

A Capital D Strategies *Do-Over*: What President Biden Should Have Said on Jan 6, 2022

**Original Transcript Biden
Gave on Jan 6, 2022**

**Re-written Transcript Biden
Should have Given**

Original Transcript

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Madam Vice President, my fellow Americans, to state the obvious, one year ago today in this sacred place, democracy was attacked – simply attacked. The will of the people was under assault. The Constitution, our Constitution, faced the gravest of threats.

Outnumbered in the face of a brutal attack, Capitol Police, the D.C. Metropolitan Police Department, the National Guard and other brave law enforcement officials saved the rule of law.

Our democracy held. We, the people, endured. We, the people, prevailed.

For the first time in our history, a president had not just lost an election, he tried to prevent the peaceful transfer of power as a violent mob breached the Capitol. But they failed. They failed.

And on this day of remembrance, we must make sure that such an attack never, never happens again. I'm speaking to you today from Statuary Hall in the United States Capitol. This is where the House of Representatives met for 50 years in the decades leading up to the Civil War.

It is on this floor where a young congressman from Illinois, Abraham Lincoln, sat at desk 191. Above him – above us – over that door leading into the rotunda is a sculpture depicting Clio, the muse of history, in her hands, an open book in which she records the events taking place in this chamber below. Clio stood watch over this hall one year ago today, as she has for more than 200 years.

She recorded what took place – the real history, the real facts, the real truth, the facts and the truth that Vice President Harris just shared and that you and I and the whole world saw with our own eyes.

The Bible tells us that 'We shall know the truth and the truth shall make us free.' We shall know the truth. Well, here is the God's truth about Jan. 6, 2021.

Close your eyes. Go back to that day. What do you see? Rioters rampaging, waving, for the first time inside this Capitol the Confederate flag that symbolizes the cause to destroy America, to rip us apart.

Even during the Civil War that never, ever happened. But it happened here in 2021. What else do you see? The mob breaking windows, kicking in doors, breaching the Capitol. American flags on poles being used as weapons, as spears.

Fire extinguishers being thrown at the heads of police officers. A crowd that professes their love for law enforcement assaulted those police officers. Dragged them, sprayed them, stomped on them. Over 140 police officers were injured.

We all heard the police officers who were there that day testify to what happened. One officer called it, quote, 'a medieval battle' and said that he was more afraid that day than he was fighting the war in Iraq. They've repeatedly asked since that day, 'How dare anyone, anyone, diminish, belittle or deny the hell they were put through, we saw with our own eyes?' Rioters menaced these halls, threatening life of the speaker of the House, literally erecting gallows to hang the vice president of the United States of America.

But what did we not see? We didn't see a former president, who had just rallied the mob to attack, sitting in the private dining room of the Oval Office in the White House watching it all on television and doing nothing for hours as Police were assaulted, lives at risk, the nation's Capitol under siege.

This wasn't a group of tourists. This was an armed insurrection. They weren't looking to uphold the will of the people, they were looking to deny the will of the people. They weren't looking to uphold a free and fair election, they were looking to overturn one. They weren't looking to save the cause of America, they were looking to subvert the Constitution.

This isn't about being bogged down in the past. It's about making sure the past isn't buried. That's the only way forward. That's what great nations do. They don't bury the truth, they face up to it – sounds like hyperbole, but that's your truth: They face up to it.

We are a great nation. My fellow Americans, in life there's truth and tragically there are lies – lies conceived and spread for profit and power. We must be absolutely clear

about what is true and what is a lie. And here's the truth: The former president of the United States of America has created and spread a web of lies about the 2020 election.

He's done so because he values power over principle, because he sees his own interest as more important than his country's interest, than America's interest, and because his bruised ego matters more to him than our democracy or our Constitution.

He can't accept he lost even though that's what 93 United States senators, his own attorney general, his own vice president, governors and state officials in every battleground state have all said: He lost.

That's what 81 million of you did as you voted for a new way forward. He's done what no president in American history, in the history of this country, has ever, ever done: He refused to accept the results of an election and the will of the American people.

While some courageous men and women in the Republican Party are standing against it, trying to uphold the principle of that party, too many others are transforming that party into something else. They seem no longer to want to be the party of Lincoln, Eisenhower, Reagan, the Bushes.

Well, whatever my other disagreements are with Republicans who support the rule of law, and not the rule of a single man, I will always seek to work together with them to find shared solutions where possible. Because when we have a shared belief in democracy, then anything is possible – anything.

