

# Harriet Tubman to appear on \$20 bill, while Hamilton remains on \$10 bill

By Ana Swanson and Abby Ohlheiser, Washington Post on 04.22.16

Word Count **509**



Concept art of Harriet Tubman on the \$20 bill. Photo: Courtesy Women on 20s/TNS

The U.S. Treasury has decided to put African American abolitionist Harriet Tubman on the front of the new \$20 bill, replacing former president Andrew Jackson, who will be moved to the back of the bill, Treasury officials said Wednesday. Former Treasury Secretary Alexander Hamilton will remain on the front of the new \$10 bill, officials said, after the Treasury department encountered fierce opposition to its initial plan to remove the founding father to make way for a woman to appear on the paper currency.

Treasury Secretary Jack Lew will announce decisions regarding several bills on Wednesday, officials said. The Treasury Department hopes to release the design concept for the new bills by 2020, the 100th anniversary of women gaining the right to vote in the United States.

Citing unnamed sources, CNN reported April 16 that the soonest the new \$20 bill would be issued is 2030. The news prompted a backlash on Twitter, with supporters of the campaign to put a woman on a bill arguing that women had waited long enough. However, a Treasury spokesman called the speculation that the new \$20 would not appear until 2030 "baseless," saying that Treasury is working with other government departments to expedite the process, and it's too early to say when the release date will be.

Lew announced in June 2015 that the Treasury was considering removing Hamilton from the \$10 bill, to allow a woman to appear on the front of a paper note for the first time since Martha Washington was taken off the \$1 silver certificate. The \$10 bill was already slated for a redesign in 2020. The bills are regularly reworked to prevent counterfeiting.

The Treasury was moved in part by a viral campaign in early 2015 to put a woman's portrait on the new \$20 bill in 2020, to mark the centennial of women's suffrage. The group "Women on \$20s" received more than 600,000 online and in-person votes for a choice of 15 American women, including Rosa Parks and Eleanor Roosevelt. Tubman received the most votes.

But the Treasury's announcement drew a backlash from supporters of Hamilton, who, as an aide to George Washington and the first secretary of the treasury, helped erect the U.S. economic and banking system. Hamilton has gained notoriety in recent years due to the success of Lin-Manuel Miranda's Broadway play about the first Secretary of the Treasury, which earlier this week won the Pulitzer Prize for Drama.

The debate sparked a grass-roots movement to instead remove Jackson, a slave owner whose divisive presidency included removing several Native American tribes from their lands in the South, from the \$20 bill. Some point out that Jackson also opposed paper currency, in favor of gold and silver.

Supporters greeted the choice of Tubman, who helped bring dozens of slaves to freedom in her lifetime through the network of abolitionists and safe houses known as the Underground Railroad. "A woman, a leader and a freedom fighter. I can't think of a better choice for the \$20 bill than Harriet Tubman," Hillary Clinton wrote on Twitter.

## Quiz

- 1 According to the article, each of the following has contributed to the Treasury's decision to put Harriet Tubman's portrait on the front of the \$20 bill EXCEPT:
- (A) "Women on \$20s" viral campaign
  - (B) Tubman's accomplishments as an abolitionist
  - (C) Hillary Clinton's support of Tubman on Twitter
  - (D) the lack of women's faces on U.S. bills since Martha Washington

- 2 Read the paragraph from the article.

*The news prompted a backlash on Twitter, with supporters of the campaign to put a woman on a bill arguing that women had waited long enough.*

Which selection from the article elaborates on themes from the above quote?

- (A) The U.S. Treasury has decided to put African American abolitionist Harriet Tubman on the front of the new \$20 bill, replacing former president Andrew Jackson, who will be moved to the back of the bill, Treasury officials said Wednesday.
- (B) The Treasury was moved in part by a viral campaign in early 2015 to put a woman's portrait on the new \$20 bill in 2020, to mark the centennial of women's suffrage.
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- (D) Lew announced in June 2015 that the Treasury was considering removing Hamilton from the \$10 bill, to allow a woman to appear on the front of a paper note for the first time since Martha Washington was taken off the \$1 silver certificate.

3 Read the sentence below.

*Former Treasury Secretary Alexander Hamilton will remain on the front of the new \$10 bill, officials said, after the Treasury department encountered fierce opposition to its initial plan to remove the founding father to make way for a woman to appear on the paper currency.*

Which version of this sentence creates the LEAST severe tone by replacing the word "fierce?"

- (A) ...after the Treasury department encountered INTENSE opposition...
- (B) ...after the Treasury department encountered EXTREME opposition...
- (C) after the Treasury department encountered MUCH opposition...
- (D) ...after the Treasury department encountered POWERFUL opposition extreme

4 Read the sentence from the article.

*The Treasury was moved in part by a viral campaign in early 2015 to put a woman's portrait on the new \$20 bill in 2020, to mark the centennial of women's suffrage.*

What does the verb "moved" convey in the sentence?

- (A) a sense that the Treasury department was surprised by the message from "Women on \$20s"
- (B) a sense that the Treasury department was motivated by the message from "Women on \$20s"
- (C) a sense that the Treasury department was unaffected by the message from "Women on \$20s"
- (D) a sense that the Treasury department was conflicted by the message from "Women on \$20s"

## Answer Key

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