

House Progressives: Screw it. Let's have Biden do everything by executive order

[Jazz Shaw](#) Mar 13, 2022 7:01 PM ET



AP Photo/Andrew Harnik

You can almost smell the sense of panic setting in among the various progressive alliances in the House these days. With the midterms fast approaching, they haven't managed to send much of anything to Joe Biden's desk aside from the COVID relief bills, a couple of stopgap spending measures, and some routine housekeeping. All of the Democrats' big-ticket, sweeping social reform and climate agenda items have been hopelessly stalled, with prospects for success before November looking slim at best. That's why [this week's developments](#) during meetings of the House Black,

Asian, and Progressive caucuses should have been predictable. Democratic leaders from these groups took their case directly to Biden, asking him to forget about the legislative process and just start firing off even more executive orders so they can have something – *anything* – to show to their base as some sort of a “win.” (Associated Press)

Top Democrats are pleading for President Joe Biden to act alone on some of the party's core legislative priorities, viewing executive action as their best hope of delivering on their promises and energizing liberal voters they worry are going to sit out the elections in November.

In areas like voting rights, police reform and immigration where Democratic bills have been thwarted by GOP opposition in the Senate, the leaders of the influential Black and Asian American caucuses made their requests directly to Biden during a recent meeting at the White House, urging him to issue executive orders that could push their proposals forward without votes in the House and Senate.

The pleas come at a particularly desperate moment for House Democrats, who are heading into a difficult midterm election season where the loss of only a handful of seats will end their majority.