So at this moment, we must decide: What kind of nation are we going to be?

Are we going to be a nation that accepts political violence as a norm? Are we going to be a nation where we allow partisan election officials to overturn the legally expressed will of the people? Are we going to be a nation that lives not by the light of the truth but in the shadow of lies? We cannot allow ourselves to be that kind of nation.

The way forward is to recognize the truth – to live by it. The 'Big Lie' being told by the former president and many Republicans who fear his wrath is that the insurrection in this country actually took place on Election Day, November 3, 2020. Think about that. Is that what you thought? Is that what you thought when you voted that day? Taking part in an insurrection? Is that what you thought you were doing? Or did you think you were carrying out your highest duty as a citizen and voting?

The former president's supporters are trying to rewrite history. They want you to see Election Day as the day of insurrection and the riots that took place here on Jan. 6 as a true expression of the will of the people. Can you think of a more twisted way to look at this country, to look at America? I cannot.

Here's the truth: The election of 2020 was the greatest demonstration of democracy in the history of this country. More of you voted in that election than have ever voted in all

of American history. Over 150 million Americans went to the polls and voted that day, in a pandemic, some at great risk to their lives. And they should be applauded, not attacked.

Right now, in state after state, new laws are being written not to protect the vote, but to deny it – not only to suppress the vote, but to subvert it. Not to strengthen and protect our democracy, but because the former president lost instead of looking at the election results in 2020, and saying they need new ideas or better ideas to win more votes. The former president and his supporters have decided the only way for them to win is to suppress your vote and subvert our elections. It's wrong. It's undemocratic. And frankly, it's un-American.

The second 'Big Lie' being told by the former president's supporters is that the results of the election of 2020 can't be trusted. The truth is that no election, no election in American history has been more closely scrutinized or more carefully counted.

Every legal challenge questioning the results in every court in this country that could have been made was made and was rejected. Often rejected by Republican-appointed judges, including judges appointed by the former president himself. From state courts to the United States Supreme Court, recounts were undertaken in state after state.

Georgia, Georgia counted its results three times, with one recount by hand. Phony partisan audits were undertaken long after the election in several states. None change the results.

In some of them, the irony is the margin of victory actually grew slightly. So let's speak plainly about what happened in 2020.

Even before the first ballot was cast, the former president was preemptively sowing doubt about the election results. He built his lie over months. It wasn't based in the facts. He was just looking for an excuse, a pretext to cover for the truth. He's not just a former president. He's a defeated former president.

Defeated by a margin of over 7 million of your votes. In a full and free and fair election. There is simply zero proof the election results are inaccurate. In fact, in every venue where evidence had to be produced, an oath to tell the truth had to be taken, the former president failed to make his case. Just think about this: The former president and his supporters have never been able to explain how they accept as accurate other election results that took place on November 3rd. Elections for governor, United States Senate, House of Representatives, elections in which they closed the gap in the House.

They challenged none of that. The president's name was first. Then we went down the line: governor, senators, House of Representatives, somehow those results are accurate on the same ballot. But the presidential race was flawed. And on the same

ballot, same day, cast by the same voters. The only difference: The former president didn't lose those races. He just lost the one that was his own.

Finally, the third 'Big Lie' being told by a former president and his supporters is that the mob who sought to impose their will through violence are the nation's true patriots. Is that what you thought when you looked at the mob, ransacking the Capitol, destroying property, literally defecating in the hallways, rifling through the desks of senators and representatives, hunting down members of Congress? Patriots? Not in my view.

To me, the true patriots are the more than 150 Americans who peacefully expressed their vote at the ballot box, the election workers for protecting the integrity of the vote and the heroes who defended this Capitol. You can't love your country only when you win. You can't obey the law only when it's convenient. You can't be patriotic when you embrace and enable lies.

Those who stormed this Capitol and those who instigated and incited and those who called on them to do so held a dagger at the throat of America and American democracy. They didn't come here out of patriotism or principle. They came here in rage – not in service of America, rather in service of one man. Those who incited the mob, the real plotters who were desperate to deny the certification of this election, to defy the will of the voters, their plot was foiled. Congress, Democrats, Republicans stayed. Senators, representatives, staff, they finished their work the Constitution demanded. They honored their oath to defend the Constitution against all enemies, foreign and domestic.

