# Biden's New Executive Order on US-Mexico Border Sparks Democratic Divide



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President Joe Biden has signed an executive order temporarily closing the US-Mexico border to most asylum seekers, marking the strictest immigration policy of his tenure. The order was announced on June 4, 2024, as Biden stood with Democratic leaders at the White House.

“Protecting America as a welcoming land requires securing the border now,” Biden stated. The directive received mixed reactions within the Democratic Party. Border-state Democrats and moderates supported it as necessary for order and security, especially given unprecedented levels of migration and political pressures. In contrast, progressive members and immigration advocates decried the order, arguing it violates core American values and endangers asylum seekers.

Biden justified the action as an urgent response to national concerns over border security and to counter accusations of inaction from both sides. Despite attempts, Biden’s administration had failed to pass bipartisan legislation addressing asylum issues, thwarted by Republican opposition and budget rejections.

The order, effective immediately, limits asylum claims to legal ports of entry, aiming to curb illegal crossings. Exceptions exist for unaccompanied minors, medical emergencies, and trafficking victims. The executive order will lift when weekly average illegal crossings fall below 1,500.

This policy shift has ignited legal challenges, led by the ACLU, likening it to Trump-era bans previously blocked by courts. Biden’s move also risks fracturing his political coalition as he campaigns for re-election.

The situation remains a pivotal topic in American politics, with polls indicating mixed public approval and ongoing debates about the appropriate strategies to manage immigration effectively.

476 words.