

# Biden underestimated challenges facing US - and Dems see that as a political problem

By Tyler Pager  
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — In June, senior White House officials promised that rising inflation was just "transitory."

In July, President Joe Biden declared that "the virus is on the run."

And in August, White House press secretary Jen Psaki declared "the president continues to believe that it is not inevitable that the Taliban take over" Afghanistan.

But just in the past week, inflation hit a 31-year high as prices rose 6.2% over a year ago, coronavirus cases are ticking up again and the United States announced that Qatar will serve as its diplomatic proxy in Taliban-controlled Afghanistan - headwinds that come as the Democratic Party reels from a set of unexpected losses in elections around the country.

In these and other cases, a growing number of Democrats worry that the White House has repeatedly underestimated the scale of the challenges facing the country - exacerbating the party's political problems and making its already perilous path to holding Congress in 2022 even more difficult. They acknowledge the problems presented by the unpredictable nature of the pandemic and an uneven economic recovery, but fear that the administration's tendency to downplay the issues has only made things worse.

The White House response also runs



WHITE HOUSE: President Joe Biden delivers remarks during a Cabinet meeting at the White House on Friday. Demetrius Freeman/The Washington Post

counter to a promise Biden made as a candidate, when he quoted President Franklin Roosevelt saying, "The American people deserve to have it straight from the shoulder." He vowed he would "tell the truth" and "be candid." But mixed messaging from the White House, some Democrats argue, has undermined its credibility and set confounding expectations for Americans.

"To the extent I'm challenging our party, I am saying we have to break these issues down into simpler, more immediate terms: What are you going to do about the price of the gifts I'm about to buy my kids for Christmas?" said Rep. Conor Lamb, D-Pa., who is running for the Democratic nomination in Pennsylvania's Senate race. "We get very focused on the general long-term benefits of legislation that we're for, which are

great, but let's have a simple everyday message as well."

White House officials refute the idea that they are dismissive of the severity of the problems Americans are facing, and say the president and his aides communicate guidance based on expert analysis that can change over time. Aides also tout the Biden administration's progress on the pandemic and the economy, arguing that the \$1.9 trillion coronavirus relief package has been critical to the country's recovery and that the recently passed \$1.2 trillion bipartisan infrastructure bill will result in much-needed investments.

But the administration has repeatedly had false starts in branding big legislative priorities, which some Democrats see as emblematic of a persistent messaging problem. After the American

“We get very focused on the general long-term benefits of legislation that we're for, which are great, but let's have a simple everyday message as well.”

- Rep. Conor Lamb, D-Pa.

Rescue Plan, it introduced the American Jobs Plan and the American Families Plan. But the jobs plan morphed into the Bipartisan Infrastructure Framework, which became the BIF.

The American Families Plan was rebranded over the summer as the \$3.5 trillion reconciliation bill, a bill defined not by its content but by its price tag. It later became Build Back Better, more commonly referred to as BBB, an acronym with the unfortunate feature of lacking a vowel that allows for pronunciation.

"There hasn't been great communication about what these bills mean for people," Rep. Josh Gottheimer, D-N.J., said about broader Democratic messaging efforts. "We've got to talk about the real pieces of it, not just the size of the bill, but actually how it helps people."

**GOVERNMENT OF GUAM**  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES  
DIPATTAMENTON SALUT PUPBLEKO YAN SETBISISON SUSIAT

**Guam Board Nurse Examiners**  
Regular Virtual Board Meeting  
Thursday, November 18, 2021 at 3:00 PM  
<https://zoom.us/j/97699742195>  
Meeting ID: 976 9974 2195 Passcode: 483700

**Meeting Agenda:**

I. CALL TO ORDER	6) GBNE-CO-20-003	7) GBNE-CO-20-004
II. PROOF OF PUBLICATION	8) GBNE-CO-20-007/1, 2, 3, 4, 6 & 7	
III. ROLL CALL	9) GBNE-CO-20-008	10) GBNE-CO-20-010
IV. ADOPTION OF AGENDA	11) GBNE-CO-21-001	12) GBNE-CO-21-003
V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES	13) GBNE-CO-21-004	14) GBNE-CO-21-005
VI. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT	15) GBNE-CO-21-006	
VII. TREASURER'S REPORT	XII. OLD BUSINESS	
VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS	a) GMTCC CNA Graduate, Howard Redila b) GBNE Resolution 2021-01 EO to Review and Approve Renewal Applications	
IX. NURSING EDUCATION REPORTS	XIII. NEW BUSINESS	
X. CERTIFIED NURSE ASSISTANTS	a) TEMPORARY WORK PERMIT APPLICATIONS b) EXAMINATION APPLICATIONS c) ENDORSEMENT APPLICATIONS d) APRN APPLICATIONS e) PRESCRIPTIVE AUTHORITY APPLICATIONS	
XI. ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT	f) REINSTATEMENT APPLICATIONS g) RENEWAL APPLICATIONS	
a) GBNE-CO-20-009	XIV. ANNOUNCEMENTS	
b) GBNE Complaints: 1) GBNE-CO-19-005	XV. ADJOURNMENT	
2) GBNE-CO-19-007		
3) GBNE-CO-19-008		
4) GBNE-CO-19-018		
5) GBNE-CO-20-002		

To view the names of the applicant being considered, go to: <https://guamhelo.org/gbne>  
To view the LIVE streaming link: <https://facebook.com/HPLCGuam>  
For more information, please contact the Board office at 671-735-7404/09 thru 12. Persons needing telecommunication device for the Hearing/Speech Impaired (TDD) may contact 671-475-8339.  
This advertisement was paid for by DPHSS/Health Professional Licensing Office - Local Funds.

**GOVERNMENT OF GUAM**  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES  
DIPATTAMENTON SALUT PUPBLEKO YAN SETBISISON SUSIAT

**The Guam Board of Examiners for Pharmacy**  
Regular Virtual Board Meeting  
Thursday, November 18, 2021 at 7:30AM.  
Join Zoom Meeting  
<https://zoom.us/j/99909724727?pwd=WnpGdmZVRc0tSmj2NEtVlpaVU2Zz09>  
Meeting ID: 999 0972 4727 Passcode: 463237

**Meeting Agenda:**

I. Call to order:	VIII. New Business:
II. Roll call: Virtual Roll Call	(a) Pharmacy Interns Initial
III. Proof of Publication: Ad posted in the Guam Daily Post	(b) Pharmacists by Endorsement
IV. Approval of agenda	(c) Pharmacists by Examination
V. Approval of Minutes: Minutes of September 23, 2021	(d) Pharmacy Technicians
VI. HPLC Administrator's Report: Zennia C. Pecina, M.S.N, R.N.	(e) Pharmacies/Facilities/Wholesales
VII. Old Business:	(f) Renewals 2021
(a) Complaint(s): GBEP-CO-16-01, GBEP-CO-17-01	IX. Other:
(b) Pharmacies/Facilities/Wholesales	X. Announcement: The Guam Board of Examiners for Pharmacy Regular Session Meeting is scheduled for December 16, 2021 at 7:30a.m (Tentative)
(c) Pharmacists by Endorsement.	XI. Adjourned:

To view the names of the applicants being considered, go to: <https://guampharmacies.org>  
To view the LIVE Streaming link: <https://facebook.com/HPLCGuam>  
For more information, please contact the Board office at 735-7404/10 thru 12. Persons needing telecommunication device for the Hearing/Speech Impaired (TDD) may contact 475-8339.  
This advertisement was paid for by DPHSS/Health Professional Licensing Office - Local Funds.