Look folks, now it's up to all of us – we, the people – to stand for the rule of law, to preserve the flame of democracy, to keep the promise of America alive. The promise is at risk, targeted by the forces that value brute strength over the sanctity of democracy, fear over hope, personal gain over public good. Make no mistake about it, we're living at an inflection point in history, both at home and abroad.

We're engaged anew in a struggle between democracy and autocracy, between the aspirations of the many and the greed of the few, between the people's right of self-determination and self-seeking autocrat. From China to Russia and beyond, they're betting that democracy's days are numbered. They actually told me democracy is too slow, too bogged down by division to succeed in today's rapidly changing complicated world. And they're betting, they're betting America will become more like them and less like us. They're betting America's a place for the autocrat, the dictator, the strongman. I do not believe that. That is not who we are. That is not who we have ever been. And that is not who we should ever, ever be.

Our founding fathers, as imperfect as they were, set in motion an experiment that changed the world – literally changed the world. Here in America, the people would rule, power would be transferred peacefully, never at the tip of the spear or the barrel of

a gun. They committed to paper an idea that they couldn't live up to but an idea that couldn't be constrained.

Yes, in America all people are created equal and reject a view that if you succeed, I fail. If you get ahead, I fall behind. If I hold you down, I somehow lift myself up. The former president's lies about this election and the mob that attacked this Capitol could not be further away from the core American values. They want to rule or they will ruin, ruin what our country fought for at Lexington and Concord, at Gettysburg and Omaha Beach, Seneca Falls, Selma, Alabama. What were we fighting for? The right to vote, the right to govern ourselves, the right to determine our own destiny. With rights come responsibilities, responsibility to see each other as neighbors. Maybe we disagree with that neighbor, but they're not an adversary. The responsibility to accept defeat, then get back in the arena and try again the next time to make your case. Responsibility to see that America is an idea, an idea that requires vigilant stewardship.

As we stand here today, one year since Jan. 6, 2021, the lies that drove the anger and madness we saw in this place, they have not abated. So we have to be firm, resolute and unyielding in our defense of the right to vote and to have that vote counted.

Some of us made the ultimate sacrifice in this sacred effort. Jill and I mourned police officers in this Capitol Rotunda not once but twice in the wake of January 6th – once to honor Officer Brian Sicknick, who lost his life the day after the attack, and a second time to honor Officer Billy Evans, who lost his life defending this Capitol as well.

Think about the others who lost their lives and everyone living with the trauma of that day. Those defending this Capitol, to members of Congress of both parties and their staffs, to reporters, cafeteria workers, custodial workers and their families. Don't kid yourself. The pain and scars from that day were deep. I've said it many times, and it's no more true or real when we think about the events of Jan. 6. We are in a battle for the soul of America – a battle, but by the grace of God, the goodness and greatness of this nation, we will win.

Believe me, I know how difficult democracy is, but I'm crystal clear about the threats America faces. I also know that our darkest days can lead to light and hope. From the death and destruction the vice president referenced at Pearl Harbor came the triumph over the forces of fascism. From the brutality of Bloody Sunday, the Edmund Pettus Bridge, came historic voting rights legislation. So now let's step up, write the next chapter in American history. For Jan. 6 marks not the end of democracy but the beginning of a renaissance of liberty and fair play.

I did not seek this fight brought to this Capital one year ago today. But I will not shrink from it either. I will stand in this breach. I will defend this nation, and I'll allow no one to place a dagger at the throat of democracy. We will make sure the will of the people is heard, that the ballot prevails, not violence – that authority of this nation will always be

peacefully transferred. I believe the power of the presidency and the purpose is to unite this nation, not divide it – to lift us up, not tear us apart. It's about us, not about me.

Deep in the heart of America burns a flame lit almost 250 years ago of liberty, freedom and equality. This is not a land of kings or dictators or autocrats. We're a nation of laws, of order, not chaos, of peace, not violence. Here in America, the people rule through the ballot, and their will prevails. So let us remember together: We're one nation, under God, indivisible, that today, tomorrow and forever at our best, we are the United States of America.

God bless you all. God protect our troops, and may God bless those who stand watch over democracy.

A Capital D Strategies *Do-Over*: What President Biden Should Have Said on Jan 6, 2022

Rewritten Transcript

by Jon Deutsch, Principal & Founder, [Capital D Strategies](#)

Madam Vice President, my fellow Americans,

America has always been about the future. We are an optimistic country. We always see opportunities that others don't. And I believe we will continue to be a country that earns the right to be proud of our accomplishments. Because we have accomplished so much. And we continue, every day, to accomplish things big and small. We're all a part of our shared success.

