dedication to ensuring this same opportunity was available for future generations. Scott, the lone African-American Republican in the Senate, also criticized Vice President Biden's prior support for a controversial 1994 crime bill that disproportionately harms minorities in the criminal justice system.

The convention's second night focused largely on improving President Trump's appeal to women and other demographics that favor Biden in the polls. First Lady Melania Trump and Secretary of State Mike Pompeo headlined the speakers, which also included various members of the president's family and elected Republicans from around the country. Melania Trump highlighted her husband's supportiveness of her endeavors, and expressed sympathy for victims of the coronavirus in a rare public speech. President Trump has been keen to boost his support amongst suburban women, who were undoubtedly the target of Melania's speech. Senator Rand Paul of Kentucky praised President Trump for getting the country out of "endless wars" in the Middle East and for reducing America's military footprint around the world. Trump and Acting DHS Secretary Chad Wolf also conducted a naturalization ceremony for five immigrants, despite many observers noting the administration has been one of the most unwelcoming for immigrants in history.

Among the speakers at the RNC, certain individuals have drawn controversy. Most notably, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo has broken with hundreds of years of diplomatic tradition to address the convention from Jerusalem in an attempt to shore up the president's support among evangelicals and the right-wing Jewish community. In doing so, Pompeo violated the Hatch Act, which mandates that federal employees in the executive branch refrain from partisan political activities. A House investigation into Pompeo has been opened by Rep. Joaquin Castro to investigate whether Pompeo's address was legal.

The convention's third night largely carried a similar measure to the previous days. Speakers warned of the danger of a Biden-Harris administration, saying they would implement a radical left-wing agenda. The issue of law and order was also prevalent, particularly as mass protests grip Minneapolis, Portland, and Kenosha. Vice President Mike Pence said that maintaining security was paramount, and blamed Democratic governors and mayors for allowing popular protests to turn violent. White House staffers Kayleigh McEnany and Kellyanne Conway followed Melania Trump's lead from Tuesday night in attempting to portray President Trump as the best choice for women, particularly in the suburbs. Notably, speakers largely avoided discussion of racial injustice and the coronavirus, two topics that the Trump administration has been repeatedly criticized on for its lack of leadership.