



Client note: The State of the Union

Tuesday night, President Biden gave his first State of the Union address to a divided Congress. Biden largely stuck to touting wins from the past year: record low unemployment; a surge of industrial policy investment from the Inflation Reduction Act and Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act; and bipartisan action on major issues like protecting same-sex and interracial marriage, gun safety, and protecting the integrity of our elections. The President also set a few aspirational (if unlikely) targets for the next year, including new taxes on the ultra wealthy, passing a federal law protecting access to abortion, and banning assault weapons.

While not more partisan than most State of the Union speeches, it was far more raucous, owing to a punchy new House Republican majority that seemed bent on stealing the moment.

Here are a few of our top takeaways:

- The Republican booing and jeering was unprecedented, leading to several splitscreens where House Republicans shouted while Speaker McCarthy tried to shush them. President Biden, more often than not, responded with zingers. The key moment here was when President Biden noted some Republicans had proposed cutting Social Security and Medicare, and Republicans booed, insisting they didn't support cuts. Biden [turned the tables](#), taking it as universal support for Social Security and Medicare: "So folks, as we all apparently agree, Social Security and Medicare is off the books now, right? ... All right. We've got unanimity."

We wonder aloud if Republicans losing Social Security and Medicare as a hostage in the debt-limit standoff sets up a Republican pivot to attacks on Medicaid, the \$750 billion health insurance program for 75 million low-income children, adults and elderly individuals. We'll continue to monitor this fight as the debate progresses.

- While President Biden highlighted the historic climate investment of the Inflation Reduction Act and the need to do more, he also highlighted the country's long-term [need for more oil](#), even agreeing when Republicans jeered that 10-years wasn't long enough: "I said, 'We're going to need oil for at least another decade.' And that's going to exceed — and beyond that — we're going to need it."
- President Biden continued his support for [major progressive economic ideas](#), including circling back to lost elements of his Build Back Better agenda, such as investments in child care, elderly home care, community college and expanded health insurance. He hit on the minimum tax on billionaires and quadrupling the tax on stock buy-backs. And he supported going after big corporations with new consumer protections and crackdowns on [ubiquitous add-on fees](#), from hotel resorts to air travel to credit cards.

- There were some moments of bipartisan agreement, with Speaker McCarthy clapping in agreement when President Biden spoke about a 50-year low for unemployment, 800,000 new manufacturing jobs, prosecuting criminals who stole COVID relief funds, and the [shared right](#) by police and the community to come home safely (“Just as every cop when they pin on that badge in the morning has a right to be able to go home at night, so does everybody else out there.”). There were also many, many moments where Speaker McCarthy refused to support popular sentiments, including our democracy’s survival after [January 6](#), capping [insulin prices](#) for everyone and creating [12 million new jobs](#).
- President Biden was at the top of his rhetorical game, giving a [high-energy speech](#), using Republican heckles to his advantage (most notably on the debt ceiling), and [looking like he was having a blast](#). Expect Biden supporters to point at this speech any time someone asks if he’s too old to run for President again.

Clients & Pioneer in the news

[100,000 Green Jobs Announced Since US Adopted Climate Law, Study Finds](#)

Climate Power found that the Inflation Reduction Act has already created 100,000 new green jobs since it was signed into law just six months ago.

[Universal Hydrogen ready for take-off: FAA approval for test flight](#)

Universal Hydrogen has approval to proceed with its first test flight of its hydrogen-powered regional aircraft and released video footage of the aircrafts’ first taxi.

[Microgrid Resources Coalition launches Texas chapter to improve energy resilience](#)

Pioneer’s own Pierson Stoecklein discusses how the Texas Chapter of the Microgrid Resources Coalition will build community resilience and support business continuity.

[World’s largest renewables developer eyes hydrogen push](#)

NextEra announced several new green hydrogen projects, including 800 MW of new solar to power electrolyzers.

[Cement industry accounts for about 8% of CO2 emissions. One startup seeks to change that.](#)

Profile on Brimstone Energy, which makes the world's first carbon-negative cement.

Where in the world is Pioneer?

The team is on their way to Steamboat Springs to visit Senior Advisor Eric Washburn, spend some quality time together (and on the slopes), and plan for 2023. We’ll be back in the office on Tuesday, and may be delayed in responding to emails until then.

Please note that we are transitioning our Inflation Reduction Act Program Trackers to a more detailed IRA and IIJA funding tracker. If you are interested in accessing our beta test of this more detailed IRA and IIJA funding tracker (currently limited to DOE), please let us know [here](#).

www.pioneerpublicaffairs.com