However, I have a responsibility as your President to directly address an unprecedented set of events that led to a bloody battle right here in America's Capitol Building, one year ago today, as well as what's happening right now as a result of these events.

It's hard to believe that what I'm saying is true, because it's never been true before in the entire 244-year history of our country. Yet, it is true. The former President set in motion a series of events that led to a *bloody battle right here in America's Capitol Building -- your Capitol Building. Our Capitol Building.*

And because of this unprecedented event, I believe it's incredibly important that we, as a nation, understand why this happened, how this happened, what's happening right now, and what we need to do to make sure it *never happens again.*

Let me start by sharing *why this happened*:

Well before election day of 2021, the former President had speculated repeatedly on the campaign trail that states shifting to using mail-in ballots more aggressively during a global pandemic was a recipe for massive

election fraud. I say "speculated" because he had no evidence or expertise to inform this view. He simply chose to believe it. Or, perhaps worse, he chose to make sure others believed it, even if he didn't. Either way, he used the *power of the presidency* to advance an idea that had no basis in fact. But it was more than enough to start planting seeds of doubt throughout his base of supporters, and give his allies in the media a new conspiracy theory to focus on.

Then, on election night, when it started becoming clear that he was not going to win, the former President came out on television and declared that he somehow "won" the election, and that the entire election was "rigged."

Mind you, this is the same person who says everything he doesn't like is "rigged." Go ahead and Google "Donald Trump" and "rigged" if you want to see just how addicted to this idea he was throughout his entire time in office.

Pretending everything is "rigged" is not the kind of behavior most people look for in leadership. If George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, FDR, or Ronald Reagan went around calling everything they didn't like "rigged," believe me, we would have lost every conflict we faced, including the Revolutionary War, the Cuban Missile Crisis, both World Wars, and the Cold War. You don't win by *whining*. You win by having a clear-eyed view of the facts, and using the facts to get you an advantage.

Unfortunately, what we've learned the hard way is that the former President not only whined constantly when things didn't go his way, but he happily trampled on the graves of our founding fathers, and of all the heroes *who gave their lives* to protect the world's first and best democracy. *He treated our democracy like it was his enemy.*

Now let's review *how the bloody assault on the Capitol Building happened*:

After the election, when every single person involved in deciding election outcomes confirmed that I had won, fair and square, the former President went on a non-stop campaign trying to undermine the results. This, in my view, was an impeachable offense on its own. He was not upholding his oath of office, and he was sewing doubt amongst the electorate. This was incredibly irresponsible, and, as we soon learned, downright dangerous.

But this is not just a story about a former President acting irresponsibly. No -- this is also a story about his enablers: Certain cable news hosts, internet personalities, and a slew of third-rate lawyers all tried to cash in on this made-up story by the former President. As a result, this fabricated story of a rigged election got inside the heads of far too many Americans.

Meanwhile, every single court and every single recount re-affirmed what we already knew: the election was as free and fair as any prior election, and probably even more so given the amount of scrutiny there was around it. There was never any doubt, but 100% of the challenges failed. One. Hundred. Percent.

All of this build-up. All of this anger. All of this victimization. It all continued to grow in isolated parts of the country, despite the fact that they were veering further and further from what was actually going on -- the plan for a peaceful transfer of power in the great American tradition. A tradition that we have upheld for 244 years straight!

Of course, we all know what happened as a result: Far too many Americans ended up believing in this malarkey of a story of a rigged election, and a faction of them decided to literally storm the Capitol on January 6, 2021 in a concerted effort to stop the peaceful transfer of power. Sadly, they partially succeeded: Elected officials were threatened with their lives. Officers died. Citizens died. And over 140 Capitol Police were hospitalized as a result. If that wasn't bad enough, the President and Commander-in-Chief watched it all unfold from the White House, on live television...and *did absolutely nothing for hours*. Reports suggest that he was riveted by the spectacle and, quote, "wanted to see how it played out."

My fellow Americans, these are not the words, actions, or deeds of a President and Commander-in-Chief. What the former President did -- from sowing doubt prior to election day all the way through how he acted during a bloody riot ensuing in the country's seat of government -- was a dereliction of duty, a complete rejection of his oath of office, and I'd argue, criminally negligent.

Yes, we all saw the fury, the anger, and the thuggery of those who stormed the Capitol. And, there will be consequences for these people. We're a nation of laws, and we're already seeing many jail sentences, and we'll be seeing a lot more before we're done prosecuting. But far more troubling is that the actions of a few thousand Americans on that fateful day were

enabled by a man who distorts reality beyond recognition, aided by his allies in the media and on the internet who further weaponize his bizarre distortions.

It was the message, the messengers, and tactical reinforcements over weeks and months that culminated into that ugly, ugly attack on the Capitol. And I don't need to tell you the sad reality: While the foot soldiers in this great conspiracy will be facing the rule of law, the spinmeisters who enabled it will most likely escape prosecution, because the rich and powerful know how to work the system.

And the spinmeisters aren't quitting. And neither are their foot soldiers. This problem may have erupted into bloody violence on January 6 last year, but the problem started far before, and it continues to metastasize as I speak.

Listen to me carefully: Right now, in state after state, new laws are being written by this anti-democratic cabal to put in place "controls" that could override the will of the people. That's right, in this very country, if these people succeed, your vote may not count if certain elected officials don't like who you voted for. As deadly and disgraceful January 6 was, this far more insidious effort is underway *right now*.

It's wrong. It's undemocratic, and frankly, it's un-American, and you will be hearing from me soon on my specific proposals to stop this ongoing attack on our democracy. And I will be asking Democrats and Republicans to create a united front to protect democracy from this victimized and undemocratic faction.

Look folks, now it's up to all of us —We the People — to stand for the rule of law, to preserve the flame of democracy, to keep the promise of America alive. The promise is at risk.

Make no mistake about it, we're living at an inflection point in history, both at home and abroad. Democracies around the world are under attack by wannabe strongmen and autocrats. It pains me to think that America can now be considered to be one of these democracies. We used to be, as Ronald Reagan said, the Shining City on the Hill -- the one place the world could look up to. The one democracy that really had its stuff together.

Now, thanks to the desires of a single man, and aided by a gang of enablers, we find ourselves being looked at by the world as a country in crisis. It's not only sad to think about, it's downright embarrassing. We need to recover, and recover fast. Our allies around the world may have patience, but our adversaries are jumping at every opportunity we give them. We cannot afford to give them any more opportunities.

Thanks to the first non-peaceful transfer of power in our history, countries like Russia and China now sense weakness from us. For all of this so-called "strength" that the former President and his allies think they project, they've created such a spectacle of our system that our adversaries smell blood. This is a real foreign policy crisis, and there's no one to blame but the former President, his allies, and his conspiracy-infected foot soldiers who do their bidding.

So, how do we get back our footing? How do we move forward from here? How do we not only repair the damage, but put ourselves back into a position of strength and confidence?

Our founding fathers set in motion an experiment that literally changed the world. Here in America, the people would rule by choosing who should represent them. And power between these representatives would be transferred peacefully. Never by the tip of a spear or the barrel of a gun. The peaceful transfer of power has been a powerful symbol to ourselves and to the world that we are dedicated to applying our energies toward life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness over the whims and desires of the rich and powerful. America's political stability has been a beacon of hope for billions of people around the world, and helped us attract the best and the brightest, so that we could lead in industry, technology, the arts, and science.

With the peaceful transfer of power comes the requirement that we see our fellow citizens as just that: fellow citizens. Not enemies. Not adversaries. We have enough of those outside our borders. As fellow citizens, we each have the responsibility to accept defeat, then get back in the arena and try again the next time to make our case. The responsibility to see that America is a powerful idea. It's an idea that I think is worth working hard to keep. I sincerely hope you agree.

I have a message to all the people who are currently aiding and abetting the former President in an effort to undermine voters' choices in future

elections: You can't love your country only when you win. You can't obey the law only when it's convenient. And you simply cannot be a patriot in this country if you don't respect our system of democratic governance.

It's time for some to stand down, and for everyone to step up. It's time for every American, no matter if you like me or not, to stop thinking *America First* and start *being an American, first*.

To be clear, I will not shrink from this challenge. I will defend this nation, and I will allow no one to place a dagger at the throat of democracy under my watch. We will make sure the will of the people is heard. That the ballot prevails, not violence. That representation and responsibility of this great nation will always be peacefully transferred.

We're a nation of laws of order, not chaos. Of peace, not violence. Here in America, the people rule, through the ballot. And their will prevails. So let's remember together, we're one nation under God, indivisible, that today, tomorrow and forever, at our best, we are the United States of America.

God bless you all. May God protect our troops. And may God bless those who stand watch over our democracy.

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